

Unit 5 Test Review Sheet: The Legislative Branch

1. Make sure you understand the powers of each branch of the government and how this system of “separation of powers” creates a system of checks and balances.
2. Congress’ main power, as stipulated in Article 1, is the make laws. The actual powers given to congress to make laws fall into 3 categories: (Be able to define all three types of powers)
 - a. Expressed
 - b. Implied (relates to the so-called “elastic clause” / *necessary and proper* clause)
 - c. Inherent
3. Be able to identify and explain the various examples of how Congress can “check and balance” the powers of the executive and judicial branches. Including
 - a. Controlling money (appropriations)
 - b. Impeachment
 - c. Starting the amendment process
4. On the other hand, be able to identify and explain how the other branches of government can “check and balance” congressional power including
 - a. Judicial review
 - b. Presidential veto
 - c. 10th Amendment
5. Be able to identify and explain some of the non-legislative powers held by congress.
6. Make sure you know how long House members and Senators serve, and how Congress came to be composed of two houses or chambers (bicameral)
7. Make sure you are familiar with congressional districting (apportionments) and ways that the majority party can undermine fair districting (gerrymandering) and the original intent of the Supreme Court case, *Baker v. Carr*.
8. Be aware of some of the specific jobs held by party members in the House and Senate and some of the procedures used by Senators that influence debates, law making, and voting.