

Chapter 14 Study Guide

The Office of President



Directions: Use your notes from in-class lectures and discussion, as well as your textbook to find the answers to the following questions or to fill in the "missing blanks."

Section One: The American Presidency Is Unique

Presidential Roles

"Chief Executives" can be found in the U.S. in the different levels of government. *List the titles* of chief executives at each of the following levels:

1. The chief executive of the U.S. government is the _____
2. The chief executive of Missouri government is the _____
3. The chief executive of North Kansas City government is the _____
4. What is the main responsibility of public officials who are elected as chief executives?
5. One of the main jobs of a U.S. President is to be the *symbolic leader* of the United States. This role is referred to by political scientists as

The Job of President

Describe the three *constitutional requirements* for a person to take office as U.S. President.

- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Describe three of the *traditional requirements* a person must meet to be President of the U.S.

- 9.
- 10.
- 11.

List three presidential "perks" here (not including salary):

- 12.

13.

14.

Section Two: Presidential Power Is Transferred Smoothly

Term of Office

15. **Describe the compromise reached** during the debates at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 regarding the length of a President's term of office.

16. **What term** is defined as "a ruling that is used as a model in deciding similar cases" - or, "something that is used as an example for other persons to follow, later"?

17. Which President of the U.S. set the tradition of serving only two terms?

18. Which President "broke" the tradition of serving only two terms?

According to the 22nd Amendment, presidents can serve no more than (#19.) _____ terms,

and they can serve no more than a total of (#20) _____ years in office.

21. What effect did the 20th Amendment have on the term of office of the presidency?

22. What does the term "inauguration" mean?

Presidential Succession

The Presidential Succession Act of 1947 set the official line of succession to the presidency. Fill in the following blanks with the first five **titles of the officials** who follow each other - in succession - should a president die, resign, or be removed from office. (Disregard the 25th Amendment when you consider the answers to this, please!) Next, fill in the blanks with the names of five persons who hold each office at the current time.

For a list of titles of the officials who succeed to the presidency, use your textbook.

For a connection to names of congressional leadership, try C-Span's list on the World Wide Web at:
<http://congress.nw.dc.us/c-span/congdir.shtml>

For a connection to names of Senate leadership, try the official United States Senate's page on the Web at:
<http://www.senate.gov/senator/officers.html>

For a connection to names of leadership in the House of Representatives, try the official U.S. House of Representatives page on the Web at: http://www.house.gov/orgs_pub_hse_ldr_www.html

For a connection to names of the President's Cabinet members, try the Official Federal Government Web Sites list at: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/executive/fed.html>

The Line of Succession to the Presidency begins with the Vice President, then goes to the following officials *in their proper order*:

<u>Title of Official</u>	<u>Name of Person Who Holds This Office Currently</u>
23.	28.
24.	29.
25.	30.
26.	31.
27.	32.

What are the four main provisions of the 25th Amendment? (See pages 137-138 in your text, or try the World Wide Web at: <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/4307/constitution.htm#amend25>)

- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
37. Define the term "impeachment."
38. What specific group of elected officials is the only one that can vote to begin impeachment proceedings against a federal judge or the President or Vice President?
39. Which two persons were the only U.S. Presidents to be impeached?
40. Which person was the only President to resign from office, under threat of impeachment?

The Vice Presidency

41. Under the Constitution, the Vice President is supposed to be next in line to succeed to the presidency. What is the Vice President's other major formal duty?

Section Three: The Constitution Sets Up The Electoral College

History of the Electoral College

42. The Electoral College system for choosing a U.S. President requires that each state choose a groups, or _____ (vocabulary term), of presidential electors.

The number of presidential electors to which each state is entitled equals the total number of

(43.) _____ and (44.) _____ a state has in Congress.

45. The Electoral College system of electing U.S. Presidents first created a major problem in the election of 1800, when the election of Thomas Jefferson was decided - finally - after how many ballots?

46. As a result of the election of 1800 and the problems it created, the 12th Amendment was passed by Congress and ratified by the states. It changed the way the Electoral College cast its ballots. It required electors to ...

The Electoral College Today

47. Which political groups in the U.S. actually choose states' slates of electors?

48. Almost all states award electoral votes on an "at large," winner-take-all basis to those presidential candidates who receive a plurality of the popular vote. Explain the difference between "plurality" and "majority" in voting results.

49. About six weeks after a presidential election, Congress meets to count electoral ballots. Today, there are 538 total electoral votes. Explain exactly how that TOTAL is reached.

50. In order for a candidate to win the presidency, what is the *minimum number* of electoral votes he or she needs to receive?

Flaws in the Electoral College

51. One major criticism of the Electoral College is that it violates the principle of "one person, one vote." Describe briefly how that can happen with the operations of the Electoral College.

Name three U.S. Presidents who lost the popular (people's) votes but still won the election - either in the Electoral College or the House of Representatives.

52. _____ in 1824

53. _____ in 1876

54. _____ in 1888

55. There have been several instances of "faithless electors" in voting for presidents. What is a "faithless elector"?

Electoral College Reforms

56. Under the "Proportional Vote Plan" proposed as an Electoral College reform, electoral votes in each state would be awarded to candidates in proportion to...
57. Under the "District Vote Plan" proposed as an Electoral College reform, one electoral vote would be awarded to the candidate with a plurality of the popular vote in each of a state's ...
58. Under the "Direct Vote Plan" proposed as an Electoral College reform, the _____ would be eliminated completely and the President would be chosen by a nationwide popular vote.
59. Under which of the plans to reform the Electoral College would the principle of "one person, one vote" be affirmed, and presidential candidates would be encouraged to campaign in all fifty states?
60. Explain how the "winner-take-all" Electoral College system strengthens the two-major-party system currently in use in the United States.
61. List the major reasons why reforms in the Electoral College system are unlikely.