The ideas of democracy originated thousands of years ago. How do U.S. citizens practice these principles today? This course offers a fundamental understanding of the American system of government. First, it examines the nation’s roots and the government’s different levels. At each level, the people hold the power to make all laws. Next, this course discusses the freedoms and rights that the Constitution grants to U.S. citizens. Along with privileges, they have responsibilities. Clearly, citizens play a large part in American government. In fact, democracy means “government by the people.” Therefore, the goal of this course is to identify the roles that U.S. citizens play in their democracy.

The information needed to achieve this goal is presented in the textbook *Pacemaker American Government* (3rd edition) and in this study guide. Globe Fearon published the textbook. The study guide, designed by the staff and faculty of The Hadley School for the Blind, directs you through the textbook.
To complete the course, you need the materials that
The Hadley School for the Blind has provided and
writing materials in the medium of your choice. If you
are taking the audio version of the course, you need
your own tape recorder.

Study guides are popular tools for completing distance
education courses. They introduce the material
presented in the textbook and offer directions for
completing each chapter. In addition, this study guide
provides answers to selected exercises. It also includes
assignments that enable you and your instructor to
evaluate your progress throughout the course.

This course is divided into five units. Unit 1 examines
the origins of the American system of government. Unit
2 describes the workings of the federal government,
and Unit 3 explores state and local government. Unit 4
discusses the freedoms of U.S. citizens. Unit 5
concludes the course with a description of the rights
and responsibilities of U.S. citizens. Note that a
glossary and two appendixes—the Declaration of
Independence and the Constitution of the United States
of America—are provided at the end of the textbook.
To complete this course, follow the study guidelines in each chapter. Although the textbook offers a variety of exercises, you are required to do only those specified in the study guidelines. As you complete the selected exercises, keep the following in mind:

- Note your answers in the medium of your choice so you can compare them with those provided in the study guide.
- Do not mail the answers to your Hadley instructor; they are for your personal development only.
- Refer to the contact card included with your course materials if you want to clarify concepts with your instructor.

You are required to submit the assignments presented in the study guide. These assignments enable your instructor to measure your ability to apply the concepts presented in each chapter. Submit one assignment at a time, and remember to wait for your instructor’s feedback on one assignment before submitting the next.
If you mail your assignments, use the enclosed mailing labels. Send your assignments as Free Matter for the Blind provided they are in large print (14 point or larger) or braille, or on cassette or computer disk. Your course materials include a contact card with your instructor’s fax number and email address. Use this information if you prefer to send your assignments electronically.
Chapter 6: How Federal Laws Are Made

Chapter 5 described Congress. The main job of Congress is to make the country’s laws. How does the legislative branch accomplish this task? Chapter 6 identifies the steps involved in lawmaking. Every law starts with an idea that is written in the form of a bill. Each bill moves through Congress. If both houses approve a bill, it goes to the President, who can veto or sign it. The President can also leave a bill unsigned. Most bills, however, will not reach this step. Exploring how federal laws are made helps you to identify the roles that U.S. citizens play in their democracy.

Study Guidelines

Suggestions on how to proceed can be found in the Overview to the course. To complete this chapter, do the following:

- Read pages 68 through 81 of the textbook.
- Answer the Check Your Understanding questions on page 78.
- Complete Government Issues: Lobbyists and Special Interest Groups on page 79.
• Complete the Vocabulary Review and Chapter Quiz on pages 80 and 81.

When you have completed the chapter, return to the study guide to check your responses.

Answers to Check Your Understanding

Page 78

1. All tax bills start in the House of Representatives.
2. A subcommittee is a branch of a standing committee whose members study bills related to their area of expertise. Then the members of the subcommittee make recommendations on the bills to the full committee.
3. A conference committee draws up a compromise bill when the two houses of Congress pass a variation on the same bill.

Government Issues: Lobbyists and Special Interest Groups

Answers to You Decide

Lobbying is fair. Most individuals do not have the time or the money to petition lawmakers. Therefore, by combining resources, citizens have a better chance of influencing elected officials. Furthermore, not all
lobbyists represent big business. For example, AARP, formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons, often lobbies successfully for people age 50 and older. In addition, rules and regulations control lobbying. The government and citizen groups watch to make sure lobbies and elected officials obey these laws.

or

Lobbying is unfair. It gives an advantage to people or groups with more money. For example, corporations or entire industries spend millions of dollars lobbying for laws that help their interests. Even if individuals pooled their resources, most could not compete with such large sums of money. All citizens, however, deserve access to representatives. This privilege should not belong only to rich people. Furthermore, citizens elect officials to protect the public interest. Officials should be able to carry out this duty without lobbyists.

