



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

## US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS #10 CONGRESSIONAL DECISIONS

Directions: While watching the video, fill in the blanks.

interest	disciplined	president	divided	congress
committee	parties	logrolling	voters	polling

- 1. If a congress person ignores what the \_\_\_\_\_ in his or her district want they're probably not going to be in office for very long.
- 2. The more sophisticated \_\_\_\_\_ is, the better representatives are at crafting their message, and maybe even their votes to what their constituents want.
- 3. The main thing that \_\_\_\_\_ groups provide to congressmen is information that they can use in writing a bill or making a policy case to their constituents.
- 4. Interest groups are most influential at the \_\_\_\_\_ stage of legislation, rather than when congressman are casting floor votes and their influence tends to be mostly negative.
- 5. A \_\_\_\_\_ party leadership can put pressure on a congressmen to vote a certain way.
- 6. Parties also help to organize \_\_\_\_\_ which is relatively straight forward quid-pro-quo bargaining.
- 7. The \_\_\_\_\_ has the most power when his party and the majority part in congress are the same.
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_ government, when the president and the congressional majority are in opposite parties works well for congress too because it super easy to set a policy agenda, they just oppose what ever the president wants.
- 9. Political \_\_\_\_\_ are most influential over congress when a single party controls both houses and the presidency and when the party leadership is strong enough to exert discipline and a degree of uniformity of policy.
- 10. It's the structures of \_\_\_\_\_ and most of all which party has the majority and thus controls the leadership and the committees that makes the most difference.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Directions: Write one thing you think you know about the topic.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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- 2. The more sophisticated \_\_\_\_\_ is, the better representatives are at crafting their message, and maybe even their votes to what their constituents want.
- 3. The main thing that \_\_\_\_\_ groups provide to congressmen is information that they can use in writing a bill or making a policy case to their constituents.
- 4. Interest groups are most influential at the \_\_\_\_\_ stage of legislation, rather than when congressman are casting floor votes and their influence tends to be mostly negative.
- 5. A \_\_\_\_\_ party leadership can put pressure on a congressmen to vote a certain way.
- 6. Parties also help to organize \_\_\_\_\_ which is relatively straight forward quid-pro-quo bargaining.
- 7. The \_\_\_\_\_ has the most power when his party and the majority part in congress are the same.
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_ government, when the president and the congressional majority are in opposite parties works well for congress too because it super easy to set a policy agenda, they just oppose what ever the president wants.
- 9. Political \_\_\_\_\_ are most influential over congress when a single party controls both houses and the presidency and when the party leadership is strong enough to exert discipline and a degree of uniformity of policy.
- 10. It's the structures of \_\_\_\_\_ and most of all which party has the majority and thus controls the leadership and the committees that makes the most difference.



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# Answer Key

## US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS #10 CONGRESSIONAL DECISIONS

Directions: While watching the video, fill in the blanks.

interest	disciplined	president	divided	congress
committee	parties	logrolling	voters	polling

- 1. If a congress person ignores what the **voters** in his or her district want they're probably not going to be in office for very long.
- 2. The more sophisticated **polling** is, the better representatives are at crafting their message, and maybe even their votes to what their constituents want.
- 3. The main thing that **interest** groups provide to congressmen is information that they can use in writing a bill or making a policy case to their constituents.
- 4. Interest groups are most influential at the **committee** stage of legislation, rather than when congressman are casting floor votes and their influence tends to be mostly negative.
- 5. A **disciplined** party leadership can put pressure on a congressmen to vote a certain way.
- 6. Parties also help to organize **logrolling** which is relatively straight forward quid-pro-quo bargaining.
- 7. The **President** has the most power when his party and the majority part in congress are the same.
- 8. **Divided** government, when the president and the congressional majority are in opposite parties works well for congress too because it super easy to set a policy agenda, they just oppose what ever the president wants.
- 9. Political **parties** are most influential over congress when a single party controls both houses and the presidency and when the party leadership is strong enough to exert discipline and a degree of uniformity of policy.
- 10. It's the structures of **Congress** and most of all which party has the majority and thus controls the leadership and the committees that makes the most difference