**Government Midterm Study Guide**

**80 multiple choice, 4 short answer, 1 essay**

**Important Themes, Ideas and Terms**

**Articles of Confederation**

Know the weaknesses

First adopted Constitution

Who had the power?

Very weak national government

Shay’s Rebellion

**Influential Philosophers**

Know the ideas and influence of John Locke

**Constitution**

Bill of Rights – what it was, what it did, why it was needed

Representation in Congress

How was it an improvement over the Articles?

Strong central government

Checks and Balances – What is it and be familiar with the chart on the PowerPoint slide.

Separation of Powers

Framework of Government

Supreme law of the land

Defines how government operates

Judicial review

What is closest to the electorate?

Purpose and meaning of the Preamble

**Constitutional Convention**

Virginia Plan

New Jersey Plan

Debate over slavery

Connecticut Compromise

Why were individual rights not a concern?

Who boycotted the Convention?

**Federalists vs Anti-Federalists**

Arguments of both

What were the Federalist Papers

What are factions? (Federalist 10)

Be familiar with Federalist 10 – What are Madison’s arguments

**British Politics**

Significance and contributions of Magna Carta, Petition of Right and English Bill of Rights

**Declaration of Independence**

Who wrote it

Major themes

Unalienable rights

**Federalism**

Differences between Unitary, Confederate and Federal systems

Court Cases of Gibbons v. Ogden and McCulloch v. Maryland

How states work together: Privileges and Immunities, Full Faith and Credit, Extradition

Advantages of Federalism: Access, participation and effectiveness

Understand the 10th Amendment

Dual Federalism v. Cooperative Federalism…why did we shift to Cooperative?

Layers of government working together = intergovernmental relations

Elastic Clause: what is it, what is another name for it, how did it expand federal power

Enumerated Powers v. Reserved Powers v. Implied Powers

Supremacy Clause

How money is distributed today: Categorical Grants v. Block Grants v. Mandates

**The Congress**

Incumbents and their advantages

Age requirements for House and Senate

Bicameral structure of Congress

Committees and their duties

Impeachment process

Center of policymaking in government

Size of the House

Size of the Senate

How does Congress reflect America?

Common occupations of Congressmen

How a bill becomes a law

Whips

Voting styles

How are Committee Chairpersons chosen?

Checks and Balances

**Executive Branch**

Term limits

Impeachment process

Vice president’s duty

Powers

Veto powers

Cabinet

What made Ford unique?

Watergate

Checks and Balances

**Judicial Branch**

Criminal v. civil

Most cases are in State courts

Most cases settle

Judicial review

Litigants

Class action suits

Standing to sue

Supreme Court and tweehe justices

How are justices chosen?

**Four Short Answer Questions**

The Electoral College: Be able to explain how the Electoral College functions.

Understand our system of Checks and Balances. You will be asked to explain the checks the Congress has over the other branches.

Federalism – Understand the difference between Dual and Cooperative Federalism. You will be asked to define both and explain which system we use today.

Constitutional Convention – How the states would be represented in the new legislature was a divisive issue. Be able to explain the three plans which focused on it – Virginia, New Jersey, and the Connecticut (Great) Compromise.

**Essay – Just 1!!**

*This question will appear on the exam. It encompasses our entire semester. Be prepared to answer the question well.*

**We identified six core themes that form the foundation of the Constitution of the United States. They have formed the basis of our government for more than 200 years. In a well-crafted essay, identify and define these themes while demonstrating ways in which our government reflects them.**