

## Unit 4a FRQs

1. Most of the work in Congress takes place in committees.
  - a. Identify each of the following types of committees.
    - Standing Committee
    - Joint Committee
    - Conference Committee
    - Select Committee
  - b. Explain how a congressional member gets on a committee.
  - c. Describe how committees expedite the work of Congress.
  - d. Describe how committees obstruct the work of Congress.
  - e. Explain how committees contribute to congressional oversight.
2. It is said Americans love their congressional member, but hate Congress.
  - a. Identify each of the following within 5%.
    - Congressional approval rating
    - Reelection rate of House members
    - Reelection rate of Senators
  - b. Describe two reasons why the approval rating of Congress is so low.
  - c. Describe how gerrymandering affects reelection rates.
  - d. Describe three activities that help to reelect incumbent congressional members.
  - e. Describe two reasons why it is easier for House members to be reelected than Senators.
3. In designing the bicameral legislature, the founders created two distinctly different chambers.
  - a. Describe the following differences between the House of Representatives and Senate.
    - Qualifications (3)
    - Constitutional powers (2)
    - Legislative focus
  - b. Explain why House members are considered specialists, but Senators are considered generalists.
  - c. Describe two differences between House and Senate rules that may make it likely that legislation may pass in one chamber but not in the other.
  - d. Explain how the differences identified in (c) can lead to the passage of a bill in one chamber but not in the other.
4. In addition to the 535 elected members, the legislative branch is also composed of thousands of staff and agency members.
  - a. Describe the work of the three congressional agencies.
    - Congressional Research Service (CRS)
    - Government Accountability Office (GAO)
    - Congressional Budget Office (CBO)
  - b. Describe the congressional member's personal staff.
    - Composition
    - Job Duties
  - c. Explain why lobbyists spend much of their time creating relationships with committee staff members.
5. In domestic matters, presidents have less effect on congressional members than a member's own party, ideology and constituency.
  - a. Identify and explain the prime determinant of a member's vote.
  - b. Identify the types of votes where members typically vote in line with their party.
  - c. Identify two ways that party leadership try to influence a member's vote.
  - d. Describe three types of representation.
    - Trustee
    - Instructed delegate
    - Politico
  - e. Identify the primary way that constituents can influence congressional voting.