

The Legislative Branch Test

Instructions: Answer THREE of the following. Feel free to use Mr. Smith Goes to Washington to explain your answers. Each essay question is worth 20 points for a total of 60 points. The multiple choice questions are worth 2 points a piece for a total of 40 points because you only have to answer 20 of the 25 questions. You will receive 1 extra point for each correct multiple choice answer beyond 20.

1. Compare and contrast the House of Representatives and the Senate. Consider the following in your answer:
 - a. Qualifications of members
 - b. Terms of office
 - c. Representation
 - d. Salaries, benefits, and privileges of members
 - e. Characteristics of members
 - f. Reelection
 - g. Structure and rules
 - h. Leadership

2 points for correctly describing each category (16 total)

4 points for correct comparisons

Chart is acceptable

2. Discuss the effect of gerrymandering on democracy. Your answer should include definitions of reapportionment, redistricting, and gerrymandering. You should use Virginia's 3rd and 7th Congressional districts as examples in your answer.

3 points for each definition (9 total)

7 points for meaningful discussion of effect on democracy

4 points for accurate use of two VA districts

3. Discuss the range and scope of congressional power. What are the two types of congressional powers? What are the sources of these powers? Describe two examples of each type of power.

2 points for each type of power (4 total)

2 points for each source of expressed and implied powers (6 total)

2 points for each example (8 total)

2 points for accurate discussion

4. Discuss the reasons why the president and Congress tend to clash. Use examples of Congress exercising its power to investigate as part of your answer.

4 points for each reason (12 total)

4 points for each example (8 total)

5. Describe the process by which a bill becomes a law. Be sure to include all the steps in the process including possible actions by the president. You may make a chart to answer this question.

2 points for each correctly placed step in the process (12 total)

2 points for correctly identifying differences between the House and Senate process

Filibuster

Rules Committee

6 points for describing president's options

Sign

Veto and Override

Pocket Veto