Chapter 6 Review

Answers to Vocabulary Review

1. testify
2. whip
3. legislation
4. subcommittee
5. conference committee

Answers to Chapter Quiz

1. Tax bills must always start in the House of Representatives.
2. A filibuster is a delaying tactic: a senator tries to stop a bill by speaking so long that the Senate must go on to other business.
3. A conference committee draws up a compromise bill when the two houses of Congress pass a variation on the same bill.
4. First, the President can sign the bill so it becomes a law. Second, he can veto the bill. In this case, the bill goes back to Congress for a possible override. Next, the President can leave the bill unsigned for 10 days while Congress is in session. Then the bill becomes a law. Finally, he can leave the bill unsigned for 10 days after Congress has ended its session. Then the bill dies.
5. The President’s veto checks the powers of Congress. Congress can override the veto with a two-thirds majority vote. In this way, Congress checks the President’s powers.
6. Special committees have the necessary knowledge and time to study the bills related to their area of expertise.

7. The majority and minority whips are in close contact with party members. Therefore, the whips are best able to get the votes needed to kill or pass bills.

If you found the previous questions difficult, review the chapter. If you are satisfied with your answers, proceed with the next assignment, which covers Chapters 5 and 6.
Assignment 3

After receiving feedback on your last submission, complete this assignment in the medium of your choice. Start by giving your full name, address, and telephone number. Also indicate the course title, Assignment 3, your instructor’s name, and the date. Then provide your answers. Be sure to indicate the question number along with each answer. This assignment is worth 100 points. Instructions for submitting assignments can be found in the Overview to the course.

Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer for each item. (3 points each)

1. Where does Congress meet?
   a. the Capitol
   b. the Pentagon
   c. the White House
   d. the Supreme Court
2. Which phrase applies to Congress?
   a. makes the federal laws
   b. includes the Senate
   c. includes the House of Representatives
   d. all of the above

3. In Congress, what are committees?
   a. part of the judicial branch
   b. part of the executive branch
   c. groups of naturalized citizens
   d. groups of representatives and senators

4. Which group does much of the everyday work in Congress?
   a. judges
   b. jurors
   c. lobbyists
   d. committees

5. Which power does the Constitution give to Congress?
   a. to grant titles of nobility
   b. to choose the Vice President
c. to print money and to set its value
d. to create a national school system

6. Who might come up with an idea for a law?
   a. a farmer
   b. the President
   c. a senator
   d. all of the above

7. What does every law start with?
   a. a filibuster
   b. an idea
   c. the Senate
   d. the President

8. Where does a bill receive its first reading?
   a. the senatorial hopper
   b. the Directory of the President
   c. the Senate Directory
   d. the *Congressional Record*
9. What is the status of a vetoed bill that one-third of the house votes for?
   a. alive
   b. in limbo
   c. dead
   d. rewritten

10. What is the status of a bill that the House Ways and Means Committee votes against?
    a. alive
    b. in limbo
    c. dead
    d. rewritten

**Short Answer**

Briefly answer each of the following questions in complete sentences. (4 points each)

11. Describe the people in Congress.
12. Describe the role of the Speaker of the House.
13. What are two differences between a senator and a representative?
14. Explain the difference in size between the House and the Senate.
15. Describe the role of the President of the Senate.
16. Name three issues that a committee of Congress might study.
17. Name four actions that the Constitution forbids Congress from taking.
18. Describe the role of the floor leaders.
19. What are two possible outcomes of the President’s leaving a bill unsigned for 10 days?
20. Is it easy for an idea to become a law? Explain.

Essay

For each of the following questions, limit your total response to two print pages, five braille pages, or a 2-minute recording. (15 points each)

21. Discuss Congress as follows:
   a. Is Congress truly the “people’s branch” of government? Why or why not?
   b. Suppose you are a member of the House of Representatives. Which of these committees would you prefer to be on and why?
      • the House Committee on Agriculture
      • the House Committee on Education and the Workforce
      • the House Committee on International Relations
      • the House Committee on Science
c. Name a power of Congress. Why do you think the Constitution grants this power to the legislative branch?

22. Suppose you are going to propose an idea for a law to Congress. Discuss it as follows:
   a. What is your idea and why is it important to you?
   b. Name the steps your idea must go through to become a law.
   c. What arguments might a lobbyist who opposes your idea make?

When you have completed this assignment, return to the study guide. You are now ready to begin Chapter 7: The President and the Executive Branch.