



AP Government & Politics: United States 1999 Sample Student Responses

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Yes Congress is effective in its ~~oversight~~ oversight of the federal bureaucracy for two important reasons:

1. They have the ability to supply or deny funds to bureaucracy based on their perception of the effectiveness of the bureaucracy or agency below the bureaucracy. If Congress sees that a certain part of the bureaucracy is causing problems or is unnecessary they can cut funds ~~to~~ to that part. This ~~works as a check~~ works as a check on the bureaucracy and keeps them in line. Although Congress doesn't have the power to create or destroy a bureaucracy they do have some influence in that area.

~~2. The president and executive branch have the supreme authority over the creation of bureaucracies. If the Congress doesn't like a part of the bureaucracy ~~that~~ and they don't want it formed or want it taken away they have influence over the president. If, for example, the president wanted Congress to pass a piece of legislation Congress may ask~~

~~him to change his policy toward part of the bureaucracy in order to pass a piece of legislation.~~

2. Also Congress can pass legislation concerning the job of the bureaucracy. If Congress passed a law that would have an effect on the way the bureaucracy performed its job or what they were entitled to do this could be one way they could check their actions. For example if the immigration agency's policy was to return all illegal immigrants back to their country and congress passed a law that all illegal immigrants are granted the right to try for citizenship congress would in a way be cheating the bureaucracy.

Congress has a very effective control over the federal bureaucracy. Seeing how Congress has control over money and what the bureaucracy receives the bureaucracy must follow much of what Congress instructs. Also Congress is the law making body of our government with separate subcommittees which help the government run. Without Congress working with the president, ~~these~~ these federal employees ^{remain} employed.

Annually the ~~budget~~ ^{money} must be given to organizations that use the money for a specific goal or purpose. The bureaucracy receives a portion of this money which they spend on what is necessary. It is unfortunate for them however that Congress has control of this money. This means that the bureaucracy is more or less subservient to Congress. The bureaucracy must follow Congress's legislation or the next year less money will be given.

Congress also has the power with the president to keep the bureaucracy employed. If the president and Congress did not work together and stall the budgetary process the bureaucracy would be the first to be laid off. The bureaucracy's job is dependant on constant legislation measures.

Congress has much control over the bureaucracy. Through legislation methods and money Congress has ~~the~~ the power to make the bureaucracy do whatever Congress wishes.

Congress is very effective in exercising legislative oversight. Of the three branches, I feel that Congress has the most power. Congress's most effective way of exercising legislative oversight is by utilizing the system of checks and balances. Congress has two main checks over the executive branch. Congress has the power to override any Presidential veto by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote in both houses, and Congress has the power to impeach the President. Congress also has checks over the judicial branch. Congress can impeach any member of the Supreme Court for bad behavior. The system of checks and balances was designed to make sure no one branch of government ever gains too much power.

Another way in which Congress can exercise effective oversight of the federal bureaucracy is by passing laws, bills, acts, and amendments. The elastic clause in the Constitution gives Congress the right to pass anything they see as being necessary and proper for the good of the country. If Congress finds something wrong in the federal bureaucracy they have the power to change it, if it is for the good of the country. Even if Congress passes a bill and the President vetoes it, they can still override the veto with enough support. With the aid of ~~these~~ checks and balances and the elastic clause in the Constitution, Congress is able to effectively exercise legislative oversight of the federal bureaucracy.