

МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ  
НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ ТЕХНІЧНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ  
«ХАРКІВСЬКИЙ ПОЛІТЕХНІЧНИЙ ІНСТИТУТ»

**МЕТОДИЧНІ ВКАЗІВКИ**  
**до практичних занять за темою**  
**Уряд США (US government)**  
**з курсу «Лінгвокраїнознавство»**  
**для студентів спеціальності «Філологія»**  
**спеціалізації «Германські мови та літератури**  
**(переклад включно), перша англійська»**

Затверджено  
редакційно-видавничою  
радою університету,  
протокол № 2 від 29.16.2021 р.

Харків  
НТУ  
“ХПІ” 2021

Методичні вказівки до практичних занять за темою Уряд США (US government) з курсу «Лінгвокраїнознавство» для студентів спеціальності «Філологія» спеціалізації «Германські мови та літератури (переклад включно), перша англійська» / Уклад. А. А. Бадан – Харків : НТУ «ХПІ», 2021. – 39 с .

Укладач: А. А. Бадан

Рецензент: І. В. Недайнова

Кафедра ділової іноземної мови та перекладу.

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## ВСТУП

Кожен перекладач, лінгвіст та й будь-яка людина, яка вивчає іноземні мови, усвідомлює, що наявність великого активного словникового запасу та вміння складати граматично вірні речення є основними, але не найважливішими складовими на шляху до опанування мови. Чим більше знаєш про історію, культуру, традиції та державний лад країни, мову котрої вивчаєш, тим краще розумієш ментальність носіїв, їх погляди та переконання.

Дані методичні вказівки будуть корисними для студентів перекладацьких і лінгвістичних спеціальностей та аспірантів, у яких виникають труднощі при перекладі топонімів та слів-реалій, а також для всіх, хто цікавиться представленою темою.

Структурно ці методичні вказівки складаються з 3 розділів:

1. У першому розділі міститься інформація про те, як організований уряд США. Розглядаються законодавство США, виконавча влада уряду та судова система уряду США.

2. У другому розділі розповідається про президента США, процес його вибору, а також його повноваження та обов'язки.

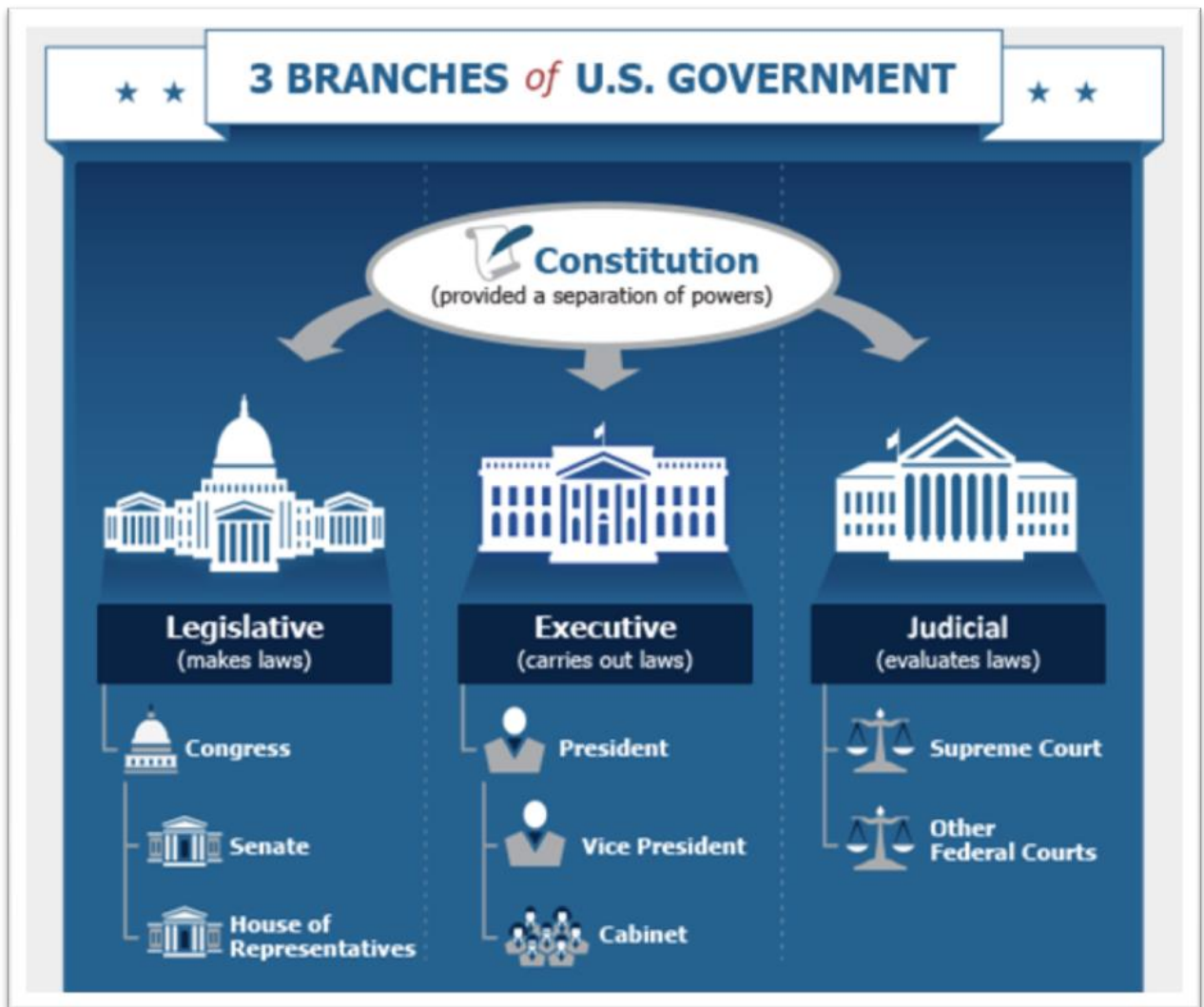
3. Третій розділ містить відомості про конгрес США, історію його утворення та роль конгресу в уряді.

Для перевірки знань та перекладацьких навичок кожен розділ містить завдання різних типів, серед них: прочитати та ознайомитися з текстом, відповісти на питання за текстом, звернути увагу на нові слова, перекласти слова у швидкому темпі, заповнити пропуски, перекласти англійською/українською мовою уривок тексту або словосполучення, з'єднати географічні об'єкти з їх описом та ін.

# 1. HOW THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS ORGANIZED

1. Read the following text paying attention to the words in bold.

The Constitution of the United States divides the federal government into three branches to make sure no individual or group will have too much power. This is very important, because if one branch was able to gain enough power, it could overrule the decisions made by the other two branches. Essentially, if any branch gained more control than the other two combined, they could enact their will over the American people.



