

# STUDY GUIDE: THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY

## US Gov/Ms. Strong

Ms. Strong's Federal Bureaucracy & Public Policy Webpage: <http://jstrongadv.gov.weebly.com/the-federal-bureaucracy-and-public-policy.html>

**Textbook Chapters** – MacGruder's Chapters 15, 16

**Content** – Includes important content topics, PowerPoint notes, class handouts, and homework

### 1. *The Federal Bureaucracy*

- ❖ Notes from *The Federal Bureaucracy Part 1: Introduction and Organization* PPT
- ❖ *Structure of the Federal Bureaucracy* Handout

- a) Define "bureaucracy," Structure, functions and scope of the Bureaucracy
- b) Statistics regarding the federal bureaucracy (ex: 4 million employees, President only appoints 3%)
- c) Functions of the Federal Bureaucracy: 1) Implementation, 2) Administration, 3) Regulation
- d) Define and provide specific examples of the following: 1) Cabinet Departments, 2) Independent Executive Agencies, 3) Independent Regulatory Commissions and Government Corporations. Cite examples of each.
- e) Who are federal bureaucrats?

### 2. *Oversight of the Federal Bureaucracy - Identify* ways in which the following supervise or have oversight over the federal bureaucracy

- ❖ Notes from *The Federal Bureaucracy Part 2: Oversight and Supervision* PPT

- a) *The President:*
  - Appoint & remove agency heads
  - Reorganize the bureaucracy
  - Make changes in or reduce an agency's budget proposal
  - Issue Executive Orders [example: President Truman's executive order to the DOD to integrate the US military]
- b) *Congress:*
  - Cut or reduce agency funding
  - Create or abolish agencies & departments
  - Investigate agency activities
  - Hold committee hearings
  - Pass legislation that alters an agency's functions [Example: Pendleton Act to limit spoils system and establish a merit based system with a competitive civil service exam]
- c) *The Federal Courts*
  - Through *judicial review* rule on whether the bureaucracy has acted within the law and the U.S. Constitution
  - Rule on constitutionality of all bureaucratic rules and regulations

### 3. *Important Federal Agencies and Departments* – Describe the primary purpose, basic functions, duties and responsibilities of the following executive departments or agencies

- ❖ Important Handouts: *The Structure of the Federal Bureaucracy, Federal Agencies and Departments* handout from March Madness activity

- Examples include but not limited to: Department of Defense, Office of Management and Budget, State Department, CIA, FBI, EPA, Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, etc.

### 4. *Policy Policy*

- ❖ *Public Policy* PPT, political cartoons

- a) Define public policy.
- b) Examples of public policy [like foreign policy, economic policy, military policy, etc.]

### 5. *Economic Policy: Taxing and Spending*

- ❖ *Economic Policy 101* sheet, Chapter 16. Be able to define and provide examples for the economic terms below:

- |                              |   |  |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| a) Economics                 | j) Estate Tax                           | r) Entitlements                                    |
| b) Supply and Demand         | k) Budget                               | s) Social Security                                 |
| c) Economic Policy           | l) Interest                             | t) Medicare  |
| d) Progressive Tax           | m) Budget Deficit                       | u) Medicaid  |
| e) Individual Income Tax     | n) Budget Surplus                       | v) Discretionary Spending or Controllable Spending |
| f) Corporate Income Tax      | o) National (Public) Debt               | w) Defense Spending                                |
| g) Payroll (Entitlement) Tax | p) Mandatory or Uncontrollable Spending | x) Non-defense Spending                            |
| h) Regressive Tax            |   |  |
| i) Excise Tax                | q) Interest on the Debt                 |  |

**Essays** – Below are likely essay questions that could appear on the test. You will want to prepare for each.

**Essay #1**

- 1) The laws of supply and demand form the backbone of our market economy. Answer all parts of the question below.
  - a) Define *supply and demand*.
  - b) Explain the relationship between supply and demand and the price of a good or service.
  - c) Choose a product or service that you have purchased or used recently (examples: new clothes, gasoline, iPhone, Duck Donuts). Using the example you choose, explain how the law of supply and demand works in the market place with this particular product or service. Include a separate discussion of the supply of the product, the public's demand for the product, and the price of item.

**Essay #2**

- 2) Americans often complain about paying taxes. At the same time, we have come to expect the government to provide important services to its citizens like public schools, retirement payments, highways, and a strong national defense. All of these programs or services cost money and are funded by taxes. Answer all parts of the question below.
  - a) Do you think our current personal income tax system is fair? Explain why or why not.
  - b) Identify what you think is the most important government program or service provided by the federal government, and explain why it should continue.
  - c) Identify what program or service you think is the biggest waste of government spending, and explain why it should be greatly reduced or eliminated.