

Name - \_\_\_\_\_

## **HONORS AMERICAN GOVERNMENT UNIT #4**

### **The Legislative and the Judicial Branches**

#### **Goals for this unit are:**

- To be able to use a government website to locate information about your government**
- To be able to research a topic and record the results**
- To be able to summarize facts from reading research**
- To be able to listen to a lecture and record accurate notes**
- To be able to construct a personal profile of a leader in our national government**
- To be able critically think and discuss a controversial topic**
- To be able to utilize various tools of research – the Internet, the text, newspapers and magazines, television, and the library**
- To be able to recognize and identify important people**
- To be able to construct a model and interpret information on the legislative process**
- To be able to see how a Senator participates in the legislative process**
- To be able to correlate and store data over a time period**
- To be able to define the vocabulary of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches**
- To be able to discuss the process of the Supreme Court**
- To be able to list examples of how the three branches of government check and balance each other**
- To be able to interpret and create political cartoon**

#### **Assignments for Unit 4**

1. **Read the “Role of Congress”** reading pp.93-97 and then answer the questions 1-5. The reading and questions are in the box. 10 pts.
2. **Read the “House and Members of Congress”** reading pp98-104 and 126-128 and then answer the questions 1-11. The reading and the questions are in the box. 22 pts.
3. **Lecture on the Legislature.** If you are absent, copy someone’s notes. 20 pts.
4. Write a one to **two page biography** of Senator Mel Martinez and Congresswoman Katherine Harris. Both biographies should be in your words and not an exercise in cut and paste. Your sources need to be listed. 20 pts. Each

5. **Read “How A Bill Becomes a Law”** pp.126-127 and then answer the questions 1-4. The reading and the questions are in the box 8 pts.
6. **Answer questions on the Court.** These questions must be answered using the Supreme Court website. The questions are in the box. 54 pts.
7. **Lecture on the Court.** 20 pts.
8. **Do a search on the Supreme Court website** about cases decided by the Supreme Court. The sheet on the court is in the box titled Supreme Court Cases. 30 pts.
9. **Do a biography on a Supreme Court Justice.** Using the Supreme Court website and one other source create a biography of one of the current Supreme Court Justices. The biography should include personal background, experience before his/her appointment, who nominated him/her and the date, and some important decisions in which they were involved. This may be a two-page fact sheet or a summary in your own words. Make sure you include the sites you used. 20 pts.
10. **Select any three political cartoons and interpret them.** These can be found in your textbook, the Internet, magazines, or newspapers. You need to copy the cartoon. In a paragraph, you need to explain the message and the components of the cartoon. 20 pts.
11. **Create your own political cartoon.** Explain the elements and the message as on the assignment #10.. 20 pts.

Extra Credit – Write you Congressperson or Senator about any topic which is a national or state concern.