Name: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

Notes:

American Citizenship
Chapter 12
Congress in Action

Section 1

a. Congress Organizes

B. Congress Convenes

a. _____
_____

b. Opening Day in the House
   i. All 435 representatives-elect meet together in the House chamber
   ii. Take roll then elect the speaker of the House
      1. _____
      _____
   iii. The Speaker takes the oath, then swears in the rest of the 435 members
      1. _____
      _____
   iv. Finally election of clerk, sergeant at arms, chief administrative officer, and chaplain by House members
      1. _____

c. Opening Day in the Senate
   i. Senate is a _____ that has been organized without interruption since 1789
   ii. _____
   _____
   _____
      1. Same basic pattern as House, just done more quickly

d. State of the Union Message
   i. The House will inform the Senate, once they have been organized

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Notes:

1. Then both the House and Senate send a message to the President that they are ready for any message the President might have for them
2. _____
_____

ii. House, Senate, Cabinet, Justices of the Supreme Court, and more assemble in the House chamber to listen to the President
1. _____
_____
_____
_____

C. The Presiding Officers

a. The Speaker of the House
i. Most important and powerful position within Congress
1. _____
ii. Expected to preside in a fair and judicious manner, while also helping their parties legislative goals
1. _____
2. _____
_____
3. puts motions to a vote
4. decides the outcome of most votes taken in the house
iii. Follows the _____in the line of succession

b. The President of the Senate
i. _____
_____
1. Has the power of a presiding officer to recognize members, put questions to a vote, etc.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

Notes:

2. _____
_____
_____

ii. President Pro Tempore is the presiding officer who serves in the Vice President's absence
1. _____
_____

iii. Follows the _____ in the line of succession

D. Party Officers

a. Congress is organized along party lines
b. The Party Caucus
i. _____
_____

ii. Meets before Congress convenes in January and occasionally during a session
1. _____
_____
_____

c. The Floor Leaders
i. _____
_____
_____

1. not an official position in either chamber, but party positions
2. they are legislative strategists

ii. Majority party leader is the more powerful position of the two
iii. The majority and minority party leaders are assisted by the party whips
1. basically assistant floor leaders
2. _____
_____
_____

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Notes:

E. Committee Chairmen

a. Bulk of Congress' work is done through _____
   i. _____
      _____
      1. chosen from the majority party by the majority party caucus

b. Seniority Rule
   i. An unwritten custom that the most important posts, in both the formal and the party organization will be held by those party member with the longest records of service in Congress
      1. _____
         _____

c. Criticism of the Seniority Rule
   i. _____
      _____
   ii. Positively, ensures that a powerful and experienced member will head each committee

Section 2

d. Committees in Congress

F. Standing Committees

a. A permanent panel to which all similar bills could be sent
   i. _____
      _____

b. Committee Assignments
   i. Each House committee has from 9 to 75 members
   ii. Each Senate committee has from 12 to 28 members
      1. _____
         _____
      2. However the other party is well represented as well

Notes:

iii. Most bills receive their most thorough debate in the standing committees
   1. _____
   _____
   _____

iv. Prominent House standing committees are:
   1. Rules, Ways and Means
   2. _____
   3. Armed Services
   4. Judiciary

v. Prominent Senate standing committees are:
   1. _____
   2. Appropriations
   3. Finance
   4. _____
   5. Armed Services

vi. _____
_____
   1. The standing committee is also made up of subcommittees

c. The House Rules Committee
   i. _____
   _____
   _____
   ii. They interpret how the bill will do with all the House members

d. Select Committees
   i. Special committees, or panels, that are set up for some specific purpose for a limited time
   ii. _____
      1. Example: Senate Watergate Committee

G. Joint and Conference Committees

a. Compose of members of both houses
   i. Set up to serve some temporary purpose

Notes:

b. Before a bill may be sent to the President, each house must pass it in identical form
   i. the two houses pass differing versions and the two houses cannot agree on changes
   ii. _____
   _____
      1. A temporary, joint body