*Picture 1.1 – 3 branches of U.S. Government*

- **Legislative** – makes laws (Congress, comprised of the **House of Representatives** and Senate)
- **Executive**– **carries out laws** (president, vice president, Cabinet, most federal agencies)

– **Judicial**– **evaluates laws** (Supreme Court and other courts).

Each branch of government can change acts of the other branches:

1) The president can **veto** legislation created by Congress and nominates heads of federal agencies.

2) Congress confirms or rejects the president's nominees and can remove the president from office in exceptional circumstances.

3) The **Justices of the Supreme Court**, who can **overturn** unconstitutional laws, are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

This ability of each branch to respond to the actions of the other branches is called the **system of checks and balances**.

### **1.1 Legislative branch of the U.S. Government**

The legislative branch **enacts legislation**, confirms or rejects presidential appointments, and has the authority to **declare war**.

This branch includes Congress (the Senate and House of Representatives) and several agencies that provide support services to Congress. American citizens have the right to vote for senators and representatives through free, confidential **ballots**.

Congress is composed of two parts:

– Senate – There are two elected Senators per state, totaling 100 Senators. A Senate term is *six years* and there is no limit to the number of terms an individual can serve.

– House of Representatives – There are 435 elected Representatives, which are divided among the 50 states in proportion to their total population. There are additional non-voting delegates who represent the District of Columbia and the territories. A Representative serves a two-year term, and there is no limit to the number of terms an individual can serve.

### **1.2 Executive Branch of the U.S. Government**

The executive branch carries out and **enforces laws**. It includes the president, vice president, the Cabinet, **executive departments**, independent agencies, and other boards, commissions, and committees.

American citizens have the right to vote for the president and vice president through free, confidential ballots.

Key roles of the executive branch include:

- President – The president leads the country. He or she is the head of state, leader of the federal government, and Commander in Chief of the United States armed forces. The president serves a four-year term and can be elected no more than two times.
- Vice president – The vice president supports the president. If the president is unable to serve, the vice president becomes president. The vice president can be elected and serve an unlimited number of four-year terms as vice president, even under a different president.
- The Cabinet – Cabinet members serve as advisors to the president. They include the vice president, heads of executive departments, and other high-ranking government officials. Cabinet members are nominated by the president and must be approved by a simple majority of the Senate – 51 votes if all 100 Senators vote.

### **1.3 Judicial Branch of the U.S. Government**

The judicial branch interprets the meaning of laws, applies laws to individual cases, and decides if laws **violate** the Constitution. It is comprised of the Supreme Court and other federal courts.

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States. The Justices of the Supreme Court are nominated by the president and must be approved by the Senate.

Nine members make up the Supreme Court – a *Chief Justice* and eight **Associate Justices**. There must be a minimum or quorum of six Justices to decide a case.

If there is an even number of Justices and a case results in a tie, the lower court's decision stands.

There is no fixed term for Justices. They serve until their death, retirement, or removal in exceptional circumstances.

#### **General information about the Supreme Court:**

1) Q: How are Supreme Court Justices selected?

A: The President nominates someone for a vacancy on the Court and the Senate votes to confirm the nominee, which requires a simple majority. In this way, both the Executive

and Legislative Branches of the federal government have a voice in the composition of the Supreme Court.

2) Q: Are there qualifications to be a Justice? Do you have to be a lawyer or attend law school to be a Supreme Court Justice?

A: The Constitution does not specify qualifications for Justices such as age, education, profession, or native-born citizenship. A Justice does not have to be a lawyer or a law school graduate, but all Justices have been trained in the law.

3) Q: How long is the term of a Supreme Court Justice?

A: The Constitution states that Justices "shall hold their Offices during good Behavior." This means that the Justices hold office as long as they choose and can only be removed from office by impeachment.

4) Q: Who decides how many Justices are on the Court? Have there always been nine?

A: The Constitution places the power to determine the number of Justices in the hands of Congress. The first Judiciary Act, passed in 1789, set the number of Justices at six, one Chief Justice and five Associates. Over the years Congress has passed various acts to change this number, fluctuating from a low of five to a high of ten. The Judiciary Act of 1869 fixed the number of Justices at nine and no subsequent change to the number of Justices has occurred.

2. Answer the following questions:

- 1) What are the three branches of U.S. Government?
- 2) What can happen if one branch gains too much power?
- 3) What chambers does the Congress consist of?
- 4) How can one branch of government change acts of the other branches?
- 5) What is a system of checks and balances?
- 6) Which branch has the authority to declare war?
- 7) Is there any limit to the number of terms an individual can serve in Senate?
- 8) How big is the House of Representatives?
- 9) What are the key roles of the executive branch?
- 10) If the president is unable to serve, who will become a president?



11) What is the highest court in the US?

12) How many members make up the Supreme Court?

### Glossary

legislative	законодавчий
executive	виконавчий
judicial	судовий
House of Representatives	Палата представників
to carry out (a law)	забезпечувати дотримання закону
to evaluate (a law)	оцінювати закон
veto	право вето (заборона, яку накладає один ержавний орган на рішення іншого органу)
justice	суддя
Supreme Court	Верховний суд
to overturn (a law)	досягти скасування закону
system of checks and balances	система стримувань і противаг
to enact legislation	прийняти законодавство
to declare war	оголосити війну
ballot	бюлетень
to enforce (a law)	забезпечити законність
executive departments	виконавче відомство
Commander in Chief	Головнокомандувач
violate	порушувати
Chief Justice	Головний суддя
Associate Justice	Помічник судді
to result in a tie	отримувати однакову кількість голосів

3. Translate in the quick tempo:

Legislative – отримувати однакову кількість голосів – executive – Помічник судді – judicial – Головний суддя – House of Representatives – порушувати – to carry out (a law) – Головнокомандувач – to evaluate (a law) – виконавче відомство – veto – забезпечити законність – justice – бюлетень – Supreme Court – оголосити війну – to overturn (a law) – прийняти законодавство – system of checks and balances.

4. Translate into Ukrainian:

1) The government is regulated by a system of checks and balances defined by the U.S. Constitution, which serves as the country's supreme legal document.

2) The Supreme Court and lower federal courts interpret laws and overturn those they find unconstitutional.

3) While the legislative branch (Congress) has the power to create law, the executive branch under the president can veto any legislation – an act which, in turn, can be overridden by Congress.

4) The Supreme Court, led by the chief justice of the United States, has nine members, who serve for life.

5) The executive branch, under Article II of the Constitution, consists of the president and those to whom the president's powers are delegated.

