Test #1 Political Science 102 Fall, 2007

Chapter 12: The Presidency (Please omit the section that focuses on the selection of a president, pp. 344-353, as this is studied in Political Science 101.)

What are the president’s constitutional powers and responsibilities? (James Madison contributed the most to the writing the Constitution; consequently, the description of these powers is called often the Madisonian model.)

What 3 conditions tend to limit or enhance the presidential power of any specific president?

Textbook author Thomas Patterson states that “the president’s constitutional powers have been extended in practice beyond the Framers’ intentions.” Give some examples that support this statement. (When the term “Framers” is used it refers to the writers of the US Constitution; those who attended the Constitutional Convention in 1787.)

Compare and contrast the Whig theory of the presidency to the stewardship theory. How did World War II change the role and responsibilities of the president?

In what ways is the president’s ability to make executive appointments a significant source of power?

What is the EOP and why is it significant?

WHO

OMB

The Office of the vice-president

The president’s cabinet

In what ways can the president’s appointment power pose a problem? What is “capture?”

What are the key factors that determine a president’s success or failure?

The force of circumstance

The stage of the president’s term:

The honeymoon

The nature of the issue
The two presidencies

Relationships with Congress

The power of the veto

The power of the Congress to override a veto

Benefiting from partisan support in Congress

Colliding with Congress

The Impeachment Process: How does the process work?

The controversy over signing statements

The War Powers Act of 1973

Public support

Presidential approval ratings

The “rally round the flag” reaction of the Am public

The televised presidency

“going public”

“feeding frenzy”

“the illusion of presidential govt”

Chapter 11: The Congress

In what ways did the Framers establish Congress as the leading branch of the national govt?

Congress as a Career:

Congressional elections favor incumbents Why is this so?

An open-seat election

The problems of “safe incumbency”

The service strategy: Taking care of constituents

Pork-barrel projects
Incumbents’ advantage in campaign fund-raising

Redistricting boundaries
Reapportionment/gerrymandering

What are the pitfalls of incumbency?

Disruptive issues (provide an example)

Personal misconduct (example)

The midterm election problem

Party leadership in Congress (A Bicameral Legislature)

In what ways is Congress fragmented?

How many US senators US representatives are there? What is their term of office?

Party Caucus

The Role/Power of the Speaker of the House

Party Leaders

The majority and the minority party leaders

The responsibilities of the whips

Contrast the responsibilities of the Senate majority party leader and the US vice-president.

The seniority principle

What do standing committees do?

The lawmaking function of Congress

Holding hearings

Party discipline

Filibuster/cloture

Rider
The representative function: representing national and local interests

Logrolling

Are members of Congress sufficiently in tune with constituent opinion?

The oversight function of Congress

What is the challenge of the “two Congresses?”

The concepts included in this study guide are featured in Thomas Patterson’s *The American Democracy* 8th Edition (2007-2008). Your tests are consistently a combination of concepts included in your textbook and those ideas discussed within the classroom.