

Name _____

Checks and Balances: Can One Branch of Government Override the Others?

Short Answer Key

1. A bill is proposed in either the House of Representatives or the Senate, where it goes through committees, debates, and votes. If approved by both houses, it goes to the President, who can sign it into law or veto it. Congress can override a veto with a two-thirds majority vote in both houses.
2. The system ensures that each branch has mechanisms to oversee and limit the actions of the others. For example, the President can veto bills, but Congress can override the veto. This balance of power prevents any one branch from dominating.
3. The judicial branch, through judicial review, can declare laws unconstitutional. This role ensures that laws passed by Congress and actions taken by the President align with the Constitution. Courts act as a check on the other branches.
4. The President's power to appoint judges influences the judiciary's composition. However, the Senate must confirm these appointments, providing a check on the President's choices and ensuring qualified judges are appointed.
5. Suppose the President vetoes a bill passed by Congress. To override the veto, both the House of Representatives and the Senate must vote in favor of the bill with a two-thirds majority in each chamber. This demonstrates Congress's ability to check the President's veto power.