5. Match duties to those who carry them out:

1. Congress	a) he enforces laws, treaties, and court rulings; develops federal policies; prepares the national budget; and appoints federal officials. He also approves or vetoes acts of Congress and grants pardons.
2. Senate	b) its role is to direct government policy and make decisions about national issues.
3. House of Representatives	c) it plays an essential role in ensuring that each branch of government recognizes the limits of its own power; it protects civil rights and liberties by striking down laws that violate the Constitution.
4. President	d) it introduces bills and resolutions, offers amendments and serves on committees.
5. Vice President	e) it makes laws, declares wars, raises and provides public money and oversees its proper expenditure, impeaches and tries federal officers, approves treaties negotiated by the executive branch.
6. Cabinet	f) 'they' hear cases involving the constitutionality of a law, cases involving the laws and treaties of the U.S. ambassadors and public ministers, disputes between two or more states, admiralty law, also known as maritime law, and bankruptcy cases.
7. Supreme Court	j) it ratifies treaties by a two-thirds supermajority vote and confirms the appointments of the President by a majority vote.
8. Other Federal	h) he makes public appearances representing the President;

Courts	performs ceremonial duties in place of the President; acts as an adviser to the President.
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6.Translate into English:

### **Державний лад США**

Сполучені Штати Америки — це найстаріша існуюча федерація у світі, яка складається з 50 штатів. Це президентська республіка й репрезентативна демократія. Керівництво регулюється системою стримувань і противаг, яка визначена конституцією Сполучених Штатів. Автори конституції, розробленої в 1787 році, прагнули, щоб жодна людина, жодна група людей не мала б занадто багато повноважень, тому вони вдалися до ступеневої системи влади. В американській федеральній системі громадяни країни, як правило, підкорюються трьом рівням влади: федеральній, штатній і місцевій. На національному рівні влада ділиться на три незалежні гілки — судову, законодавчу і виконавчу. Законодавча влада визначена першою статтею конституцією США, приймає нові і змінює вже існуючі закони. Виконавча влада відповідає за виконання законів на всій території країни. Вона представлена в особі президента, віце-президента, кабінету міністрів і незалежних агентств. Судова влада дає тлумачення законів, прийнятих Конгресом. Вона складається з Верховного суду і федеральних судів нижчих інстанцій.

## 2. PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



*Picture 2.1 - Presidential seal*



*Picture 2.1 -Presidential flag*



**46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States**

**Vice President:** Kamala Harris

**Preceded by:** Donald Trump

**Born:** Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.

November 20, 1942 (age 78)

Scranton, Pennsylvania, U.S.

**Political party:** Democratic

A handwritten signature of Joe Biden in black ink.

*Picture 2.3 - Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. Portrait and Signature*

1. Read the following text paying attention to the words in bold (more details about US President you can find in the section ‘additional information’)

The president of the United States (POTUS) is the head of state and head of government of the United States of America. The president directs the executive branch of the federal government and is the commander-in-chief of the **United States Armed Forces**. In contemporary times, the president is looked upon as one of the world's most powerful political figures as the leader of the only remaining global superpower. The role

includes responsibility for the world's most expensive military, which has the second largest **nuclear arsenal**.

As part of the system of checks and balances, Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution gives the president the power to sign or veto federal legislation. Through the **Electoral College**, registered voters indirectly *elect the president and vice president to a four-year term*.

Article II, Section 1, Clause 5 sets three qualifications for holding the presidency: *natural-born U.S. citizenship; at least thirty-five years of age; and residency in the United States for at least fourteen years*. The Twenty-second Amendment states that no person who has been elected to two presidential terms may be elected to a third.

Donald Trump is the 45th and current president of the United States. He **assumed office** on January 20, 2017.

**Origin.** In July 1776, during the American Revolutionary War, the Thirteen Colonies declared themselves to be 13 independent sovereign states, no longer under British rule. Recognizing the necessity of closely coordinating their efforts against the British, the Continental Congress simultaneously began the process of drafting a constitution that would bind the states together. *New York* offered the greatest exception, having a strong, unitary governor with veto and appointment power elected to a three-year term, and eligible for reelection to an indefinite number of terms thereafter.

## **2.1 Powers and duties**

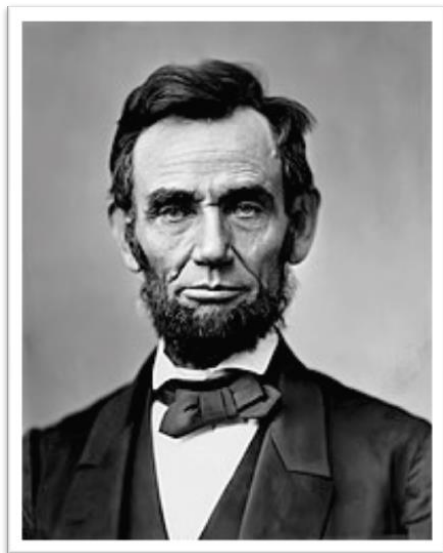
**Article I legislative role.** The Presentment Clause requires that any bill passed by Congress must be presented to the president before it can become law. Once the legislation has been presented, the president has three options:

1. Sign the legislation within ten days, excluding Sundays – the bill becomes law.
2. Veto the legislation within the above timeframe and return it to the house of Congress from which it originated, expressing any objections-the bill does not become law, unless both houses of Congress vote to override the veto by **a two-thirds vote**.
3. Take no action on the legislation within the above timeframe-the bill becomes law, as if the president had signed it, unless Congress is adjourned at the time, in which case it does not become law (**a pocket veto**).

The president can also be involved in crafting legislation by suggesting, requesting or even insisting that Congress enact laws he believes are needed. The president or other officials of the executive branch may draft legislation and then ask senators or representatives to introduce these drafts into Congress.

**Article II executive powers. War and foreign affairs powers.** One of the most important of executive powers is the president's role as commander-in-chief of the United States Armed Forces. The power to declare war is **constitutionally vested** in Congress, but the president has ultimate responsibility for the direction and disposition of the military. The exact degree of authority that the Constitution grants to the president as commander-in-chief has been the subject of much debate throughout history, with Congress at various times granting the president wide authority and at others attempting to restrict that authority.

The amount of military detail handled personally by the president in wartime has varied greatly. Abraham Lincoln was deeply involved in overall strategy and in day-to-day operations during the American Civil War, 1861–1865; historians have given Lincoln high praise for his strategic sense and his ability to select and encourage commanders.



*Picture 2.4 - Abraham Lincoln, the 16<sup>th</sup> president of the United States*

Congress provides a check to presidential military power through its control over military spending and regulation. Presidents have historically initiated the process for going to war, but critics have charged that there have been several conflicts in which presidents did not get official declarations, including Theodore Roosevelt's military move into Panama in 1903, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the invasions of Grenada in

1983 and Panama in 1989. The Constitution also empowers the president to propose and chiefly negotiate agreements between the United States and other countries.

