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АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Методические указания

Рекомендовано
Научно-методическим советом университета для студентов,
обучающихся по специальности Политология

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Данные методические указания рекомендуются студентам для развития навыков устной речи на материале текстов профессиональной направленности. Часть I включает ознакомительные тексты, относящиеся к политическому устройству США, часть II содержит тексты по страноведению США для чтения, перевода и аннотирования, сопровождающиеся заданиями на активизацию тематического словаря.

Предназначены для студентов 2 курса, обучающихся по специальности 030201 Политология (дисциплина «Английский язык», блок ГСЭ), очной формы обучения.

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I. THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF THE USA

The American System of Government

The governmental systems in the United States – federal, state, county, and local – are quite easy to understand. They are quite easy to understand, that is, if you grew up with them and studied them in school. One foreign expert complained, for example, that the complexity of just the cities' political and governmental structure is "almost unbelievable". The "real Chicago", he explained, "spreads over 2 states, 6 counties, 10 towns, 30 cities, 49 townships, and 110 villages. Overlaid upon this complex pattern are 235 tax districts and more than 400 school districts".

There are, however, several basic principles which are found at all levels of American government. One of this is the "one person, one vote" principle which says that legislators are elected from geographical districts directly by the voters. Under this principle, all election districts must have about the same number of residents.

Another fundamental principle of American government is that because of the system of checks and balances, compromise in politics is a matter of necessity, not choice. For example, the House of Representatives controls spending and finance, so the President must have its agreement for his proposals and programs. He cannot declare war, either, without the approval of Congress. In foreign affairs, he is also strongly limited. Any treaty must first be approved by the Senate. If there is no approval, there's no treaty. The rule is "the President proposes, but Congress disposes". What a President wants to do, therefore, is often a different thing from what a President is able to do.

Congress

Congress, the legislative branch of the federal government, is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are 100 Senators, two from each state. One third of the Senators are elected every two years for six-year terms of office. The Senators represent all of the people in a state and their interests.

The House has 435 members. They are elected every two years for two-year terms. They represent the population of "congressional

districts” into which each state is divided. The number of Representatives from each state is based upon its population. For instance, California, the state with the largest population, has 52 Representatives, while Delaware has only one.

Almost all elections in the United States follow the “winner-takes-all” principle: the candidate who wins the largest number of votes in a Congressional district is the winner.

Congress makes all laws, and each house of Congress has the power to introduce legislation. Each can also vote against legislation passed by the other. Because legislation only becomes law if both houses agree, compromise between them is necessary. Congress decides upon taxes and how money is spent. In addition, it regulates commerce among the states and with foreign countries. It also sets rules for the naturalization of foreign citizens.

Topical vocabulary

<i>Nouns</i>	<i>Verbs</i>	<i>Word expressions</i>
County	to complain	Tax district
Township	to propose	school district
Pattern	to dispose	System of checks and balances
Legislator	to spread	House of Representatives
Voter	to approve	Foreign affairs
Resident	to represent	to declare war
Compromise	<i>Adjectives</i>	the “winner-takes-all” principle
Politician	unbelievable	term of office
Treaty	legislative	congressional district
Senator	passed	to introduce legislation
legislation		

Exercises

Ex. 1. Find the pairs of synonyms:

Intricacy, dues, passed, legislative, election, real, to elect, for instance, basic, pattern, expert, to become adult, for example, complexity, alien, specialist, model, fundamental, choose, true, voting,

treaty, resident, inhabitant, agreement, lawmaking, approved, taxes, foreign, to grow up

Ex. 2. Find the pairs of antonyms:

Against, optional, to abolish, to dispose, foreign, unbelievable, to agree, compromise, necessary, to approve, to lose, boundless, slightly, to propose, complex, to find, limited, native, strongly, simple, to differ, for, ordinary, confrontation

Ex. 3. Complete the following sentences:

1. The governmental systems in the United States – federal, state, county, and local – are ...

2. There are, however, several basic principles which are found ...

3. One of this is the “one person, one vote” principle which says that ...

4. Another fundamental principle of American government is that because of the system of checks and balances, compromise in politics is ...

5. The rule is “the President proposes, but ...

6. What a President wants to do, therefore, is often a different thing from ...

7. Congress, the legislative branch of the federal government, is made up of ...

8. One third of the Senators are elected every ...

9. The number of Representatives from each state is based ...

10. Almost all elections in the United States follow the ...

Ex. 4. Answer the following questions:

1. Are the governmental systems in the United States – federal, state, county, and local – quite easy to understand?

2. Why is the complexity of just the cities’ political and governmental structure almost unbelievable?

3. What are the basic principles which are found at all levels of American government?

4. What does the “one person, one vote” principle say?

5. What is the other fundamental principle of American government?