

Chapter 15 Study Guide

The Powers of the President



Section One: The President Is A Leader At Home

Presidential powers can be divided into broad categories - domestic and foreign. Explain these terms.

1. Presidential domestic powers are -
2. Presidential foreign powers are -

Executive Powers

3. Executive powers are defined as those that -
4. The President's chief responsibility is to faithfully execute the laws, but it is practically impossible for him or her to enforce every law. Given these limitations, what does the President do (that ends up having a great influence on the direction of national policy)?
5. If a President wants to see that a particular policy or law is actually carried out, he/she can issue an "executive order." What is an executive order?
6. Presidential appointments to most major government positions must be approved by a majority of the...

Name four types of presidential appointments that require the Senate's "advice and consent."

- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Name two types of "inferior offices" that the President is permitted to appoint without the "advice and consent" of the Senate.

- 11.
- 12.

Give two reasons why the number of positions the President may appoint has steadily diminished.

13.

14.

15. Under the Civil Service system, how are federal employment positions filled?

16. What ruling did the U.S. Supreme Court make in the 1926 case of *Myers v. United States*?

17. In the Supreme Court case *Humphrey's Executor v. United States*, the Court ruled that a President can dismiss officials in executive agencies, but not officials who work in independent regulatory commissions - and they can only be removed for causes specified in the law. Why?

18. Since the beginning of our republic, presidents have claimed the right to withhold information from Congress and the Courts. This is known as ...

In what two ways has the President's power of executive privilege been justified over the years?

20.

21.

22. What do critics say about the use of executive privilege by presidents?

23. In which U.S. Supreme Court case did the practice of executive privilege find its greatest challenge?

24. In whose favor did the Supreme Court rule in that 1974 case involving the President?

25. What was the Court's reasoning in that 1974 case?

Legislative Powers

The President has several ways of making the administration's lawmaking plans known to Congress. List three major ways the President does this.

26.

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28.

Read over the "Critical Thinking" section on page 401 and answer these questions:

29. According to President Ronald Reagan, why was he in favor of presidents having the power of a "line-item veto"?

30. What is one argument against the president having the power of a line-item veto?

31. According to Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, the "budget process is in shambles.." and the "...system of checks and balances ... is out of kilter in the area of the budget." What reason does he give?

32. According to Senator Carl M. Levin, the line-item veto *threatens what*?

33. What does the term *veto* mean in Latin?

34. If the President decides to veto a bill, Congress may over-ride it by...

What are two reasons why a President may use a "pocket veto"?

35.

36.

37. Supporters of a presidential right to a line-item veto believe it will help eliminate "pork barrel" legislation. What are pork barrel projects?

38. Which house of Congress does the President have the right to call into a special session?

Judicial Powers

What are two judicial powers that the President has?

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40.

41. What is a "blanket pardon" for a large group of people called?

What are two restrictions on the President's power to pardon?

42.

43.

Spending Powers

List two examples of events during which the President may spend federal monies on emergencies.

44.

45.

46. Presidents occasionally refuse to spend money that Congress appropriates for certain projects. This practice is called...

47. What federal law did Congress pass to regain its control over government spending?

List two of the provisions of this law (above).

48.

49.

Section Two: The President Guides America's Foreign Policy

Diplomatic Powers

50. Making and carrying out foreign policy is one of the *powers of a sovereign state*. What does that mean?

Under the Constitution, the power to conduct foreign affairs is shared between Congress and the President. What are three such congressional powers?

51.

52.

53.

54. Under the Constitution, the President appoints diplomatic representatives, but must have the approval of the...

List four activities of Foreign Service officers who serve in embassies and consulates abroad.

55.

56.

57.

58.

59. How does a President officially recognize foreign governments?

Briefly list the five major steps in the making of treaties:

60.

61.

62.

63.

64.

65. What is an executive agreement?

66. Why is an executive agreement especially convenient for presidents?

Read over the special section on page 409, wherein Woodrow Wilson gives his view of The Office of President. List three qualities that he thinks are necessary in a good president.

67.

68.

69.

Military Powers

70. Write out the actual clause from the Constitution that ensures that the President (who is a civilian) has supreme command over the military forces of the United States.

71. The President can use his powers as Commander-in-Chief to call out state militia forces into action. What *state military forces* did President Eisenhower call out, or *nationalize*, in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957?

72. Presidents hire - and can fire - military leaders. Who did President Truman fire as commander of forces in Korea during the war in that nation?

73. Presidents do not have unlimited power to use U.S. military forces. What was the Supreme Court's decision in *Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company v. Sawyer* (1952) regarding President Truman's use of military forces to operate the steel plants?

Presidents have used U.S. armed forces to involve the nation in undeclared wars on numerous occasions. List three such actions that have occurred during our history.

74.

75.

76.

77. The War Powers Act was a congressional reaction to which recent undeclared war?

Under what three conditions does the War Powers Act allow the President to send troops into battle?

78.

79.

80.

81. Under the War Powers Act, how soon after sending troops into battle must a President notify Congress?

82. Under the War Powers Act, how long may troops remain in a battle situation before Congress can require the President to withdraw them?

Section Three: Presidential Style Affects Performance

Presidential Style

Describe the two "attitudes toward power" given in your text that political scientists use to describe presidential styles.

83.

84.

Political scientist James Barber uses the terms "active" and "passive" to describe past presidents. List four characteristics of "active presidents."

85.

86.

87.

88.

89. According to James Barber, what are "positive" presidents like?

90. According to James Barber, what are "negative" presidents like?

Describe two of the "powers of persuasion" that presidents must use to be successful.

91.

92.

Popularity and Public Opinion

List three of the "public expectations" that include contradictory ideas Americans have about the presidency.

93.

94.

95.

96. What is the relationship that the public sees between the President and the nation's economic health?

97. What is the relationship that the public sees between international crises and the president's popularity?

According to historians and political scientists, who were the "top five" best presidents?

98.

99.

100.

101.

102.

103. What President is the historians' and political scientists' unanimous choice for "worst president"?