**Unit 5 – Making Laws**

Vocabulary

Administrative law

Cloture

Common law

Conference committee

Constitutional law

Filibuster

Initiative

Lobbyists

Pigeonholing

Pocket veto

Statutory law

Tribunals

Critical Thinking Questions

1. History of Law (p. 428-429, 33-35)
   1. Why was the Code of Hammurabi a first in world history?
   2. What kinds of rules from the Ten Commandments are reflected in our laws today?
   3. How did Roman law spread to the American colonies?
   4. Which practice used in our legal system came from English common law?
   5. Explain how the Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights reflect Enlightenment ideas.
2. Types of Law (p. 427-434, 378, 740-748)
   1. What are the 4 characteristics of a good law?
   2. Describe the difference between criminal and civil law.
   3. What branch would have jurisdiction over cases involving constitutional law and why?
   4. What is the purpose of administrative law?
   5. Explain how statutory law works using the N.C. General Assembly as an example.
   6. Identify at least 3 reasons why international law is so complicated.
3. Influencing Laws (Review from Unit 3 - Ch. 6 and Unit 4 - Ch. 9-11)
   1. What leaders in Congress have the most legislative power?
   2. Identify at least 5 ways constituents can influence the lawmaking process.
   3. What are the pros and cons of how political parties and interest groups affect legislation?
   4. How do the media and public opinion guide lawmakers’ decisions?
4. From Bill to Law (p. 198-202, 379)
   1. Describe what can happen to a bill in standing committee.
   2. What 2 things can Senators do during floor debate that Representatives cannot and why?
   3. Why is a party said to hold a “supermajority” in the Senate when they hold 3/5 of the seats?
   4. When would a bill go to a conference committee?
   5. Describe what Congress can do if the President vetoes a bill.
   6. How is pigeonholing a bill similar to pocket vetoing it?
   7. Diagram the steps a bill originating the Senate would go through to become a law.
   8. How similar is the process of making a law in the N.C. General Assembly to that of Congress?