

# Structures of Congress-SAMPLE ANSWERS

## House of Representatives

### ARTICLE I SECTION 2

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

[Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, ~~three-fifths of all other Persons~~.]\*  
....The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative....

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

*\* Language in brackets was changed by the 14th amendment.*

Explain how members of the House of Representatives are elected. How long does their term last?

**Representatives are elected to two-year terms by the voters within their state.**

What are the qualifications to be a Representative?

**—at least 25 years old**

**—a US Citizen for at least 7 years**

**—live in the state from which they are elected**

How are the number of Representatives for each state determined?

**Based on the population of their state.**

Who are the officers within the House?

**The Speaker and others**

What power is specifically assigned to the House of Representatives in Section 2?

**the Power of Impeachment**

## Senate

<p><b>ARTICLE I SECTION 3</b></p> <p>The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, [elected by the people thereof,]* for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote....</p>	<p>Explain how members of the Senate are elected. How long does their term last?</p> <p><b>Senators are elected by the people in their state to six-year terms</b></p>
<p>No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen</p>	<p>What are the qualifications to be a Senator?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–at least 30 years old</li> <li>–a US Citizen for at least 9 years</li> <li>–live in the state from which they are elected</li> </ul>
<p>The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.</p> <p>The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States</p>	<p>How many Senators does each state elect?</p> <p><b>two</b></p>
<p>The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments...., the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present....</p>	<p>Who are the officers within the Senate?</p> <p><b>the Vice President of the U.S. is the President, a President pro tempore, and other officers</b></p>
<p><i>* Language in brackets was changed by the 17th amendment.</i></p>	<p>What power is specifically assigned to the Senate in Section 3?</p> <p><b>to try all Impeachments</b></p>

With a partner, complete the following chart to illustrate some of the different structures and functions between the House of Representatives and the Senate.

House of Representatives		Senate
# in proportion to the population	Number of Members from each state	two
2 years	Term Length	six years
–at least 25 years old –a US Citizen for at least 7 years –live in the state from which they are elected	Qualifications for Membership	at least 30 years old –a US Citizen for at least 9 years –live in the state from which they are elected
Speaker of the House others	Officers	Vice President of the US is the Senate President, President pro tempore
Impeachment	Role in impeachment	to try Impeachments

Why do the two legislative bodies function differently? Which difference do you think is the most significant? Why?

Answers will vary but responses should address the checks on power and separation of powers.

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