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ARTICLE 2

Multiple Choice Quiz

ABOUT THIS QUIZ



Article 2

This quiz is about Article 2 of the Constitution.

All questions have 4 possible answers of which only 1 is correct.

You may read the article over the next few pages to freshen up before taking the quiz!

At the back of the book, will be an answer sheet.

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Whereas Article 1 sets out the guidelines of the legislative branch, Article 2 deals with the Executive Branch.

But, what is Article 2 of the Constitution?

The executive branch is described which is made up of the **President, Vice-President, and other executive officers**.

Read on to find out how Article 2 deals with the many different positions that are needed in order to lead the United States.

Introduction to Article 2 of the Constitution

The United States Constitution is the oldest active constitution globally, written in 1787 and ratified in 1788. Widely considered one of the most successful and effective national constitutions ever written, it comprises seven main sections known as articles and 27 amendments.

Article 2 of the Constitution sets the guidelines and rules for the federal government's executive branch, the branch responsible for directly administering the country. Article 2 is comprised of 4 sections containing different clauses and addresses various issues relating to the President, vice-president, and other executive and federal officials.

Article 2, Section 1

Clause 1

Article 2, Section 1, Clause 1 specifies that a president will serve as head of the federal government's executive branch, serving a 4-year term. Similarly, the vice-president will serve the federal government's executive branch as vice president.

While there are no limitations on how many terms the President can serve in Article 2, the 22nd Amendment of the US Constitution limits the President to two 4-year terms.

Clause 2

Article 2, Section 1, Clause 2 appoints electors from each State who will be directly responsible for selecting the United States president and vice president.

The number of electors from each state is equal to the number of representatives and senators apportioned to each state under the US Constitution. There is a stipulation that no elector can at the time be serving as a senator, representative, or other position created by the federal government.

Clause 3

Article 2, Section 1, Clause 3 establishes the electors' guidelines selecting both the President and vice president of the United States. Electors are directed to meet in their respective states and vote for 2 different individuals, with at least one of the two individuals being a resident of another state.

The votes will be delivered to the Senate President, who will count them in the Senate and House of Representatives' presence. The individual with the greatest amount will become President as long as the amount of votes received by them is at least a majority of the electors' total amount.

The individual with the 2nd highest total will be the Vice President.

Suppose more than one individual gets a majority of votes of the total number of electors, resulting in a tie. In that case, the House of Representatives will vote to determine the President.

If no individual gets a majority, then the House of Representatives will vote between the individuals with the five highest vote totals.

Each state delegation gets one vote from their representative district. If the vote is won, then it goes to the House of Representatives. Finally, if there is a tie for the 2nd highest vote total to determine the Vice President, the Senate will determine the winner in a vote.

As might be expected, giving the presidency to the highest vote total and the vice presidency to the 2nd highest vote total created massive problems. Fellow rivals and competitors for the presidency did not work well together in the same administration and respective offices in the United States' early years.

As a result, the 12th Amendment of the United States Constitution was enacted in 1804, which altered the process in many ways, most notably separating the two assigned votes for the electors into two separate ballots, one for the President and one for the Vice President. This eliminated the problem of two rival factions serving together as President and Vice President.

Clause 4

Article 2, Section 1, Clause 4 gives Congress the authority to determine when an election is held and when the electors cast their votes in their State for President. These dates are uniform in every State of the US.

Clause 5

Article 2, Section 1, Clause 5 sets the qualifications for an individual to serve as President of the United States, namely that the individual is a natural-born citizen of the United States, over 35 years old, and a resident in the United States for at least 14 years. Obviously, they also need to win a general election.

Clause 6

Article 2, Section 1, Clause 6 specifies that the Vice President will take over the President's roles, responsibilities, and duties of the President is removed or is no longer able to serve.

This is called the line of succession.

Suppose both the President and Vice President are removed or no longer able to serve in their roles. In that case, Congress has the authority to appoint a qualified individual to the vacancy of an acting president who will finish the term.

The 25th Amendment of the United States Constitution provides additional guidelines and procedures to clarify this clause's ambiguous nature.

Clause 7

Article 2, Section 1, Clause 7 states that the President will receive a salary that will not be altered during their service term. They cannot accept any additional money on top of their compensation from the federal government or any state government.