**Administrative powers.** The president is head of the executive branch of the federal government and is constitutionally obligated to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed". The power of a president to fire executive officials has long been a **contentious** political issue. Generally, a president may remove executive officials purely at will. However, Congress can curtail and constrain a president's authority to fire commissioners.

**Judicial powers and privileges.** The president has power to nominate federal judges, including members of the United States **courts of appeals** and the Supreme Court of the United States. However, these nominations require Senate confirmation before they may take office. Securing Senate approval can provide a major obstacle for presidents who wish to orient the federal judiciary toward a particular **ideological stance**. Presidents may also **grant pardons and reprieves**.

**Ceremonial roles.** The president fulfills many ceremonial duties. William Howard Taft started the tradition of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch in 1910 at Griffith Stadium, Washington, D.C., on the Washington Senators's Opening Day.

Presidential traditions also involve the president's role as head of government. Many outgoing presidents since James Buchanan traditionally give advice to their successor during the **presidential transition**.

During a state visit by a foreign head of state, the president typically hosts a State Arrival Ceremony held on the South Lawn, a custom begun by John F. Kennedy in 1961.

The modern presidency holds the president as one of the nation's premier celebrities. Some political commentators have opined that American voters have unrealistic expectations of presidents: voters expect a president to "drive the economy, vanquish enemies, lead the free world, comfort tornado victims, heal the national soul and protect borrowers from hidden credit-card fees".

## **2.2 Selection process**

**Eligibility.** Article II, Section 1, Clause 5 of the Constitution sets three qualifications for holding the presidency. A person who meets the above qualifications would, however,

still be disqualified from holding the office of president under any of the following conditions:

- Under the Twenty-second Amendment, no person can be elected president more than twice.
- Under Article I, Section 3, Clause 7, upon conviction in impeachment cases, the Senate has the option of disqualifying convicted individuals from holding federal office, including that of president.
- Under Section 3 of the Fourteenth Amendment, no person who swore an oath to support the Constitution, and later rebelled against the United States, can become president.

**Campaigns and nomination.** The modern presidential campaign begins before the primary elections, which the two major political parties use to clear the field of candidates before their national nominating conventions, where the most successful candidate is made the party's nominee for president. The most common previous profession of U.S. presidents is *lawyer*.

Nominees participate in nationally televised debates, and while the debates are usually restricted to the Democratic and Republican nominees. Much of the modern electoral process is concerned with winning **swing states** through frequent visits and mass media advertising drives.

**Election.** The president is elected indirectly by the voters of each state and the District of Columbia through the Electoral College, a body of electors formed every four years for the sole purpose of electing the president and vice president to concurrent four-year terms. On the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, about 6 weeks after the election, the electors convene in their respective state capitals (and in Washington, D.C.) to vote for president and, on a separate ballot, for vice president. They typically vote for the candidates of the party that nominated them. While there is no constitutional mandate or federal law requiring them to do so, the District of Columbia and 30 states have laws requiring that their electors vote for the candidates to whom they are pledged. Following the vote, each state then sends a certified record of their electoral votes to Congress. The votes of the electors are opened and counted during a joint session of



Congress, held in the first week of January. If a candidate has received an **absolute majority** of electoral votes for president (currently 270 of 538), that person is declared the winner.

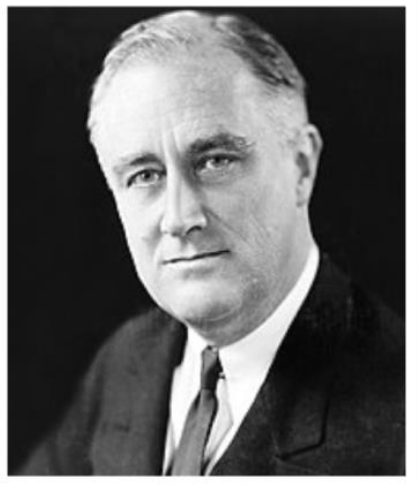
### 2.3 Tenure

**Inauguration.** Pursuant to the Twentieth Amendment, the four-year term of office for both the president and the vice president begins *at noon on January 20*. Before executing the powers of the office, a president is required to recite the Presidential Oath of Office, found in Article II, Section 1, Clause 8 of the Constitution. This is the only component in the inauguration ceremony mandated by the Constitution:

*“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States”.*

Presidents have traditionally placed one hand upon a Bible while taking the oath, and have added "So help me God" to the end of the oath. Although the oath may be administered by any person authorized by law to administer oaths, presidents are traditionally sworn in by the chief justice of the United States.

**Term limit.** When the first president, George Washington, announced in his Farewell Address that he was not running for a third term, he established a "two-terms then out" precedent. Since the amendment's adoption, *five presidents have served two full terms: Dwight D. Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama.*



*Picture 2.5 - Franklin D. Roosevelt won a record four presidential elections (1932, 1936, 1940 and 1944)*

In 1940, after leading the nation through the Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt was elected to a third term, breaking the self-imposed precedent. Four years later, with the U.S. engaged in World War II, he was re-elected again despite his declining physical health.

**Impeachment.** Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution allows for the removal of high federal officials, including the president, from office for "**treason**, bribery, or other high crimes and **misdemeanors**". Three presidents have been impeached by the House of Representatives: Andrew Johnson in 1868, Bill Clinton in 1998, and Donald Trump in 2019; all three were acquitted by the Senate. Additionally, the House Judiciary Committee conducted an impeachment inquiry against Richard Nixon in 1973–74; however, he resigned from office before the full House voted on the articles of impeachment.

**Political affiliation.** Political parties have dominated American politics for most of the nation's history. Greatly concerned about the very real capacity of political parties to destroy the fragile unity holding the nation together, Washington remained **unaffiliated** with any political faction or party throughout his eight-year presidency. He was, and remains, the only U.S. president never to be affiliated with a political party. Since George Washington, 43 persons have been sworn into the office of president, and each has been affiliated with a political party at the time of assuming office. The number of presidents per political party (at the time of entry into office) are:

**Compensation.** Since 2001, the president's annual salary has been \$400,000, along with a: \$50,000 expense allowance; \$100,000 nontaxable travel account, and \$19,000 entertainment account. The president's salary is set by Congress, and under Article II, Section 1, Clause 7 of the Constitution, may not be increased or reduced during his or her current term of office.

**Residence.** *The White House* in Washington, D.C. is the official residence of the president. The site was selected by George Washington, and the cornerstone was laid in 1792. Every president since John Adams (in 1800) has lived there. At various times in U.S. history, it has been known as the "President's Palace", the "President's House", and the "Executive Mansion". Theodore Roosevelt officially gave the White House its current name in 1901.



*Picture 2.6 - White House, the official residence*



*Picture 2.7 - Camp David, the official retreat*

*Camp David*, officially titled Naval Support Facility Thurmont, a mountain-based military camp in Frederick County, Maryland, is the president's country residence.

