Unit 5: The Presidency, the Executive Branch, and Elections

Essential Questions:

* What are the roles and powers invested in the office of the President by the Constitution?
* How has the power of the presidency expanded throughout the history of the United States? Has the office of President become too powerful?
* How does the President utilize his access to the media and public to influence public opinion?
* How does the Cabinet and executive agencies in the bureaucracy assist the President in carrying out laws?
* What factors can influence a candidate’s success or failure in an election?
* Is the electoral college still a valid institution? Why or why not?

Textbook: Chap. 6 and 10

Know these key terms and their significance:

Veto:

Override of a veto:

Bully pulpit:

Cabinet:

Independent executive agencies:

Bureaucracy:

Cabinet secretaries (role, not names):

White House staff:

Primaries:

Caucuses:

Nominating conventions:

Campaign strategies:

Running mate (Vice President):

Electoral college:

Delegates:

Explain:

List the three constitutional qualifications for becoming president:

Presidential Succession (and the 3 people that directly follow the President in order):

Formal roles of the president (describe and give an example of each):

Informal roles of the president:

Formal constitutional powers of the president:

Informal powers of the president:

Formal checks and balances on the president:

Informal checks on the president’s power (ex. media):

Functions of each of the Cabinet departments:

Primaries versus the general election:

Pros and cons of the electoral college:

Role of “swing states” in a presidential election:

Voting patterns in presidential elections: