**Paper 3: The US Congress (SHJ)**

**READ the whole of Chapter 3 (just the pages with these answers on! Then make notes on the following:**

Remember the advice given on your first sheet (or look at it again!) to help you. Notes are meant to be **brief** and usefully presented so that YOU can revise from them next year as well as demonstrate understanding and gain a base of knowledge for the coming topic of study.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **Outline** the key differences AND SIMILARIITIES between House of Representatives and the Senate
 | **347-349, 356** |
| Extension: Using this link, **explain** how representative you believe the US Congress is, and why.<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44762.pdf> |
| 1. Briefly **explain** the factors that affect voting behaviour in Congress. Which of these factors do you think is most important and why? (note: this is NOT just the factors on P353!)
 | **351-354** |
| Extension: Research how the representative nature of Congress has changed after the 2018 midterms. |  |
| 1. **Identify** reasons why it is so difficult to pass legislation in America.

*5 reasons – average; 6-8 reasons –great; 9 or more reasons – superhero!* | **354-357** |
| Extension: Look at the data in this table. Which Congress do you consider to be the least productive and how did you reach this judgment? Looking at the dates, can you explain why it might have been so unproductive?<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/statistics>  |
| 1. Complete the table below for at least four checks: (include examples where you can)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Check on the President by Congress | Strengths of this check | Weaknesses of this check |
|  |  |  |

 | **358-360** |
| Extension: Read the article below. Does it suggest checks and balances between Congress and the President are effective or ineffective?<https://www.vox.com/2018/1/22/16918686/government-shutdown-why-what> |
| 1. In each area – legislation, representation and oversight – outline arguments how Congress can considered to be **getting more** (i.e. changing!) ineffective or effective.
 | **361-367** |
| Extension: Read this article. Do you agree that Congress is broken, or are can they overcome their problems with reforms and/or changing political circumstances? <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/01/24/government-shutdown-analysis-congress-broken-216503> |