**Unit 10: Organization of the U.S. Constitution Study Guide**

**Article I-** Legislative branch (makes laws)

**Article II-** Executive branch (enforces laws)

**Article III-** Judicial branch (interprets laws)

**Vocabulary:**

* **Impeachment:** The presentation of formal charges on a government official of misconduct.
* **Elastic Clause/Necessary & Proper Clause:** Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution that allows Congress to extend its delegated powers.
* **Checks and Balances:** A system in which the powers of government are balanced among different branches so that each branch can check, or limit, the power of the other branches.
* **Implied powers:** Powers not specifically granted to Congress by the U.S. Congress that are suggested to be necessary to carry out the powers delegated to Congress under the Constitution.
  + E.g. Congress holds an investigation on women in the military.
* **Enumerated/delegated powers:** The powers specifically named and assigned to the federal government (or prohibited to be exercised by the states).
  + **E.**g. Congress votes to raise taxes, Congress declares war on a country for sponsoring terrorism, Congress closes post offices in rural areas on Saturdays.

**Checks and Balances vs. Separation of Powers:**

* **Separation of powers:** The division of government into three branches. Purpose is to divide the powers so that no one body or branch has all the power, leading to tyranny.

* **Checks and Balances:** The ways that each branch of government limits the power of the other two branches.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Example:** | **Checks and Balances** | **Separation of powers** |
| **When the President nominates an individual to serve as Secretary of State, the Senate must confirm the appointment.** | **X- Check on Executive branch** |  |
| **The President vetoes legislation proposed by Congress.** | **X- Check on Legislative branch** |  |
| **The president meets with the Prime Minister of the UK. The Supreme Court declares a law unconstitutional. Congress passes a new environmental law.** |  | **X** |
| **The U.S. Supreme Court declares an act/law of Congress unconstitutional.** | **X- Check on Legislative branch** |  |
| **Congress passes a new law and the Internal Revenue Service enforces it** |  | **X** |
| **President negotiates a treaty and the Senate approves it.** | **X- Check on Executive branch** |  |