*Blair House* serves as the president's official guest house and as a secondary residence for the president if needed.

**Protection.** The U.S. Secret Service is charged with protecting the president and the first family. As part of their protection, presidents, first ladies, their children and other immediate family members, and other prominent persons and locations are assigned Secret Service codenames. The use of such names was originally for security purposes and dates to a time when sensitive electronic communications were not routinely encrypted; today, the names simply serve for purposes of brevity, clarity, and tradition.

**Post-presidency.** All living former presidents are granted a pension, an office, and a staff. Presidents may use their predecessors as emissaries to deliver private messages to other nations or as official representatives of the United States to state funerals and other important foreign events. As of April 2020, there are four living former U.S. presidents. The most recent former president to die was George H. W. Bush (1989–1993), on November 30, 2018. The living former presidents, in order of service, are:



Jimmy Carter  
(1977–1981)  
Age 95



Bill Clinton  
(1993–2001)  
Age 73



George W. Bush  
(2001–2009)  
Age 73



Barack Obama  
(2009–2017)  
Age 58

2. Answer the following questions:

- 1) What branch does the president direct?
- 2) How many years can a president and a vice-president serve?
- 3) What are the three qualifications for holding the presidency?
- 4) Which state put in place an initiative to elect the president?
- 5) Which options does the president have once the legislation has been presented?
- 6) Which president was deeply involved in overall strategy during the American Civil War?

- 7) Is there any way how Congress can curtail and constrain a president's authority?
- 8) Which presidential traditions can you name?
- 9) Under which conditions can a person be disqualified from holding the office of president?
- 10) What is the most common previous profession of U.S. presidents?
- 11) How many electoral votes are considered an absolute majority?
- 12) What is the only component in the inauguration ceremony?
- 13) Which president won a record four presidential elections?
- 14) Which president remained unaffiliated with any political faction or party throughout his eight-year presidency?
- 15) What is the official residence of the president?

### Glossary

United States Armed Forces	Збройні сили США
nuclear arsenal	ядерний арсенал
Electoral College	Колегія виборців
to assume office	вступити на посаду
a two-thirds vote	дві третини голосів
a pocket veto	*кишенькове вето
constitutionally vested	наділений конституційними повноваженнями
contentious	суперечливий
court of appeals	апеляційний суд
ideological stance	ідеологічна позиція
to grant pardons and reprieves	дарувати помилування та відстрочку виконання вироку
presidential transition	зміна президентської влади
eligibility	право на обрання
swing state	«хиткий» штат (штат США, де кандидати у президенти мають приблизно рівні шанси бути обраними)
absolute majority	абсолютна більшість
treason	державна зрада

misdemeanor	дрібний злочин
acquit	виправдовувати
unaffiliated	безпартійний

\* The Constitution grants the president 10 days to review a measure passed by the Congress. If the president has not signed the bill after 10 days, it becomes law without his signature. However, if Congress adjourns during the 10-day period, the bill does not become law.

3. Match the president to the description (consult with the teacher or use the Internet if you experience difficulties):

George Washington	He has been among the most controversial presidents in US history, and just the third commander-in-chief to be impeached. Immigration is his signature issue, and he has long pushed to build a wall along the US' southern border with Mexico.
John F. Kennedy	He approved the dropping of atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He also instituted the Marshall Plan, which gave billions of dollars in aid to help stimulate economic recovery in European nations.
Abraham Lincoln	He initiated an era of improved relations with China and helped reduce tensions between U.S. and the Soviet Union.
Harry S. Truman	“Father of His (or Our) Country.” He became the first president of the USA and commanded the Continental Army during the American Revolution. The U.S. capital is named after him.
Donald Trump	He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009 “for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples”. The first African-American elected President of the United States.
Richard Nixon	He led the United States to ultimately defeat the Confederacy, and following his famous Emancipation Proclamation, he enacted measures to abolish slavery. He is often considered the greatest president for his leadership during the American Civil War.
Franklin D. Roosevelt	After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, he declared a global war on terrorism and, in October 2001, ordered an invasion of Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban, destroy the terrorist group al-Qaeda, and capture Osama bin Laden.

Barack Obama	The 35th U.S. president, negotiated the Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and initiated the Alliance for Progress. He is most famous for being assassinated early in his presidency.
George W. Bush	His leadership and courage during the worst years of the Great Depression and World War II are remembered as his lasting achievements. As one biographer noted, "He lifted himself from a wheelchair to lift the nation from its knees."

4. Fill in the gaps with the terms in italics. Translate the sentences into Ukrainian:

*Democratic party, Capitol, impeachment, President, inaugurated, Confederacy, constitution, swing states, Republican party, Founding Father.*

1) The outcome of the US election will be decided by a small number of ..... that are not decisively Democratic or Republican in their support for the presidential candidates.

2) The US has two main political parties. The ..... is represented by an elephant and the ..... is recognized by the symbol of a donkey.

3) ..... were a group of American leaders who united the Thirteen Colonies, led the war for independence from Great Britain, and built a frame of government for the new United States of America.

4) ..... is the process by which a legislative body levels charges against a government official.

5) The first ten amendments to the ..... of the United States are called the Bill of Rights.

6) Several people are considering running for ....., but none have announced their candidacy yet.

7) The United States ..... is the home of the United States Congress and the seat of the legislative branch of the U.S. federal government.

8) The ..... was originally formed by seven slave-holding states, whose economy was heavily dependent upon agriculture.

9) American presidents are always ..... on 20 January.

5. Match the words with the definitions. Translate:

1. demagogue

2. ideology

3. campaign

4. trial balloon

5. poll

6. nominee

7. delegate

a) an integrated system of ideas about politics, values, and culture

b) an idea a politician suggests in order to observe the reaction

c) the candidate chosen by a political party to run for a particular office

d) a leader whose impassioned rhetoric appeals to greed, fear, and hatred, and who often spreads lies

e) representative to a party's national convention chosen by local voters to vote for a particular candidate

f) a survey used to gauge public opinion concerning issues or to forecast an election

j) an organized effort to win an election.

6. Translate into English:

Вимоги до кандидатів

Згідно з 22-ю поправкою до Конституції, одна й та ж особа може бути обрана президентом США не більше двох разів. Крім того, якщо деяка особа після смерті або відставки обраного президента займала президентський пост протягом 2 років і більше, то ця особа в подальшому може бути обрана президентом не більше 1 разу. Проте в 1940 році Франклін Д. Рузвельт був обраний на третій термін, а в 1944 — і на четвертий (помер в 1945). Після цього, не применшуючи заслуг Рузвельта та надзвичайних умов, у яких він переобирався (Друга світова війна), було вирішено законодавчо обмежити кількість можливих переобрань, щоб цей випадок не став прецедентом для встановлення диктатури. 22-а поправка не мала зворотної сили і не поширювалася на чинного на той момент президента Гаррі Трумена, який відбув майже повністю термін Рузвельта після його смерті та свій власний, але Трумен сам не забажав знову балотуватися в 1952 році.



