

American Institutions

Read and translate the text. For each of the empty spaces (1-10) choose the right answers (A-D)



The American Constitution 1) _____ on the doctrine of the separation of powers between the executive, legislative and judiciary. The government institutions — the Presidency, the Congress and the Courts — were given limited powers. Each branch of government has certain authority over the others. Government power was further limited by means of a dual system of government, in 2) _____ the federal government was only given the powers and responsibilities to deal with problems facing the nation as a whole (foreign affairs, trade, control of the army, etc). The remaining 3) _____ and duties of government were reserved to the individual state governments.

The President is elected for a term of four years and can only be reelected for one more term. The President was originally intended to be a little more than a ceremonial Head of State, 4) _____ Commander in Chief of the armed forces, but the federal government's increasing involvement in the nation's life has increased the importance of the Presidency over the Congress. The President now proposes a full legislative programme to the Congress, although the President, the Cabinet and staff are not, and cannot 5) _____, members of the Congress.



The legislative branch of national government consists of two houses — the Senate and the House of Representatives — each with a different role, different powers and a different 6) _____ procedure.



The House of Representatives is the institution of the federal government. There are currently 435 members, who are elected every two years. The Chairman of the House of Representatives, the Speaker, 7) _____ by the House and has important responsibilities, giving him considerable influence over the President.

The Senate is 8) _____ institution of the federal government. Each state has two senators. Senators are elected every six years. There are currently 100 senators. The Senate has the special privilege of unlimited debate to safeguard the rights of minorities, but this can enable a small group of Senators 9) _____ to prevent the passage of a bill.

The Congress has the power to levy taxes, borrow money, regulate interstate commerce, declare war, seat members, and discipline its own membership.

The Judicial Branch 10) _____ by 90 District Courts presided over by a district judge, which hear criminal cases involving breaches of federal law and civil cases on federal matters. Appeals can be made to the United States Court of Appeals, where an appeal is heard by three judges. In many cases this court's decision is final.

	A	B	C	D
1.	are based	is based	based	was based
2.	which	who	whatever	wherever
3.	responsibilities	responsibility	responsible	to response
4.	such	so that	as well as	as
5.	despite	besides	however	although
6.	elected	electoral	election	to elect
7.	are elected	is elected	was elected	have elected
8.	it	one	other	another
9.	prevent	preventing	to prevent	prevented
10.	is represented	represented	represent	to represent