

The Almost Painless Guide to the Branches of Government
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

PRE-TEST

Directions: Indicate the correct answer by circling it.

1. A veto occurs when the House of Representatives votes to remove the President from office.
A. True B. False
2. In order to become President of the United States an individual must be a native-born citizen.
A. True B. False
3. The President does not have the power to "check" the judicial branch.
A. True B. False
4. The President can only serve two four-year terms of office.
A. True B. False
5. The impeachment process is started in the House of Representatives.
A. True B. False
6. The President has the power to appoint members to Congress.
A. True B. False
7. One of the roles of the President is Commander-In-Chief.
A. True B. False
8. In the case of the death of the President, a new election will be held immediately.
A. True B. False
9. The President is elected by a popular vote.
A. True B. False
10. The President has many offices and departments underneath his direct supervision.
A. True B. False

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VIDEO QUIZ

1. The executive branch is made up of the President and his/her Cabinet.
A. True B. False
2. The President of the United States cannot be removed from office.
A. True B. False
3. The President is elected to a six-year term of office.
A. True B. False
4. The President is elected when s/he receives a majority of the popular vote.
A. True B. False
5. The President has the power to nominate Supreme Court justices.
A. True B. False
6. According to the current law (the Presidential Succession Act of 1947), which of the officers follows the President in the line of Presidential succession?
A. the Speaker of the House B. the Majority Whip
C. the Secretary of State D. the Vice-President
7. According to the Constitution, which of the following qualifications is not needed to become President?
A. Be at least 35 years of age. B. Be a naturalized citizen.
C. Live in the United States for 14 years. D. Be a male.
8. When the President refuses to sign a bill that is passed by Congress this is called
A. a veto. B. an executive order.
C. executive privilege. D. impeachment.
9. The number of electoral college votes that each state receives is determined by
A. the number of senators from each state. B. the number of seats each state has in Congress.
C. the executive branch. D. the Bill of Rights.
10. Which of the following positions are appointed by the President? (You may choose more than one.)
I. Cabinet Members II. Speaker of the House
III. National Security Council IV. Senators
A. I, II, IV B. II, III
C. II, III, IV D. I, III

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VOCABULARY

amendment - a change to the Constitution

checks and balances - the system whereby each branch of the government exercises some control over the others

Congress - consists of a bicameral, or two-house, legislature. The House of Representatives represents the people by population, and the Senate represents them by state. The role of Congress is to translate public will into public policy in the form of laws.

Constitution - a body of supreme law, setting out the basic principles, structures, processes, and functions for a government and placing limits upon its actions

Electoral College - a group of persons (presidential electors) chosen in each state and the District of Columbia every four years who make a formal selection of the President and Vice-President

executive branch - consists of the President of the United States and his cabinet

federal system - a system that divides the powers of government between national government and state, or provincial, governments

impeach - to accuse a public official of misconduct in office

judicial branch - a system of national courts which consists of the Supreme Courts and lower federal courts

legislative branch - the law-making agencies of the government; this consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate

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POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT

Directions: Listed below on the left side of the page are the eight roles of the presidency. Listed on the right side are the eight definitions of those roles. Match the definitions with the roles that are listed.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Chief-of-State | A. All of the nation's armed forces are under the control of the President. |
| _____ 2. Chief Executive | B. The President directs the foreign policy of the United States, making the key decisions about the nation's relations with other countries. |
| _____ 3. Chief Diplomat | C. The acknowledged leader of the political party in charge of the executive branch. |
| _____ 4. Chief Legislator | D. The President is responsible for planning the economic policies of the government, which includes submitting a federal budget. |
| _____ 5. Chief-of-Party | E. The President represents all American people. |
| _____ 6. Chief Economic Planner | F. The President is expected to suggest legislation that s/he wishes to see enacted. This will help guide Congress in its policy-making. |
| _____ 7. Chief Citizen | G. The ceremonial head of the United States. |
| _____ 8. Commander-In-Chief | H. The President sees that the laws of Congress are carried out and executed. |

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POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT

PART 1

Directions: Match the appropriate Presidential role to the appropriate Presidential power.

<u>Presidential Role</u>	<u>Presidential Power</u>
_____ 1. Chief-of-State	A. executive power
_____ 2. Chief Executive	B. diplomatic power
_____ 3. Chief Economic Planner	C. military power
_____ 4. Chief Legislator	D. legislative and judicial powers
_____ 5. Chief Diplomat	
_____ 6. Commander-In-Chief	

PART 2

Directions: Using the information from Blackline Master #4a and the section above, define the following presidential powers in the spaces provided. Use the back of the sheet if necessary.

1. executive power:

2. diplomatic power:

3. military power:

4. legislative and judicial powers: