
CHAPTER 6

MASTER OF PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Unfortunately, even as president, you have to know something. You don't need to know a whole heck of a lot, but you should have at least enough knowledge to be dangerous. You will, of course, have advisors to provide you with most of your required technical information, but you should still be able to babble semi-coherently on a wide range of topics. For this reason, I have put together a self-study certification program designed to equip you with all the tools you will need to be an effective president. Completion of this course of study is certain to give you a competitive edge over all the other candidates. I know that this might seem like a great deal of work (something which I am sure you were hoping to avoid by becoming president), but I cannot over-emphasize the importance of taking the fifteen minutes or so required to review these study guides. It will definitely reap long term dividends. The only prerequisites for this course are the ability to pay the \$40,000 tuition fee and the ability to read (I hope this isn't asking too much in an age where 21% of U.S. adults are below a 5th grade reading level, but that certainly doesn't apply to you or you wouldn't have gotten this far through the book).



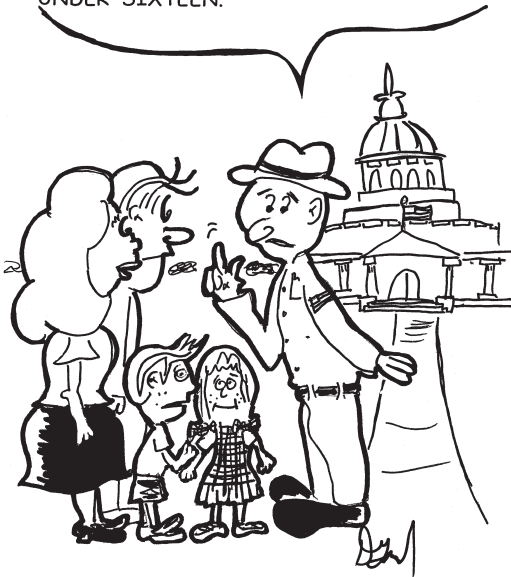
POLITICAL SCIENCE 100 POWER POLITICS

Study time: 2 minutes

2 Credit Units

As president, you will have one major enemy (next to the Media), and that is Congress. Congress resides in a giant duplex called the Capitol. It consists of two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. You will find that many members of Congress want your job. The rest just believe that it is their sworn duty as duly elected officials to make your life miserable. They will constantly pass bills that undercut your goals and objectives and usurp your authority. You do have one primary means of recourse, however: "Vito Power" (commonly misspelled "veto"). Just think of Vito as a giant, brainless thug capable of brow beating an unruly Congress into submission. Vito power is not all encompassing, however. If a two thirds majority of both houses gangs up on Vito, he will be overridden, and you'll be forced to go along with whatever those wimps in Congress say.

THE CAPITOL TOUR IS RATED "R"
AS SOME ACTS OF CONGRESS MAY
NOT BE SUITABLE FOR MINORS
UNDER SIXTEEN.



FOREIGN POLICY 101 *Us Vs Them*

Study Time: 5 Minutes

10 Credit Units

As the future leader of the Free World, you have to have some form of Foreign Policy credentials. That's why you often see governors and congressman who have never stepped foot outside of the USA suddenly taking overseas vacations when they decide to run for President. While at these destinations, they make a point of being seen hobnobbing with those countries' celebrities and political elite, and giving speeches on things they really know nothing about just so they can be perceived as being savvy in international affairs. The truth of the matter though is that when it comes to foreign policy all you really need to know is that there are just two forces at work in this world. Good and Evil. Evil is determined to dominate the world order and take away such basic human necessities as Rock N Roll, blue jeans, and reality television. They will stop at nothing to achieve this goal. These regimes are notorious for their blatant disregard for human rights. Torture, suppression of the free press, and confiscation of personal property are daily occurrences for the wretched citizens of these desperate regimes which are inspired by none other than the Devil himself.



The other force at work in the world is Good (which in case you haven't figured it out is US) Included in this group are, of course, all nations which are our allies. Admittedly, there may be a few bad step children within this group that occasionally display a slight disregard for human rights, and engage in torture, suppression of the free press, and confiscation of personal property in order to get their democratic ideals across. Their hearts are really in the right place, though. If we continue to supply them with sundry military implements, medical supplies, capital investment, and just good old fashion cash, they will eventually come to see the error of their ways and become full blown democracies in good standing.

This course gets double credit because it develops **Campaign Principle #5 Sell the adolescent view of the world.** Like all issues, foreign policy is multi-faceted and complicated. The average voter does not want to have to grapple with this. Instead just paint a simple black and white world that even a four year old can understand. After all, how else will you ever explain your foreign policy to Congress?

ECONOMICS 1A *VOO DOO ECONOMICS*

Study time: 5 minutes

2 Credit Units

There are numerous economic indicators including the Dow Jones Industrial Average, Gross Domestic Product, and new housing starts to name just a few. But you really only need to be concerned with the two indicators that the general public really cares about:

- a) Unemployment rate
- b) Inflation rate

These indices tell how many Americans are working, and if they are working, what their earnings will be able to buy in the way of goods and services. In a Communist nation you don't have to worry about these things. The State controls the hiring of workers and the setting of price levels. In a capitalist nation like America, however, these indices are controlled by the so called, "invisible hands of the free market," (and have you ever tried to box someone with invisible hands?). There are a few steps that you, as president can take to fight high inflation and unemployment. It is pointless, however, for me to discuss them. They generally take several years to have any effect and usually require sacrifices from the people. It is apparent that these policies will do little or nothing for your political career. Besides, keep in mind the immortal words of the great economist John Maynard Keynes, the Father of Deficit Spending: "In the long run we are all dead!"



Instead, you should just reiterate those economic promises that I spelled out in the chapter on Public Appearances. If you do get elected, just change the manner in which economic indicators are measured (For example, the unemployment rate could be adjusted so that it only counts those people who haven't had a job in twenty-five years whose middle name starts with X as being unemployed). Using creative means of measurement, you should be able to manipulate the data so that even if there is a significant downturn in the economy, your campaign promises still appeared to be fulfilled.

QUANTUUM PHYSICS 2^3 *Nuclear Science for the Brain Dead*

Study time: 2 minutes



2 Credit Units

Periodically, nuclear issues seize the imagination of the public. Novels, movies, and TV shows have all used sensationalist themes focusing on nuclear disaster. Throw in a couple of minor real life incidents like Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima, and you suddenly have a very paranoid electorate. For this reason, it is important for even politicians to have a very vague knowledge of Nuclear Physics (unless of course, you are as fortunate as Jimmy Carter was and you have a young daughter who is an authority on nuclear proliferation).

Well, here it goes: All matter is made up of basic building blocks called “atoms.” If something is shot at an atom very, very fast, it can cause the atom to split. When an atom splits, it gives off immense amounts of energy. Depending on how this reaction is controlled, the energy released could conceivably zap away all life as we know it. At this point, it should be obvious that atoms are very dangerous things. For this reason, you politicians and children reading at home, should not play with them. Instead, we should leave the nukes in the hands of trained professionals: scientists and generals, who we can trust to watch out for our safety.

FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO I COULDN'T
EVEN SPELL PREZEDUNT... NOW I
Я GONNA BE ONE!



Well congratulations, you have successfully completed the certification program. I proudly award you an M.S. Degree in Presidential B.S.... Oh, by the way. Did I catch you cheating?... You did? TERRIFIC, in that case you graduated Magnum Cum Laude!!!