

## Lake Ridge Academy – US History

### What do you need to know?

#### The Constitution

- What do the terms “Separation of Powers” or “Checks and Balances” mean?
- How does the Presidential veto work?
- What are some of the most important “enumerated” powers of Congress?
- What is the Commerce Clause and why is it important?
- What is the Necessary and Proper Clause and why is it important?
- What is habeas corpus and why is it important?
- How are Supreme Court and other federal judges appointed?
- How long do they serve for?
- What is judicial review?
- Name at least 4 Supreme Court justices.
- How can the constitution be amended?
- What is the Bill of Rights? How did it come about?
- What are the most important protections afforded by the Bill of Rights?
- Are these the only rights granted to Americans? Why or why not?
  - o **You should learn the rights afforded by each of the first 10 amendments**
- What is originalism?
- What is the idea of the Living Constitution?

#### Congress

- What is an incumbent?
- What is a pork barrel project?
- Why is incumbency an issue in deciding the makeup of Congress?
- What role does campaign fundraising play in a Congressman’s work?
- Redistricting – what is it and why is it done? What problems can it cause?
- Who is your Congressman?
- What are the differences and similarities between the House and Senate?
- What are the requirements to be elected to Congress?
- What are the leadership positions in Congress and what are their functions?
- Why does Congress have committees?
- What are the different types of committees and what do they do?
- What is the basic legislative process?
- What is a filibuster?
- What are some of the factors that make Congress a slow-moving and often ineffective legislative body?
- What is the Congressional Budget Office?
- What is the General Accountability Office?
- What is the Congressional Research Service?
- What is the Hastert Rule?

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### **The Presidency**

- What is the Electoral College?
- What are primaries?
- How has the process of choosing the president become more democratic?
- What role does the national party convention play in the process?
- What is the Executive Office of the President?
- What is the Cabinet?
- What is the State of the Union?
- What are treaties and executive agreements?
- How has presidential power expanded over the course of history?
- What is impeachment?