Clause 8

Article 2, Section 1, Clause 8 requires the President-Elect to take an oath of office before assuming the presidency. The pledge is "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Article 2, Section 2

Clause 1

Article 2, Section 2, Clause 1 establishes the President as leader of the United States armed forces, specifically naming him Commander in Chief. A senior cabinet of officials is also created in this clause and the President's pardon power is given. This pardon power may not be used in impeachment cases. The exclusion of authority to grant a pardon in impeachment cases is due to added complications in the balance of power.

Clause 2

Article 2, Section 2, Clause 2 gives the President power to sign treaties on behalf of the United States in conjunction with counsel from the Senate and at least two-thirds support. Along with counsel and advice from the Senate, the President is given the authority to appoint judges, ambassadors, and other public officials.

The Senate also has the right to let the President appoint officials without their consent or advice if the Senate considers them minor appointments. These do not need an election.

Clause 3

Article 2, Section 2, Clause 3 gives the President power to fill vacancies that arise when the Senate is in recess and without senate approval. These appointments expire at the end of Congress's following session.

Article 2, Section 3

Article 2, Section 3 of the constitution specifies several other specific roles, responsibilities, and rights that the President has.

The President:

- is required to keep Congress informed about governmental affairs through regular State of the Union addresses.
- can call either or both houses of Congress to a special session
- is responsible for receiving foreign ambassadors that come to the United States
- can make sure that all laws are executed faithfully while they are in the office
- can commission US officers if necessary.

Article 2, Section 4

Section 4 of Article 2 allows for the removal from the Office of the President, Vice President, and all other civil officers of the United States if they are impeached and then convicted of treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors. However, impeachment is a complicated process and has not yet been effective in removing officers from office.

Multiple Choice Quiz

1. What branch of the US Government does Article 2 of the US Constitution address?

- A. Legislative
- B. Executive
- C. Judicial
- D. Administrative

2. What are the 2 specific positions of the Executive Branch mentioned in Article 2?

- A. President and Vice President
- B. President and Secretary of State
- C. Treasurer and Chief Justice
- D. President and Prime Minister

3. What year was the US Constitution written?

- A. 1776
- B. 1787
- C. 1788
- D. 1791

4. What year was the US Constitution ratified?

- A. 1776
- B. 1787
- C. 1788
- D. 1791

5. How many articles/sections does the US Constitution contain?

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 7

6. How many amendments does the US Constitution contain?

- A. 20
- B. 25
- C. 27
- D. 30

7. How many main sections does Article 2 contain?

- A. 4
- B. 5
- C. 6
- D. 7

8. How many years is a presidential term?

- A. 2 years
- B. 4 years
- C. 6 years
- D. 8 years

9. What amendment imposes a term limit on the president?

- A. 13th Amendment
- B. 17th Amendment
- C. 20th Amendment
- D. 22nd Amendment

10. Who technically selects the president and vice president in most cases?

- A. The people
- B. Congress
- C. Electors
- D. Senators

11. How is the number of electors from each state determined?

- A. Number of state's national representatives and senators
- B. Number of state's national representatives
- C. Number of state's national senators
- D. Number of a state's local representatives

12. In the original US Constitution, how were the president and vice president selected?

- A. The Senate chose the president, and the House chose the vice president
- B. The highest and 2nd highest electoral vote totals
- C. The House chose the president and vice president based on a vote
- D. The Senate chose the president and vice president based on a vote

13. What amendment discontinued the original method for selecting the president and vice president?

- A. 11th Amendment
- B. 12th Amendment
- C. 13th Amendment
- D. 14th Amendment

14. Which of the following is not a qualification requirement for the president?

- A. Previously a member of Congress
- B. At least 35 years old
- C. Natural-born citizen of the United States
- D. Resident in the United States for at least 14 years

15. Which of the following amendments provides detailed instructions for the presidential line of succession?

- A. 13th amendment
- B. 16th amendment
- C. 25th Amendment
- D. 27th Amendment

16. Which of the following is not a duty/power of the president?

- A. Commander-in-chief
- B. Power to pardon individuals
- C. Signing treaties and appointing officials
- D. Presiding over the Senate

Multiple Choice Quiz Answers

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. D
6. C
7. A
8. B
9. D
10. C
11. A
12. B
13. B
14. A
15. C
16. D