

Checks and Balances Worksheet

Use the Chart on page 68 of your textbook. Read each problem and determine which branch of government would have power to check that situation. Write the name of the branch which has the check, and then tell what the check would be.

1. Congress has passed a law forbidding freedom of religion for anyone other than Protestants. What can the President do to check on Congress? *Veto the law.*
2. A Supreme Court Justice appointed for life, accepts a bribe to influence his decision on a case. What can Congress do to this member of the Supreme Court? *Impeach + Remove the judge.*
3. The President appoints his brother to be Sec. of State and he is not well qualified to hold the office. What can Congress do to check the President? *Congress must approve the appointment.*
4. The President wants to spend more money than what is in the budget to give aid to Bosnia. What can Congress do to check the President? *Congress decides whether or not to provide Funding.*
5. The President wants to abolish the Department of Transportation and transfer its functions to the Department of the Interior. What can Congress do to check the President? *Only Congress creates and eliminates programs + Agencies.*
6. The President vetoes a law setting up a program for protection of natural resources. Congress thinks it should still be passed. What can Congress do to check the President? *Over ride veto with $\frac{2}{3}$ majority in each house.*
7. In order to avoid discussing one of the President's favorite proposals, Congress adjourns early and goes home. What can the President do to check the Congress? *Call a special session of congress.*
8. The President angrily criticizes a recent Supreme Court decision and wishes out loud that he could fire some of the Justices. How can the Judges check the President? *Appointed for life.*
9. The President angered by leaks of top secret information, orders telephones of key members of his staff "tapped", but does not get a warrant due to "national security". How can the "Supreme Court check on the President? *Rule executive action to be unconstitutional.*
10. The President negotiates a treaty with Cuba giving them control over our navel base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. How can Congress check the President? *Senate approves all treaties.*
11. Two Justices on the Supreme Court who are considered by the President to be too liberal retired, and a new members of the Court need to be selected. What can the President do to make the Court more conservative? *President appoints Supreme Court Justices.*
12. The President is accused of accepting large contributions of stock from companies which have recently been awarded huge government contracts. What does Congress do to check the President? *Impeach and Remove.*
13. Congress passes laws denying certain tax exemptions to minorities which others are entitled to receive; the President signs the law. What can the Courts do to stop the law? *Declare law unconstitutional*
14. The President has promised to reform health care, but Congress seems to have no interest in doing such a thing. How can the President force Congress to act? *Appeal to the people*
15. A federal court in Laredo is overcrowded with cases due to numerous drug importation cases being filed in its courts. What must congress do to help to Court? *Congress Creates lower Courts.*