

Final Exam Study Guide

Bardes et al.

Congress

- bicameralism: Why do we have it?
- The Houses
 - Elections, requirements to serve, length in office
- differences between the chambers
- Leaders in the chambers, their duties (don't need specific names)
- 4 types of committees
 - how are members chosen?
- 16 powers of congress
 - which ones were big/controversial changes?
 - Why have an elastic clause?
- The functions of Congress (why they are there)
 - How does a bill become a law?
 - Models of representation

The Courts

- The Common Law tradition
 - What is it to be a precedent?
 - Stare decisis
- The 3 sources of American Law
- Judicial Review
 - Marbury v. Madison. How did Marshall manage this?
- Judicial activism vs. judicial restraint
- The checks on the power of the courts
- The various levels of Federal Courts
 - The selection of judges at the various levels
 - Jurisdiction of federal courts
 - Appellate vs. trial courts
- The Supreme Court
 - The decision to hear cases
 - Writ of certiorari
 - Types of findings and opinions

The Executive

- dilemma over what the President was going to be like
- requirements for running
- the election process and constituencies
- the 6 roles of the president
- special uses of presidential power

- abuses of that power
- Executive organization
- The Vice-President

Federalist Papers

52

- 2-year terms discussed: are they safe? Are they necessary? Why?

57

- The five things that will keep election to the House (or government in general) from becoming a sort of elected aristocracy

62&63

- Publius' 4 responses to the objections to the qualifications of senators, as well as the number of senators and their term of office

68

- support from the Anti-Federalists for the election mode of the President and the objection to the Vice-President

69

- The real character of the Presidency: What two officers does he compare the president to? Know a couple of those points of comparison

70

- Publius' argument for energy in the executive: What is energy? What are the components that he lays out? Why is energy important? How do you protect the people from that energy?

74

- Publius's response to the objections to the President as Commander-in-Chief and the President's power to pardon (especially in cases of treason)

78

- Be able to explain the argument made for judicial review: not being able to do "this would be to affirm that the servant is above his master"
- life terms for judges as protection for both the Courts and the people themselves

81

- Publius' responses to these Anti-Federalist objections
 - The Court will mold the laws to whatever it sees fit
 - Life terms are opposed to the idea that they should serve the people
 - Congress shouldn't establish lower courts

83

- Publius' responses to Anti-Federalist objections that trial by jury is not guaranteed by the new Constitution

The Constitution

- *Factors leading up to the move for Independence*
- *The Article of Confederation, strengths, weaknesses, and structure*
- *The Constitutional Convention, the different plans, the compromises and the battle for ratification*
- *The Bill of Rights*
- *Amendment Process and informal Constitutional change*

Federalism

- *3 types of governmental organization, as well as examples*
- *Constitutional basis for federalism*
- *Exclusive, concurrent, and prohibited powers, as well as examples of each*
- *The role of the supremacy clause*
- *Horizontal federalism*
- *McCulloch v. MD, Gibbons v. Ogden and their implications for federalism*
- *The effect of the Civil War on Federalism*
- *Dual, Cooperative and New Federalism, as well as what caused the changes from one to the next*
- *The role of the Rehnquist Court*

Interest Groups

- *Why do we join groups?*
- *Where does power come from?*
- *Lobbying strategies*
- *Regulating money and lobbyists*
- *Does lobbying contribute to or take away from democracy?*

Political Parties

- *What is a party? (know the differences from a faction and an interest group)*
- *The five functions of political parties*
- *The history of political parties in the US*
- *The three facets of a party*
- *The reasons why we only have two parties*
- *Minor parties and their roles*

Political Opinions and Behavior

- *Opinion polls*
- *Sampling*
- *How has technology changed this?*
- *Political socialization*
- *Where do we get our opinions?*
- *How does Public Opinion affect government?*

Elections

- *Characteristics of candidates*
- *Campaign finance*
- *Three kinds of primaries*
- *The Electoral College*
- *Restrictions on voting*
- *Socioeconomic and psychological factors on vote choice. -- know who tends to vote how*
- *Media and politics -- What sorts of things are considered when the media chooses what to report?*
- *Government regulation of media -- What is the difference between print and electronic media?*

Federalist Papers

#10

- *What is a faction?*
- *The reasons for faction*
- *Ways to reduce the harm of factions (two ways to remove, how to control)*
 - *Why not remove it instead of controlling it?*
 - *Advantages of a large republic in doing this*

#15

- *The central problem with the Articles of Confederation, as Publius sees it*

#30

- *The results of the government not being able to tax (2)*
- *The difference between internal and external taxation, and Publius' opinion on it*

#37

- *The two sets of concerns that the drafters had to balance in the writing of the Constitution (think two sets of two items that each needed balancing)*
- *The "object," the "organ," and the "vehicle," and their importance in this paper*
- *The two blessings that the delegates enjoyed at the Convention*

#51

- *Explain the idea that "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition."*

Domestic Policy

- *the 5-step formulation process*
- *be aware as well of the issues covered in the book and a couple of the concerns dealt with in each, as well as one in depth.*

Civil Rights and Liberties

- Slavery and the early US
 - In the Constitution
 - Dred Scott v. Sanford
 - Plessey v. Ferguson
 - Brown v. Board of Education
- The Civil Rights movement (the differences between King and Malcom X)
- Birmingham
- The women's rights movement (where did it start? How did it evolve?)

- Doctrine of Incorporation
- Freedom of Religion (both clauses)
- Freedom of Speech/Expression (What is protected? What isn't?)
- Freedom of the Press
- Privacy Rights

Foreign Policy

- Liberal Idealism vs. Political Realism
 - Be able to answer the following questions for each:
 - What is the world like?
 - What is the main concern?
 - Who are the main actors?
- The sources of foreign policy
- The history of American foreign policy