



The Legislative Branch

Name _____

Instructions: Answer FIVE of the following.

1. Compare and contrast the House of Representatives and the Senate.
2. Explain why many members of the House of Representatives like Eric Cantor and Bobby Scott have extremely safe seats.
3. Discuss at least three reasons why incumbents in both houses of Congress have such high reelection rates.
4. List and describe five types of congressional committees and discuss the purposes of the committee system in Congress.
5. Explain how two clauses in the Constitution are the basis for implied powers of Congress. Cite court cases as examples to support your explanation.
6. Discuss the process of the power of Congress to tax and spend, and how it uses this power to expand its authority and influence. Also explain the problem of uncontrollable expenditures.
7. Discuss the relationship between Congress and the President. In particular you should focus on the circumstances when the two branches tend to clash.
8. Explain the process by which a bill becomes a law. Be sure to include all the steps, including the role of the President.
9. Discuss the factors that influence how a congressman votes.
10. Explain how members of Congress enhance their chances of reelection by helping their constituents. Discuss the importance of staff in these efforts.

