

Name :

Form :

Powers and places of powers in the USA.

Answer the questions making full sentences where you have enough space ,half the points will be withdrawn if you don't.

1) After the American revolution ended in 1783, the United-States' government was in a state of change, the founding fathers knew that they didn't want to establish a country that was ruled by a king, so they discussed on how to establish a strong and fair government that protected individual freedoms and didn't abuse its power. When the new constitution was adopted in 1787, Articles I-III allowed for **three separate branches of government along with a system of checks and balances**. Name these 3 branches :

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2) What does" a system of checks and balances" mean? What's the point (= objective)?

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3) Congress : Explain where it is and what two chambers it is made of :

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4) What is a "bill" in "congress context"?

5) How many senators are there in total and per state?

6) How many (voting) representatives are there?

7) They are responsible for approving federal judges and justices, passing the national budget and two other very important things :

- (M... L...)

- (D... W...)

8) The president and vice president are **responsible for** collecting taxes, enforcing the laws, Treasury, appoint government officials, and two other very important things :

- (De...).....

- (H... S...).....

9) What are the names, symbols and colour of the two main political parties in the US? Who were their presidential candidates in the latest presidential elections?

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10) What is the name of the current US vice-president?.....

11) What is known as “the cabinet” explain? What’s the French equivalent?
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12) What do the initials “POTUS” stand for?

13) What do the initials “SCOTUS” stand for?

14) The Supreme Court settles state disputes, hears court appeals, but also checks something very important **related to federal and state laws**, what is it? Explain.
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15) How did the “ Brown vs Board of Education case” illustrate this “mission” of the Supreme Court in 1954?
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16) The justices are chosen by the president, confirmed by the Senate. **How many justices** are there in the Supreme Court? **How long** are they appointed for?
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17) What is an impeachment? Who has the power to take this decision?
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18) What is a veto? Who has the power to take this decision?
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19) Who has the power to amend the constitution?

20) What is **the name** of the president’s official residence? **Where** is it?

21) State government: who is at the head of **each state government**?

22) While each of the 50 states has its own constitution, all provisions of state constitutions must comply with the U.S. Constitution. Under the U.S. Constitution, both the national and state governments are granted certain exclusive powers and share other powers.

Put the different powers under the right column : (tick if you wish).

- Setting up courts Declare war Conduct elections Making and enforcing laws
- Establish post offices and issue postage Issue licenses (driver, hunting, marriage, etc.)
- Make laws necessary to enforce the Constitution Print money
- Ratify amendments to the U.S. Constitution Creating and collecting taxes
- Provide for public health and safety Building highways

federal Government	State Governments	Shared Powers
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•

23) What do the initials "DOD" stand for?

24) What is the name of the building sheltering this institution? Where does the name come from? Where is it precisely? (city + state)

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25) What main department does it shelter? What 4 "subdepartments" does it shelter?

26) What are interest groups or lobbies? Where does their power come from?

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27) What does NRA stand for? Explain briefly who they represent and what influence they try to have.

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28) What is referred to as the "Fourth Estate"? Why "fourth"? What different forms of influence does it have (2 at least)?

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29) How is the "Fourth Estate" protected?.....

30) Explain the following expression " the illusion of choice", as related to the fourth estate. What illusion of what choice and why?

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31) Summarize what you know about the Watergate scandal:

When? Where the name of the scandal comes from, what president was involved, what he was reproached with, what two journalists were at the origin of the scandal, what newspaper they worked for.

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32) What power does this scandal illustrate?

33) What are purple states? Where does the name come from? What are the other two names for these states? Why are they places of power? (be very precise)

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