

Unit 4b FRQs – The Executive Branch

1. To simplify the complexity of the nation's bureaucracy, it helps to group the agencies into four basic types: cabinet departments, regulatory agencies, government corporations and independent executive agencies. (Text, p. 475)
 - a. Describe government corporations. *[Make sure you include examples.]*
 - b. Explain the difference between a regulatory agency and an independent executive agency.
 - c. Describe the work of the following agencies. Identify whether it is a regulatory agency or an independent executive agency. *[Note -- In class, I will tell you which two of the five you must explain. Yes, that means you must know them all.]*
 1. FCC
 2. GSA
 3. NSF
 4. SEC
 5. NLRB
2. With approximately three million civilians employed by the federal government, it is important to have a fair and equitable method for hiring these bureaucrats. (Text, p. 471)
 - a. Define patronage.
 - b. Identify the legislation that eliminated patronage.
 - c. Identify and describe the new system that replaced patronage.
 - d. Explain how each relates to federal civilian employees. *[Note -- In class, I will tell you which one of the four you must explain.]*
 1. Hatch Act
 2. OPM
 3. GS
 4. SES
3. As both implementers and regulators, bureaucracies are making public policy, not just administering someone else's decisions. Since bureaucrats are unelected, it is important to evaluate their relationship to our elected officials – the president and Congress. (Text, p. 493)
 - a. Identify and explain two ways that the president tries to control the bureaucracy.
 - b. Identify and explain two ways that Congress tries to control the bureaucracy.
 - c. Describe an iron triangle.
 - d. Explain how iron triangles increase the size and scope of government.
4. Bureaucrats implement policy. They take congressional, presidential, and sometimes even judicial pronouncements and develop procedures and rules for implementing policy goals. (Text, p. 479)
 - a. Define policy implementation.
 - b. Identify three elements of implementation.
 - c. Policies can fail to work as expected. Describe three causes for failed policy implementation.
5. Presidents are generally thought to have advantages over Congress in conducting foreign policy because of the formal and informal powers of the presidency. (AP GOPO FRQ from 2004)
 - a. Identify two formal constitutional powers of the President in making foreign policy.
 - b. Identify two formal constitutional powers of Congress in making foreign policy.
 - c. Identify two informal powers of the President that contribute to the President's advantage over Congress in conducting foreign policy.
 - d. Explain how each of the informal powers identified in (c) contributes to the President's advantage over Congress in conducting foreign policy.