**Bureaucracy Scavenger Hunt**

*Instructions: Use an internet search engine such as Google or Bing to locate the answers to the following questions. Critical Thinking questions should be answers based on your own opinion and research.*

**Department of Homeland Security**

1. What are the responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security?

2. What historical event created the demand for the Department of Homeland Security?

3. What was the budget for the Department of Homeland Security in 2019?

4. What are some of the major agencies that the Department of Homeland Security oversees?

5. *Research*: What recent controversies or scandals has this department been involved in?

6. *Critical Thinking:* Why is this department important to our society?

7. *Critical Thinking*: Why might this department sometimes be wasteful or ineffective? (if you aren’t sure see if you can locate an example)

**Department of Transportation**

8. What are the responsibilities of this department?

9. When and why was this department created?

10. What was the budget for this department in 2019?

11. What are some of the major agencies that this department oversees?

12. *Research*: What recent controversies or scandals has this department been involved in?

13. *Critical Thinking:* Why is this department important to our society?

14. *Critical Thinking*: Why might this department sometimes be wasteful or ineffective? (if you aren’t sure see if you can locate an example)

**Department of Veterans Affairs**

15. What are the responsibilities of this department?

16. When and why was this department created?

17. What was the budget for this department in 2018?

18. What are some of the major agencies that this department oversees?

19. *Research*: What recent controversies or scandals has this department been involved in?

20. *Critical Thinking:* Why is this department important to our society?

21. *Critical Thinking*: Why might this department sometimes be wasteful or ineffective? (if you aren’t sure see if you can locate an example)

**Department of Education**

22. What are the responsibilities of this department?

23. When and why was this department created?

24. What was the budget for this department in 2018?

25. What are some of the major agencies that this department oversees?

26. *Research*: What recent controversies or scandals has this department been involved in?

27. *Critical Thinking:* Why is this department important to our society?

28. *Critical Thinking*: Why might this department sometimes be wasteful or ineffective? (if you aren’t sure see if you can locate an example)

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

29. What are the responsibilities of this agency?

30. When and why was this agency created?

31. What was the budget for this agency in 2018?

32. *Review this link*: <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/basics-regulatory-process> , describe how the EPA creates regulations?

33. *Research*: What recent controversies or scandals has this agency been involved in?

34. *Critical Thinking:* Why is this agency important to our society?

35. *Critical Thinking*: Why might this agency sometimes be wasteful or ineffective? (if you aren’t sure see if you can locate an example)

36. *Critical Thinking*: Why is this agency generally unpopular in states like Kentucky?

**Federal Election Commission (FEC)**

37. What are the responsibilities of this commission?

38. When and why was this commission created?

39. What was the budget for this commission in 2018?

40. *Review:* What was the effect of the *Citizens United v. FEC* case?

41. *Research*: What recent controversies or scandals has this commission been involved in?

42. *Critical Thinking:* Why is this commission important to our society?

43. *Critical Thinking*: Why might this commission sometimes be wasteful or ineffective? (if you aren’t sure see if you can locate an example)

**Centers for Disease Control**

44. What are the responsibilities of this agency?

45. When and why was this agency created?

46. What was the budget for this agency in 2019?

47. *Review:* Where is the CDC’s headquarters? How does this differ from most government agencies?

48. *Research*: What recent controversies or scandals has this agnency been involved in?

49. *Critical Thinking:* Why is this agency important to our society?

50. *Critical Thinking*: Why might this agency sometimes be wasteful or ineffective? (if you aren’t sure see if you can locate an example)

**Bureaucratic Accountability**

51. What is the “deep state?”

52. What has President Trump accused the “deep state” of doing to him and his administration?

53. *Critical Thinking*: In what ways can the President influence the action of the federal bureaucracy?

54. *Critical Thinking*: In what ways can federal bureaucrats interfere with the ability of the President and Congress to run the federal government?

55. What is an “iron triangle?”

56. Why are “iron triangles” often criticized?

57. How can the Supreme Court check the power of the bureaucracy?

58. Approximately how many employees work for the federal government today?

59. *Research*: How does the pay of federal employees compare to the pay for similar employees in the private sector?

60. *Critical Thinking*: Why do you think many Americans believe that the federal bureaucracy is generally ineffective? Do you believe their assessment is correct?