

CHAPTER

13

SECTION 2

READING COMPREHENSION

Presidential Succession and the Vice Presidency 3

1. Briefly explain how each of the following provides for presidential succession:

a. the original provisions of the Constitution did not provide for succession of VP rather declared that pres. power + duties were to "devolve on" the
b. the 25th Amendment declared that the V.P. shall become pres. if
in case of removal of Pres from ofc thru resignation or death.
c. the Presidential Succession Act of 1947 fixes the succession order:
Pres → VP → Speaker of the H.R. → Pres pro tem of Senate →
Sec of State → 14 other Cabinet Secretaries in order.

2. How does the 25th Amendment provide for situations in which the President is disabled?

VP becomes the Acting president if (1) the pres informs Congress
in writing that he is unable to discharge the powers + duties
of office - or - (2) VP + several members of Cabinet inform the
Pres of Congress that the Pres. is unable to uphold his
duties.

3. List the two formal duties that the Constitution assigns to the Vice President:

a. to preside over the Senate
b. to help to decide the question of pres. disability

4. Why can the position of the Vice President be considered both very important and very unimportant?

Important - just a heartbeat away from office of the pres.
unimportant - Consti. pays little attention to VP office and
there's not much to do.

5. What does it mean to "balance the ticket"?

to choose a running-mate (VP) who can strengthen the
candidate's (pres) chances of being elected by virtue of
ideological, geographical, racial,
ethnic, gender or
other characteristics.
Recent presidents have made much greater use
of their VPs, so the ofc has been reinvented &
much more influential.

7. What is the procedure for filling a vacancy in the vice presidency?

Pres. nominates a V.P. and they must be
confirmed by a majority vote of both houses of Congress.

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CORE WORKSHEET

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Read each scenario in the first column. In the second column, write the next steps that would occur to address the situation. Then, in the third column, identify the laws or precedents that specify the process for resolving the situation.

Scenario	Next Steps	Laws or Precedents
1. The President dies of natural causes.	VP becomes Pres.	Constit + 25th Amendment
2. The President is hurt in a serious accident and realizes that he cannot fulfill his duties at this time.	Pres informs Congress in writing VP assumes duties of Pres.	25th Amendment
3. The President suffers a stroke and is unable to communicate.	VP + majority of Cabinet inform Congress VP takes power	25th Amend.
4. The Vice President dies while in office.	Pres nominates a successor, needs confirmation by majority vote of Both houses	25th Amend.
5. Both the President and Vice President are killed in a plane crash.	Speaker of the House becomes Pres. Succeeded by Congress	Pres. Succeeded by Congress
6. The President is unhappy with the Vice President's public statements opposing official policies and wants to dismiss her from office.	none - The Pres. cannot fire the VP "Choose wisely"	Constit. VP can only be impeached
7. The President dies and the Vice President is sworn in as President, but needs emergency surgery before a new Vice President is chosen. She will be unable to make decisions for about 12 hours.	Speaker of the House is acting pres, after Congress is informed in writing	25th Amend. Pres Succeeded by Congress
8. After recovering from an injury, the President believes he is ready to resume his duties, but the Vice President and Cabinet members disagree.	Pres, by writing, says he's okay. VP + majority of Cabinet Challenge	25th Amend.

the Pres. Congress must decide in 21 days what to do.