***KEY TERMS FOR GOVTREK***

* **BILL OF RIGHTS: First ten amendments to the Constitution. Created to secure key rights for individuals and reserve powers to the states**
* **CAPITALISM: Economic system characterized by private property, generally free trade and open markets**
* **COMMUNISM: Economic system of government ownership of all property and means of production**
* **COMMON LAW: Laws that originate from court rulings and customs**
* **ABSOLUTE MONARCHY: Rule by hereditary king/queen; no check on power**
* **CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY: Hereditary rule but a parliament and constitutional protections**
* **DICTATORSHIP: Power in control of one person or one party (ie. Communist Dictatorship)**
* **CONFEDERATION: Sovereignty in the states and weak central government**
* **FEDERALISM: Powers given separately to the central government and states**
* **FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT: States must recognize due process and equal protection of the law; defines citizenship**
* **STRICT/LOOSE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CONSTITUTION: Interpreting the powers of the central government; “necessary and proper clause”**
* **JUDICIAL REVIEW: Supreme Court has the final authority to determine constitutionality (Marbury v. Madison 1803)**
* **REPUBLICANISM: Political theory of representative government based on popular sovereignty; strong emphasis on liberty and civic virtue**
* **DIRECT DEMOCRACY: The voters vote directly for laws and officials**
* **REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY: The voters elect representatives to make the laws**
* **SEPARATION OF POWERS: 3 Branches of government in our Constitution LEGISLATIVE (ARTICLE ONE), EXECUTIVE (ARTICLE TWO) AND JUDICIAL (ARTICLE THREE)**
* **CHECKS AND BALANCES: No one branch of government can become too powerful with the other branches checking (ie. Congress passes laws, the president approves or vetoes and Congress may override that veto)**

***KEY POINTS ON THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS***

**PREAMBLE: “WE THE PEOPLE”**

**ARTICLE ONE: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**TWO HOUSE CONGRESS:**

**House of Representatives: elected by the voters, number determined by census, 2 year term with the entire House up for election, presents impeachment charges, “power of the purse” where all money bills must originate**

**Senate: each state gets two senators, 6 year term with 1/3 elected every 2 years, power to try impeachments**

**Overriding a presidential veto with 2/3 of both houses**

**Section 8: Powers of Congress and “Necessary and Proper Clause”**

**ARTICLE TWO: EXECUTIVE BRANCH:**

**President and Vice President for a 4 year term and chosen through the electoral college**

**Section 2: Powers of the President: Commander in Chief (Congress declares war), make treaties with Senate approval, enforce the laws of Congress with veto power**

**Impeachment: on conviction of treason, bribery, and other high crimes and misdemeanors**

**ARTICLE THREE: JUDICIAL BRANCH:**

**Supreme Court and all federal courts hold office for “good behavior”**

**Section 2: Cases heard in federal courts deal with the Constitution, Congressional laws and treaties, maritime laws, more than one state is involved and foreign nations**

**Most cases heard in the Supreme Court have appellate jurisdiction (heard on appeal)**

**ARTICLE FOUR: RELATIONS OF STATES**

**“Full Faith and Credit” given in each State for the public acts and records of every other State**

**U.S. guarantees to states representative government and protection against invasion and rebellion**

**ARTICLE FIVE: AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION**

**2/3 both Houses; ¾ of the States**

**ARTICLE SIX: The Constitution and federal laws and treaties are the Supreme Law of the Land**

**ARTICLE SEVEN: Ratification of the Constitution by conventions in each state, 9 out of 13 approving**

**BILL OF RIGHTS: FIRST TEN AMENDMENTS**

**\*Applied only to the Federal government until the 14th Amendment**

**#1: Establishment and Free Exercise clauses (religion), Free Speech, Press, Assemble and Petition**

**#2: Bear Arms**

**#3: No Quartering during peacetime**

**#4: Search and Seizure with Probable Cause**

**#5: Grand Jury, No Double Jeopardy, No self-incrimination, Life, Liberty and Property protected with Due Process**

**#6: Rights of Accused**

**#7: Common Law suits**

**#8: No excessive fines/bails nor Cruel and Unusual Punishment**

**#9: Rights not Enumerated protected for the people**

**#10: Powers Reserved for the States**