

Government Study Guide

Directions: Use this as a study guide for your government test **Thursday, November 21st.**

What is the responsibility of the Executive Branch?

*Makes sure people follow the laws

What is the responsibility of the Legislative Branch?

*Makes the laws

What is the responsibility of the Judicial Branch?

*interprets laws & decides punishments

National Level

Who's in charge at this level?

President

What are the duties of this person?

*Commander in chief of the military
*he can veto bills by Congress
*He carries out laws



National Level

What do we call this level?

Congress

What are the two groups this level is broken into?

Senate and House of Representatives

What are the duties of this group?

*make laws
*overrides presidential vetoes
*oversees Executive branch
*can impeach president



National Level

What do we call this level?

Supreme Court

Who makes up this group?

9 Justices appointed by the President

What are the duties of this group?

*hears court cases that challenge the Constitution
*overrides lower court decisions



State Level

Who's in charge at this level?

Governor

What are the duties of this person?

*signs and carries out laws
*selects people to be heads of state departments (Dept of Transportation, Dept of Public Works, etc.)



State Level

What do we call this level?

General Assembly

What are the two groups this level is broken into?

Senate and House of Representatives

What are the duties of this group?

*make laws
*writes new state laws
*rewrites old laws
*votes on laws



State Level

What do we call this level?

State Courts

What are the duties of this group?

*makes sure laws follow state and national Constitution
*decides punishment if you break a law



Local Level

Who's in charge at this level?

Mayor

What are the duties of this person?

*leads local Community
*carries out local laws



Local Level

What do we call this level?

City Council

What are the duties of this group?

*makes local laws for your community



Local Level

What do we call this level?

Local Courts/City Courts

What are the duties of this group?

*settles disagreements
*decides if you broke a law by hearing cases
*decides punishments



Taxes, Separation of Powers, and Checks/Balances

TAXES

***What are taxes and who has to pay them?**

-taxes is money that citizens and businesses pay to the government

***What types of taxes are there?**

Sales tax-money we pay when we buy a good or a service at a business (restaurant, grocery store, toy store, etc.)

Property tax-money we pay yearly on the land our house sits on

Income tax-money we pay from our paychecks

***What is the tax money used for?**

Tax money is used for things such as: road repairs, police/fire protection, libraries, schools, and hospitals



SEPARATION OF POWERS/

CHECKS & BALANCES

***What does 'separation of powers' mean?**

-Separation of Powers means that the 3 branches of government have different powers and different jobs to do.

***What would happen if one branch had too much power?**

-If one branch had too much power, it could run the government alone.

***What does the separation of powers help protect?**

-It helps to protect rights in a democracy. If one branch overlooks citizens' rights, the other two can stop it.

***What example does the book use to show you how the Judicial branch can check the Legislative branch (Congress)?**

-The Judicial Branch decides if a law the Congress made obeys the Constitution.

***What is it called when branches are able to check other branches?**

-Checks and balances

***What happens when branches have different powers?**

-When branches have different powers, one branch cannot become too strong.