

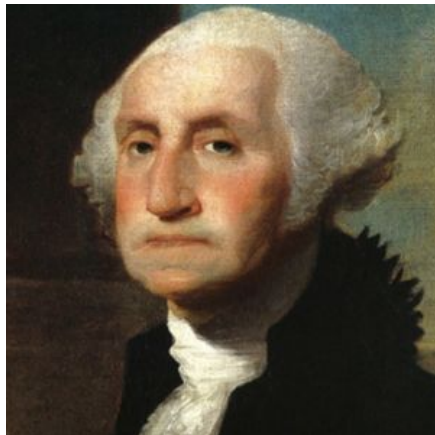
Executive Branch Study Guide

I. The Basics: Know the basic requirements, duties, and constitutional obligations of the President and the Executive Branch (See The Executive Branch Fill-ins Sheet and notes).

- Most executive branch stated in **Article II of the Constitution** (Section I: requirements; Section II: duties; Section III: communication with Senate; Section IV: removal from impeachment)
- **Term Length:** Four year term, two terms + 2 years of other term (Amendment 22)
- **Requirements:** natural, 35+ years old, 14 years resident of U.S.
- **Duties:** Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, make treaties (with advice and consent of $\frac{2}{3}$ Senate), receive ambassadors and other ministers, nominate and appoint officials for unfilled positions, SOTU address (end of Jan.), veto, grant reprieves and pardons (for everything but impeachment)
- **Cabinet:** heads of each department, which advise the President (e.g. State, Treasury, Defense, Justice, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, etc.)
- **Impeachment:** a trial for treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors carried about by the House and tried by the Senate that can result in up to removal from office
- **Amendment XII:** sets up the presidential election: distinct positions for president and vice president were set up, but still elected by electoral college
- **Benefits:** \$400k salary, \$50k expense account, free security and healthcare for life, large travel budget, great communication, pension, protection for family
- **Amendment XXII:** Length of term (2 terms + 2 years max)
- **Amendment XXV:** Order of succession to president if cannot serve

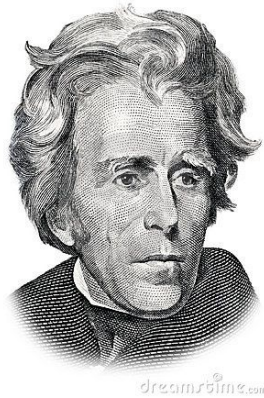
II. Identifications: Be able to visually identify the presidents we studied this unit and the current VP/President (See Google Images):

a. George Washington (and John Adams)



- i. Felt like it was his duty to become president — didn't want the power, but he was still confident
- ii. Acted very formally
- iii. Took advice from experts, was humble
- iv. Thought about the future and the precedent he was setting
- v. Passionate about work
- vi. Good orators

b. Andrew Jackson



- i. \$20 bill (soon to be replaced)
- ii. Conservative Democrat
- iii. Very popular — fought in Revolution, war of 1812, strong, rags→riches, lawyer, duel
- iv. Wanted to make it more for the people:
 - 1. Electors didn't choose: the people chose
 - 2. Began popular assemblies
 - 3. "Spoil system" of hiring/firing
- v. Created the Democratic Party, the leader of it (and Whigs party sprung up in hate)
- vi. Weakened Congress
- vii. Hated banks

c. Theodore Roosevelt



- i. Well-educated, sickly, but pushed through
- ii. Very cultured and passionate about politics
- iii. “Big Stick” policy for foreign policy, “Square Deal” for economics
- iv. Wanted a lot of intervention in foreign policy
- v. Had lots of environmental concerns
- vi. Had huge influence on the government, increasing restrictions and going “trust busting”

d. Franklin D. Roosevelt



- i. Set up modern Democratic Party with the “New Deal”
 - 1. Democrats → liberal, Republicans → conservative
- ii. Wealthy but sickly (like Teddy)
- iii. Helped economic crisis when buying with credit
- iv. Had “fireside chats” to inform the people, be relatable, explain simply and understandably
- v. Increased governmental influence on the economy, such as stock market

- vi. “Relief, Recovery, Reform” agencies such as social security
- vii. Declared WWII, military larger since then

e. John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson



- i. Current Democratic party
- ii. Worked on civil rights and decreasing guns (social liberalism), Vietnam war and communism (mostly unsuccessful), space travel
- iii. Stimulated the economy during a recession
- iv. Had huge spending on governmental programs, such as education, healthcare (Medicare)
- v. “New Frontier” and “Great Society” slogans
- vi. Smooth transition into another presidency, kept up popularity with same ideals, didn’t falter in confidence

f. Ronald Reagan



- i. Current Republican Party
- ii. Focused on economics — wanted to end the debt
- iii. Debt increased from under a trillion to 2.9 trillion during presidency

- iv. Didn't want a minimum wage, greatly decreased taxes for the wealthy, cut some government programs, increased power in military intervention, had military action in Middle East — all conservative actions
- v. Mostly opposed to war, but saw communism as evil
- vi. Listened to his cabinet
- vii. He was well liked, was powerful and got a lot done

g. Barack Obama and Joe Biden



III. The Electoral College: Ensure you have an understanding of the Electoral College system and possess an opinion about whether or not the Electoral College is necessary to select the President of the United States (Electoral College Packet).

- a. 538 electors
- b. Voting for a candidate = voting for their elector; elector is a figurehead; most obliged to vote for the ones that they were assigned
- c. Designed to prevent against mob mentality: let the electors, the more educated, take the pick
- d. Winner-take-all per state
- e. Majority required to win (not plurality)
- f. If no majorities, then House chooses president, Senate vice president

IV. Essential Questions: You will need to write a short essay answering one of the following prompts:

- **Do you believe the expansion of the Executive Branch that has taken place since the presidency of George Washington has been more beneficial or detrimental for the citizens of the United States? Use at least two clear examples from our case studies to support your claim.**
 - See presidencies

- **What are the qualities of effective leadership? What qualities does an effective president possess? Use at least two examples from our historical case studies to support your claims.**
 - Having a good plan (perhaps naming it)
 - Following through with plans and promises
 - Listening to the people
 - Being aware of the most pressing concerns and acting on them
 - Being reasonable — calculated risks
 - Being likable to the people
 - Being persuasive and even manipulative to Congress

Other stuff:

- Departments and Agencies: how do they affect us?