**Georgia Government Unit 2018 - Study Guide Key**

Foundations of GA’s Government:

1. What are the voting requirements in Georgia? **18 years old, legal resident of Georgia, not convicted of a felony**
2. What are some civic responsibilities that GA citizens have toward the government? **To pay taxes, vote, obey laws, serve on juries**
3. What is the main purpose of the Georgia State Constitution? **To give a framework for the laws and government of GA.**
4. What principals in the U.S. and GA constitutions divide authority among 3 branches of government? **Separation of powers, and checks and balances.**
5. What are the three branches of government and their purposes as outlined in the U.S. and GA Constitution? **Legislative (makes laws), Executive (executes laws), Judicial (interprets laws)**
6. What types of services does the state of GA provide for citizens? What is the largest percentage of state revenue spent on? **Largest amount is spent on education, but other services include transportation, public safety, leadership, environmental protection, courts, etc.**
7. Name 5 of the rights that citizens have in GA? **Answers can vary: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, rights to life, liberty and property, right to fish and hunt.**
8. **True or False?** GA’s constitution requires a balanced budget (balanced revenues & expenses).

GA’s Legislative Branch:

1. What qualifications are the same and different to be a member of the Georgia Senate or House of Representatives? **For both, persons must be a U.S. citizen and a resident of GA and their district for** **2 years. For the Senate, persons must be 25 years old. For the House, persons must be only 21 years old.**
2. What is the Georgia General Assembly? **The Senate and the House of Representatives**
3. What role does the Lieutenant Governor play in the General Assembly? **“President” of the Senate**
4. Approval of a bill requires how many votes? **Simple majority** of the total membership of that house (Senate or House of Representatives)
5. What are the steps for a bill to become a law in the state of Georgia? **Idea, bill filed by legislator, introduced (on floor of House or Senate), assigned to a committee where it is studied, debated & voted, if passed it goes to the other (House or Senate), if passed by 2nd house, it goes to governor.**
6. What are the governor’s three choice of action when he receives a bill that has been passed by both the Senate and House of Representatives? **Sign, veto, don’t sign.**
7. What happens when a bill passed by the legislature is not vetoed or signed by the governor, what happens? **It becomes a law, anyway.**
8. What has to happen if the governor vetoes a bill from the General Assembly for it to still become a law? **The General Assembly overrides the veto with a 2/3 vote.**
9. What happens to most bills**? They die in committee.**
10. How long is a regular session of the Georgia General Assembly? **40 days**

GA’s Executive Branch:

1. What are the qualifications for both the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor? **U.S. Citizen for 15 years, resident of Georgia for 6 years, and 30 years of age**
2. Who would take over for the Governor if he died or was impeached? **Lieutenant Governor**
3. How can a two-term governor run for reelection? **The governor sits out for a minimum of four years before running again**
4. Who in the Executive branch has no limits on terms? **The Lieutenant Governor**
5. What are some of the formal and informal powers of the Governor? **Commander in Chief of the GA State Patrol and National Guard, Chief Executive Officer of Executive branch, power to veto bills, guiding state agencies, issuing proclamations, Budget Director**
6. What are some of the elected officials of the executive branch? **Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Labor, State School Superintendent**

GA’s Judicial Branch:

1. What is the difference between Criminal and Civil cases? **Criminal cases are cases when a law has been broken; charges are filed against a defendant by the government. Civil cases are disputes between citizens; they are usually about money, do not involve jail time. Punishment in a civil case may require the defendant to reimburse the plaintiff.**
2. If you file a lawsuit to sue someone for refusing to pay for your mailbox after they accidentally knocked it down with a car, would it be a civil or criminal case? **Civil**
3. Define “probable cause” **– sufficient evidence that the suspect was involved with a crime**
4. What are the steps in the adult criminal justice process? **Pretrial: Arrest, booking, initial appearance to determine any bail, preliminary hearing to determine probable cause, Grand Jury indictment to examine evidence, arraignment for reading of formal charges, suspect pleas guilty or not guilty/plea bargains. Trial: jury is selected, opening statements, presentation of evidence/expert witnesses, closing statements, jury deliberates/verdict, sentencing by judge, appeal.**
5. **True or False?** For a criminal conviction, evidence must prove a defendant’s guilt “beyond a reasonable doubt”.
6. In criminal law, what is the difference between a felony and a misdemeanor? **Felonies are serious crimes such as arson, murder and grand theft punishable by no less than one year in jail. Misdemeanors are less serious crimes usually punished with less than one year in jail, community service or a fine.**
7. Why would a defendant agree to a “plea bargain”? **To plead guilty to a lesser charge, and most likely receive a lesser punishment.**
8. Define juvenile **– a person no older than 17 years of age.**
9. What is the difference between unruly behaviors and delinquent behaviors for juveniles under GA law? **An unruly act is one committed by a juvenile that would not be a crime for an adult (use of alcohol or smoking, truancy, breaking curfew, etc.). A delinquent behavior is an act committed by a juvenile that would also be a crime if committed by an adult (theft, trespassing, arson, assault, illegal drugs, murder, etc.).**
10. What must officers promptly inform juveniles of when taken into custody? **Juveniles have the right to an attorney and the right to have parents present before questioning.**
11. What step occurs FIRST when a juvenile is taken into custody? **An intake officer decides if there is enough evidence to make a charge against the juvenile.**
12. What type of acts can result in a juvenile facing charges as an adult in Superior Court? **Serious violent offenses such as murder**

GA’s Local Governments:

1. Local government includes cities and counties. Define municipality – **a city or town.**
2. **True or False?** With 159 counties, GA has the second most of any state in the U.S.
3. Local government is funded mostly by taxes that include sales tax, income tax, excise tax or property tax. Which of these are paid by homeowners? **Property taxes are paid by homeowners.**
4. What is the main difference between general-purpose and special-purpose governments in Georgia? **Special purpose governments are created to serve a specific function for the state or community.**
5. What type of government would a school district, the port authority or MARTA fall under? **A Special Purpose government**