

**AP United States Government
Chapter 12 Study Guide – Congress**

Name: _____

Vocabulary: On index cards, define the following terms.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Incumbents | 8. Majority leader | 15. Legislative oversight |
| 2. Casework | 9. Whips | 16. Committee chairs |
| 3. Pork barrel | 10. Minority leader | 17. Seniority system |
| 4. Bicameral legislature | 11. Standing committee | 18. Caucus |
| 5. House Rules Committee | 12. Joint committee | 19. Bill |
| 6. Filibuster | 13. Conference committee | |
| 7. Speaker of the House | 14. Select committee | |

Questions: Complete the following as you read chapter 12 in your textbook.

1. List seven perks members of Congress receive.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
2. Describe a “typical” member of Congress in terms of the following categories.

Sex:

Race:

Age:

Religion:

Prior Occupation:

Wealth:
3. What is the difference between descriptive and substantive representation?

Descriptive:

Substantive:
4. Give two reasons why women are less likely to run for Congress than men.
 - a.
 - b.

5. List and explain five advantages incumbents have over their opponents in congressional elections.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

6. What is the difference between casework and pork barrel?

Casework:

Pork barrel:

7. What are the main criticisms of political action committees?

8. List and explain three ways that an incumbent might be defeated.

a.

b.

c.

9. List three criticisms of term limitations.

a.

b.

c.

10. What are the main functions of the House Rules Committee?

11. List four formal powers of the Speaker of the House.

a.

b.

c.

d.

12. List four types of congressional committees.

a.

b.

c.

d.

13. What is legislative oversight?

14. How does the seniority system work?

15. What is the difference between the personal staff and the committee staff?

16. List three congressional staff agencies.

a.

b.

c.

17. Draw a diagram of how a bill becomes a law.

18. List the ten times a president must usually win in order to hope for final passage of his or her proposed legislation.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h.
- i.
- j.

19. Give two reasons why the congressional parties have become more ideologically polarized.

- a.
- b.

20. What is the difference between trustees, instructed delegates, and politicians?

Trustees:

Instructed delegates:

Politicians:

21. List three ways Congress can frustrate the activities of lobbyists.

- a.
- b.
- c.

22. Present the arguments of supporters and critics on the effectiveness of Congress.

Supporters:

Critics:

23. How does the organization of Congress contribute to the expanding scope of government?