Teaching Legislative FRQs

By: Samantha Addington, Logan Clark, and Harley Patterson
2012 Question

1. Members of Congress are charged with three primary duties—writing laws, overseeing the implementation of laws, and serving the needs of their constituents.

(a) Describe the rule of the following in lawmaking.
    Senate filibuster
    House Rules Committee
    Conference Committee

(b) Describe one method by which Congress exercises oversight of the federal bureaucracy.

(c) Explain how casework affects members’ attention to legislation.
1(a)
Describe the role of each of the following in law making.

**Senate filibuster** - Allows a senator on the floor to prevent/delay action on a particular bill & prevent other business from occurring.

- Could postpone a law being made.
- Talk a bill to death.
Describe the role of each of the following in law making.

**House Rules Committee** - Schedules or manages the flow of legislation on the floor to make the process more efficient or, to either make it easier or more difficult for the bill to pass.

- Every bill goes through this committee.
- This committee makes rules for individual bills, not the House as a whole.
1(a)

Describe the role of each of the following in law making.

Conference Committee- Allows a senator on the floor to prevent/delay action on a particular bill & prevent other business from occurring.

• Important for the SAME bill to be understood by both the House and Senate for an accurate vote.
Describe one method by which Congress exercises oversight of the federal bureaucracy.

**Legislation veto** - a veto exercised by a legislature nullifying (declaring legal void) or reversing an action, decision, etc., of the executive branch.

- Legislative expresses disapproval by a vote that MEETS the requirements established by law.
1(c)

Explain how casework affects members, attention to legislation.

- Diverts time, resources, and staff, thus reducing members’ ability to focus on legislation.
- Develops awareness of problems, thus focusing more time and resources on related legislation.
Assessment

1. What is Senate filibuster?
2. What is the role of the Conference Committee?
3. Name one way casework affect members’.

*BONUS* How many points was this FRQ?
Assessment (Answers)

1. What is Senate filibuster?
   Allows a senator on the floor to prevent/delay action on a particular bill & prevent other business from occurring.

2. What is the role of the Conference Committee?
   Allows a senator on the floor to prevent/delay action on a particular bill & prevent other business from occurring.

3. Name one way casework affect members’.
   Diverts time, resources, and staff, thus reducing members’ ability to focus on legislation.

*BONUS* How many points was this FRQ? 5