### 3. UNITED STATES CONGRESS



*Picture 3.1 - Coat of arms or logo*

1. Read the following text paying attention to the words in bold (more details about US Congress you can find in the section ‘additional information’)

The United States Congress is the **bicameral legislature** of the federal government of the United States, and consists of two chambers: the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Congress meets in the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. Both senators and representatives are chosen through direct election, though vacancies in the Senate may be filled by a gubernatorial appointment. Congress has *535 voting members: 435 representatives and 100 senators*. In addition, the House of Representatives currently has six **non-voting members**, bringing the total membership of the US Congress to 54 or fewer in the case of vacancies.



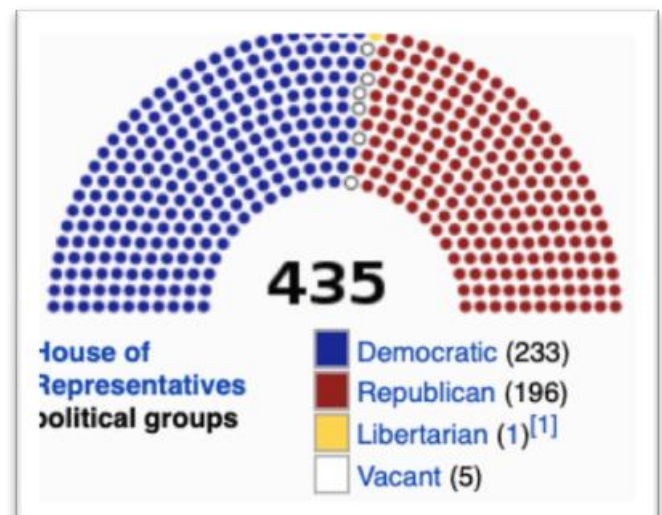
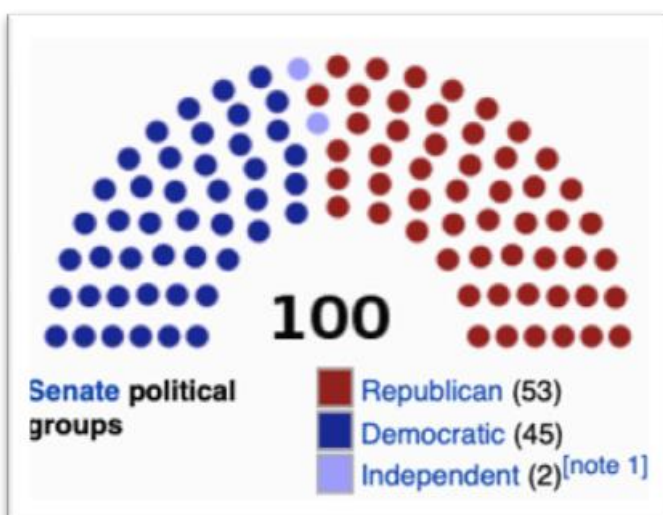
*Picture 3.2 - United States Capitol Washington, D.C.*

The members of the House of Representatives serve two-year terms representing the people of a, known as a *district*. Congressional districts are apportioned to states by population using the United States **Census** results, provided that each state has at least one congressional representative. Each state, regardless of population or size, has two senators. Currently, there are 100 senators representing the 50 states.

Article One of the United States Constitution requires that members of Congress must *be at least 25 years old (House) or 30 years old (Senate), have been a citizen of the United States for seven (House) or nine (Senate) years, and be an inhabitant of the state which they represent*. A small number of senators in the 19th century were under 30 years old and therefore did not meet the constitutional age requirement.

The Congress was created by the Constitution of the United States and first met in 1789, replacing in its legislative function the Congress of the Confederation. Although not legally mandated, in practice since the 19th century, Congress members are typically affiliated with the Republican Party or with the Democratic Party and only rarely with a third party or independents.

**Overview.** The term Congress can also refer to a particular meeting of the legislature. A Congress covers two years; the current one, the 116th Congress, began on January 3, 2019, and will end on January 3, 2021. The Congress starts and ends on the third day of January of every odd-numbered year. Members of the Senate are referred to as senators; members of the House of Representatives are referred to as representatives, congresswomen, or congressmen.



Congress is constantly changing and is constantly in flux. In recent times, the American south and west have gained House seats according to demographic changes recorded by the census and includes more **minorities** and women although both groups are still underrepresented.

### 3.1 History

The First Continental Congress was a gathering of representatives from twelve of the thirteen colonies of North America (you can see them in the picture). On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress adopted the **Declaration of Independence**, referring to the new nation as the "United States of America". The **Articles of Confederation** in 1781 created the Congress of the Confederation, a unicameral body with equal representation among the states in which each state had a veto over most decisions. Congress had executive but not legislative authority.

To protect against abuse of power, each branch of government – executive, legislative, and judicial – had a separate sphere of authority and could check other branches according to the principle of the **separation of powers**. Furthermore, there were checks and balances within the legislature since there were two separate chambers. The new government became active in 1789.

Political scientist Julian E. Zelizer suggested there were four main congressional eras, with considerable overlap, and included the *formative era* (1780s–1820s), the *partisan era* (1830s–1900s), the *committee era* (1910s–1960s), and the *contemporary era* (1970s–today).

**1780s–1820s: Formative Era.** Federalists and anti-federalists **jostled for power** in the early years as political parties became pronounced, surprising the Constitution's Founding Fathers of the United States. With the passage of the Constitution and the **Bill of Rights**, the anti-federalist movement was exhausted.

**1830s–1900s: Partisan Era.** These years were marked by growth in the power of political parties. The watershed event was the Civil War which resolved the slavery issue and unified the nation under federal authority, but weakened the power of states' rights. **The Gilded Age** (1877–1901) was marked by Republican dominance of Congress. During this time, **lobbying activity** became more intense. Immigration and high birth rates

swelled the ranks of citizens and the nation grew at a rapid pace. The Progressive Era was characterized by strong party leadership in both houses of Congress as well as calls for reform; sometimes reformers would attack lobbyists as corrupting politics. The position of **Speaker of the House** became extremely powerful. The Senate was effectively controlled by a half dozen men.

**1910s–1960s: Committee Era.** A system of seniority – in which long-time members of Congress gained more and more power – encouraged politicians of both parties to serve for long terms.

Important structural changes included the direct popular election of senators, with positive effects (senators more sensitive to public opinion) and negative effects (undermining the authority of state governments). Supreme Court decisions based on the Constitution's **commerce clause** expanded congressional power to regulate the economy.