Section 3

c. How a Bill Becomes a Law: The House

H. The First Steps

a. A bill is a proposed law presented to the House or Senate for consideration
   i. _____
   _____
   ii. Others also born from private citizens or from standing committees

b. Types of Bills and Resolutions
   i. Two different Types:
      1. Public Bills
         a. _____
         _____
      2. Private Bills
         a. _____
         _____
         _____
   ii. Resolution types:
      1. Joint Resolution
         a. _____
         _____
         b. Generally about dealing with unusual or temporary matters
      2. Concurrent Resolution
         a. _____
         _____

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Notes:

3. Resolutions deal with matters concerning either house alone and are taken up only by that house
    a. _____
    _____

iii. Generally Resolutions or Bills deal with a single subject
1. Sometimes contains riders
    a. _____
    _____
    _____
    b. "Pork Barrel" spending on appropriations bills

c. The First Reading
i. _____
_____
1. Examples
    a. H.R. 3410 would be the 3,400th measure introduced in the House during the congressional term
    b. S. 210 would be the 210 measure introduced in the Senate during the congressional term

ii. Each Bill also gets a short title
1. And goes into the *Journal*, which contains the minutes
2. Also goes into the *Congressional Record*, a daily volume of events

iii. Then Bills are read to the House
1. _____

iv. _____
_____

Name: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

Notes:

I. The Bill in Committee

a. _____
_____
_____

b. Most Bills introduced into Congress are pigeonholed, or _____
   i. However there can be a discharge petition
      1. enables members to force a bill that has remained in committee 30 days onto the floor for consideration

c. Gathering Information
   i. Most committees do most of their work through their several subcommittees
      1. _____
         _____
   ii. _____
      _____
      _____
      1. Example: Major League Baseball and Steroids
   iii. Sometimes subcommittee members take trips to the areas under consideration

d. Committee Actions
   i. Once subcommittee has completed it work, the bill is sent to the full standing committee
   ii. They may then do:
      1. _____
      2. _____
      3. Report the bill in amended form
      4. Report the bill with an unfavorable recommendation
      5. Report a committee bill
         a. Substitute with a different bill

Name: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

Notes:

J. Scheduling Floor Debate

a. _____

b. Calendars

i. Types:

1. _____
_____
_____
2. House Calendar for all other _____
3. The Private Calendar for all _____
4. Corrections Calendar
5. Discharge Calendar

ii. Each calendar determines when certain bills types are considered on the floor

K. The Bill on the Floor

a. _____
_____

i. Sometimes just the title is read

b. Important measures are dealt with the consideration of the Committee of the Whole

i. _____
_____

ii. Once the Committee of the Whole comes to an agreement, it is resolved and the House resumes it's session where they adopt the committee's work

c. Debate

i. _____
_____
_____

d. Voting

i. A bill may be the subject of several votes on the floor

ii. Four different methods for taking floor votes

1. Voice votes… "Aye" and "Noes"
2. Standing Votes

Notes:

3. One fifth of a quorum can demand a teller vote, which is now a computerized voting machine
    a. _____
    _____
    _____
4. A roll-call vote

e. Final Steps
    i. Once approved at the second reading, it is engrossed
        1. _____
    ii. Read a third time, by title, and a final vote is taken

Section 4

f. The Bill in the Senate

L. Introducing the Bill

a. Much similarity between the House and the Senate, with a few critical differences
b. _____
_____
    i. Overall the same, but less formal
        1. There is only one calendar
        2. _____
        _____

M. Rules for Debate

a. Floor debate is almost unrestrained in the Senate
    i. _____
b. Most debates are ended by unanimous consent agreement, which brings about a vote
c. The Filibuster
    i. _____
    _____
    _____

Name: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

Notes:

1. _____
   _____

ii. Used to kill over 200 bills over the years

d. The Cloture Rule

i. Senates real check on the filibuster is the Cloture Rule, Rule XXII, which provides for cloture

1. limiting debate
2. _____
   _____

N. Conference Committees

a. Any bill enacted by Congress must have been passed by both houses in identical form

i. _____
   _____
   _____

ii. However, if the House is unwilling to change, the measure it turned over to a conference committee

1. _____

b. _____
   _____
   _____

O. The President Acts

a. The President has four options once Congress has presented a bill

i. May sign the bill, and it becomes _____

ii. May veto the bill

1. Refuse to sign the bill
2. _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

Name: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

iii. _____

_____

_____

iv. _____

_____

_____

_____

Notes: