The Russian Constitution

**Part I: As you read the Constitution, *paraphrase* the powers listed below.**

[**http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/russian/const/constit.html**](http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/russian/const/constit.html)

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| **Fundamentals of the Constitutional System, Chapter 1** | What type of system does the Constitution set up? What similarities do you see between this system and the United States?  Referendum –  Local government (Article12) – |
| **Rights and Liberties of Man and Citizen**  **Chapter 2** | What rights does the Constitution give to Russian citizens? (list 3-5) |
| **The Russian Federation**  **Chapter 3** | Summarize the objectives of this part of the Constitution |
| **The President of the Russian Federation**  **Chapter 4** | Outline the powers of the Russian President. |
| **The Federal Assembly Chapter 5** | What is the Federal Assembly?  What are the two houses of the Federal Assembly?  How many members are in the Duma?  How long is their term of office?  How are members of the Federation Council selected?  What are the powers of the Duma?  What are the powers of the Federation Council?  What Presidential powers are mentioned? |
| **The Government of the Russian Federation**  **Chapter 6** | How does the “Chairman of the Russian Federation” (Prime Minister) get appointed?  What happens if the Duma rejects the appointment 3 times?  What are the responsibilities of the government of the Russian federation?  What is the relationship between the President and the Chairman (discussed in Article 116 & 117)? |
| **The Judiciary**  Chapter 7 | How long do judges serve?  How are judges appointed?  What is their role/responsibility?  What is the role of the Supreme Court? |
| **Local Self Government**  Chapter 8 | What are the responsibilities of local government? |
| **Constitutional Amendments and Revisions Chapter 9** | How can the Constitution be amended? |
| **Concluding and transitional provisions** | By what method was the Constitution accepted? |

**Part II: Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think the Russians decided to create such a strong Presidency?

2. What are the benefits for Russia in having a strong Presidency? What is the downside?

3. Is the Prime Minister (“Chairman of the Russian Federation”) as powerful as the Constitution states? Why or why not?

4. Based on your reading/knowledge of Russia, which parts of the Constitution have not been upheld under Putin?

5. Is this Constitution stronger or weaker than the unwritten Constitutions in the UK? Provide examples to support your answer.