**The Great Depression** ushered in President Franklin Roosevelt and strong control by Democrats. Roosevelt's election in 1932 marked a shift in government power towards the executive branch. Numerous New Deal initiatives came from the White House rather than being initiated by Congress. The Democratic Party controlled both houses of Congress for many years. During this time, Republicans and conservative southern Democrats formed the Conservative Coalition. Democrats maintained control of Congress during World War II. Southern Democrats became a powerful force in many influential committees although political power alternated between Republicans and Democrats during these years. In 1960, Democratic candidate John F. Kennedy narrowly won the presidency and power shifted again to the Democrats who dominated both houses of Congress until 1994.

**1970s–Present: Contemporary Era.** From 1970 to 2009, the House expanded delegates, along with their powers and privileges representing U.S. citizens in non-state areas. In October 2013, with Congress unable to compromise, the government was shut down for several weeks and risked a serious default on debt payments, causing 60% of the public to say they would "fire every member of Congress" including their own representative. One report suggested Congress posed the "biggest risk to the US economy" because of its brinksmanship, "down-to-the-wire budget and debt crises" and "indiscriminate spending cuts", resulting in slowed economic activity and keeping up to

two million people unemployed. There has been increasing public dissatisfaction with Congress, with extremely low approval ratings which dropped to 5% in October 2013.



*Picture 3.3 - The current House speaker, Democrat Nancy Pelosi of California*

### 3.2 Role in Government

Article I of the Constitution creates and sets forth the structure and most of the powers of Congress. **Constitutional amendments** have granted Congress additional powers. Congress has authority over financial and budgetary policy through the enumerated power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States".

The Constitution also grants Congress the exclusive power to appropriate funds, and this **power of the purse** is one of Congress's primary checks on the executive branch. Congress can borrow money on the credit of the United States, regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the states, and coin money.

Congress has an important role in national defense, including the exclusive power to declare war, to raise and maintain the armed forces, and to make rules for the military. While historically presidents initiated the process for going to war, they asked for and received formal war declarations from Congress for the War of 1812, the Mexican–American War, the Spanish–American War, World War I, and World War II, although President Theodore Roosevelt's military move into Panama in 1903 did not get congressional approval. According to Time magazine in 1970, "U.S. presidents [had] ordered troops into position or action without a formal congressional declaration a total of 149 times."

Congress can establish post offices and post roads, issue patents and copyrights, fix standards of weights and measures.

The Constitution enumerates the powers of Congress in detail. The Thirteenth (1865), Fourteenth (1868), and Fifteenth Amendments (1870) gave Congress authority to enact legislation to enforce rights of African Americans, including voting rights, due process, and equal protection under the law. Generally, militia forces are controlled by state governments, not Congress.

**Structure.** Congress is split into two chambers – House and Senate – and manages the task of writing national legislation by dividing work into separate committees which specialize in different areas. Some members of Congress are elected by their peers to be officers of these committees. Further, Congress has **ancillary** organizations such as the Government **Accountability Office** and the Library of Congress to help provide it with information, and members of Congress have staff and offices to assist them as well. In addition, a vast industry of lobbyists helps members write legislation on behalf of diverse corporate and labor interests.

**Committees.** The committee structure permits members of Congress to study a particular subject intensely. It is neither expected nor possible that a member be an expert on all subject areas before Congress. As time goes by, members develop expertise in particular subjects and their legal aspects. Committees investigate specialized subjects and advise the entire Congress about choices and **trade-offs**. Senators often choose a different specialty from that of the other senator from their state to prevent overlap.

Committees write legislation. Committees have power and have been called independent **fiefdoms**. Legislative, oversight, and internal administrative tasks are divided among about two hundred committees and subcommittees which gather information, evaluate alternatives, and identify problems. They propose solutions for consideration by the full chamber.

At the start of each two-year session the House elects a *speaker* who does not normally preside over debates but serves as the majority party's leader. In addition, the Senate elects an officer called the **president pro tempore**. Pro tempore means for the time being and this office is usually held by the most senior member of the Senate's majority



party and customarily keeps this position until there is a change in party control. Accordingly, the Senate does not necessarily elect a new president pro tempore at the beginning of a new Congress. In both the House and Senate, the actual presiding officer is generally a junior member of the majority party who is appointed so that new members become acquainted with the rules of the chamber.

**Procedures of Congress. Sessions.** A term of Congress is divided into two "sessions", one for each year; Congress has occasionally been called into an extra or special session. A new session commences on January 3 each year, unless Congress decides differently. The Constitution requires Congress meet at least once each year and forbids either house from meeting outside the Capitol without the consent of the other house.

**Bills and resolutions.** Ideas for legislation can come from members, lobbyists, state legislatures, constituents, legislative counsel, or executive agencies. Anyone can write a bill, but only members of Congress may introduce bills. Most bills are not written by Congress members, but originate from the Executive branch; interest groups often **draft bills** as well.



*Picture 3.4 –House of Representatives,US Congress*

Representatives introduce a bill while the House is in session. It is assigned a number and referred to a committee which studies each bill intensely at this stage. Drafting statutes requires "great skill, knowledge, and experience" and sometimes take a year or more. Bills may be introduced by any member of either house. However, the Constitution states, "All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives." While the Senate cannot originate revenue and appropriation bills, it has power to amend or reject them.

Each bill goes through several stages in each house including consideration by a committee and advice from the Government Accountability Office. The House has twenty **standing committees**; the Senate has sixteen. A committee might call for public hearings on important bills. Witnesses and experts can present their case for or against a bill. Then, a bill may go to what is called a mark-up session, where committee members debate the bill's merits and may offer amendments or revisions.

Once a bill is approved by one house, it is sent to the other which may pass, reject, or amend it. For the bill to become law, both houses must agree to identical versions of the bill.

Voting within Congress can take many forms, including systems using lights and bells and electronic voting. Both houses use voice voting to decide most matters in which members shout "*aye*" or "*no*" and the presiding officer announces the result. The Constitution, however, requires a **recorded vote** if demanded by one-fifth of the members present or when voting to override a presidential veto. If the voice vote is unclear or if the matter is controversial, a recorded vote usually happens. The Senate uses **roll-call voting**, in which a clerk calls out the names of all the senators, each senator stating "*aye*" or "*no*" when their name is announced. In the Senate, the Vice President may cast the tie-breaking vote if present when the Senators are equally divided.

The House reserves roll-call votes for the most formal matters, as a roll call of all 435 representatives takes quite some time; normally, members vote by using an electronic device. In the case of a tie, the motion in question fails. Most votes in the House are done electronically, allowing members to vote *yea* or *nay* or *present* or *open*. Members insert a voting *ID card* and can change their votes during the last five minutes if they choose; in



addition, paper ballots are used on some occasions – *yea* indicated by green and *nay* by red. One member cannot cast a **proxy vote** for another.

After passage by both houses, a bill is enrolled and sent to the president for approval. The president may sign it making it law or veto it, perhaps returning it to Congress with the president's objections. A vetoed bill can still become law if each house of Congress votes to override the veto with a two-thirds majority. Finally, the president may do nothing – neither signing nor vetoing the bill – and then the bill becomes law automatically after ten days (not counting Sundays) according to the Constitution. But if Congress is adjourned during this period, presidents may veto legislation passed at the end of a congressional session simply by ignoring it; the maneuver is known as a pocket veto, and cannot be overridden by the adjourned Congress.

2. Answer the following questions:

- 1) What are the two chambers of Congress?
- 2) How many voting members are in the US Congress?
- 3) How many state representatives are there in each state? Does it depend on the size of population?
- 4) What is required to become a senator?
- 5) With which parties are Congress members typically affiliated?
- 6) When was the Declaration of Independence passed by Congress?
- 7) What is meant by the principle of separation of powers?
- 8) What party was in control during the Great Depression?
- 9) What authority does congress have?
- 10) What is the role of Congress in national defense?
- 11) Which Amendments gave Congress authority to enact legislation to enforce rights of African Americans?
- 12) What do Committees do?
- 13) What does *pro tempore* mean in legal terms?
- 14) What are the steps for a bill to become a law?
- 15) What is a proxy voting?

## Glossary

bicameral legislature	двопалатний законодавчий орган
non-voting members	члени, які не мають права голосу
single constituency	єдиний виборчий округ
census	перепис
minority	меншість
Declaration of Independence	Декларація незалежності
Articles of Confederation	статті Конфедерації
separation of powers	розподіл влади
jostle for power	«пробивати дорогу» до влади
Bill of Rights	Білль про права
the Gilded Age	Золочене століття піднесення економіки США
lobbying activity	лобіювання (цілеспрямований легальний вплив на органи державної влади, спрямований на них від імені іншої особи)
Speaker of the House	Спікер Палати представників США
commerce clause	пункт про регулювання торгівлі
the Great Depression	Велика депресія
jury	присяжні
constitutional amendments	конституційні поправки
power of the purse	право гаманця (виключне право палати представників Конгресу США на внесення фінансових законопроектів)
ancillary	супутній, додатковий, підпорядкований
Accountability Office	Рахункова палата США
trade-off	компроміс
fiefdom	феод (спадкове земельне володіння в епоху феодалізму)
president pro tempore	тимчасовий президент Сенату США
to draft a bill	розробити законопроект
standing committee	постійний комітет
recorded voting	zareєстрована участь у голосуванні
roll-call voting	поіменне голосування

proxy vote	голосування за дорученням (через представника)
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3. Match the words with the definitions. Translate:

1. Congress	a. (of a parliament, congress, etc.) having two parts, such as the Senate and the House of Representatives in the US
2. House Committee	b. the lower house of the parliaments of some countries, including the US
3. bicameral	c. a constitutionally recognized officer of a legislative body who presides over the chamber in the absence of the normal presiding officer
4. the House of Representatives	d. a large formal meeting of representatives from countries or societies at which ideas are discussed and information is exchanged
5. Speaker	e. a formal statement of a planned new law that is discussed before being voted on
6. President pro tempore	f. in the US, a group of people chosen by the House of Representatives to consider a particular subject
7. bill	j. the person who controls the way in which business is done in an organization which makes laws

4. Fill in the gaps with the terms in italics. Translate the sentences into Ukrainian:

*Library of Congress, Declaration of Independence, lobbyists, Great Depression, amendments, law, proxy vote, census, Capitol, bill, jury*

1) A.....is the procedure of systematically acquiring and recording information about the members of a given population.

2) Some States provide exceptions such as majority (11-to-1 or 10-to-2) verdicts where a ..... cannot otherwise reach a verdict.

3) The ..... forbids the sale of cigarettes to people under the age of 16.

4) The ....., which was started in 1793, has been through many construction phases. It stands today as a monument to the American people and their government.

5) When a ..... is passed in Parliament it becomes law.

6) The first ten a..... became known as the Bill of Rights, which includes many of the freedoms we associate so closely with the United States - such as freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press.

7) ..... are professional advocates that work to influence political decisions on behalf of individuals and organizations.

8) If you are unable to vote in person you can get someone to vote for you, and tell them who to vote for. This is called a ..... .

9) The .....was the worst economic downturn in the history of the industrialized world, lasting from 1929 to 1939.

10) The .....is the largest library in the world, with millions of books, recordings, photographs, newspapers, maps and manuscripts in its collections.

11) The people of America know that the .....is very important. It says that every person in this U.S has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

#### 5. Translate into English:

Конгрес США складається з двох палат — Палати представників і Сенату, він обирається на основі загальних рівних і прямих виборів таємним голосуванням.

Палата представників є органом загальнонаціонального представництва. Палата представників у складі 435 депутатів обирається строком на два роки в перший вівторок після першого понеділка листопада кожного парного року в одномандатних округах. Між штатами депутатські місця розподіляються пропорційно до чисельності населення. Перерозподіл місць здійснюється раз на десять років за підсумками перепису населення. Виборчі округи у виборах до Палати представників повинні мати рівну, по можливості, кількість населення.

Депутатом може бути обрана особа, що є громадянином США не менше семи років.

Сенат є органом представництва штатів і складається зі 100 сенаторів: кожен штат обирає по два сенатори строком на 6 років одночасно з палатою представників. Проте сенат оновлюється на 1/3 кожні два роки. Сенатором може бути вибрана особа, що є громадянином США не менше дев'яти років, досягла 30 років і проживає в штаті, від якого обирається.

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**МЕТОДИЧНІ ВКАЗІВКИ**  
**до практичних занять за темою**  
**Уряд США**  
**з курсу «Лінгвокраїнознавство»**  
**)для студентів спеціальності «Філологія»**  
**спеціалізації «Германські мови та літератури**  
**(переклад включно), перша англійська»**

Укладач БАДАН Атоніна Анатоліївна

Відповідальний за випуск проф. Недайнова І.В.

Роботу до видання рекомендував проф. Кіпенський А.В.

В авторській редакції

План 2021 р., поз. 213

Підп. до друку 15.09.2021 р. Формат 60x84 1/16. Папір офсетний.

Друк – ризографія. Гарнітура Times New Roman. Ум. друк. арк. 1,27.

Обл.-вид. арк. 1,49 Наклад \_\_прим. Зам. № \_\_. Ціна договірна.

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Видавничий центр НТУ «ХП».

Свідоцтво про державну реєстрацію ДК № 5478 від 21.08.2017 р.  
61002, Харків, вул. Кирпичова, 2.

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Самостійне електронне видання