

□ Review Questions

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Under America's first constitution, the Articles of Confederation,
 - a. the national government dominated state governments.
 - b. the executive branch had more power than Congress.
 - c. Congress was a unicameral body.
 - d. states were represented in Congress proportionally according to population.
 - e. reflected the Founding Fathers' belief that a national standing army was necessary.

2. Which of the following founders was the "principal architect" of the Constitution?
 - a. Edmund Randolph
 - b. George Washington
 - c. Thomas Jefferson
 - d. Alexander Hamilton
 - e. James Madison

3. The Three-Fifths Compromise at the Constitutional Convention
 - a. allowed cloture to be invoked, ending a filibuster in the Senate, with the support of 60 senators.
 - b. prescribed the proportion of states required to ratify a constitutional amendment.
 - c. provided a formula by which slaves would be counted for apportioning the House of Representatives.
 - d. established the percentage of votes necessary for electors to be chosen under the original provisions of the Electoral College system.
 - e. established the percentage of members of the House required to pass a bill raising revenue.

4. Any law passed by a legislature that punishes an individual without a trial, under the Constitution, violates the constitutional concept of
 - a. a bill of attainder.
 - b. an ex post facto law.
 - c. double jeopardy.
 - d. eminent domain.
 - e. habeas corpus.

5. The idea of limiting the role of government to protecting "life, liberty, and property" is generally attributed to
 - a. Karl Marx.
 - b. Thomas Jefferson.
 - c. Thomas Hobbes.
 - d. John Locke.
 - e. Alexander Hamilton.

6. Granting supremacy to the national government was done in part to
- protect the rights of minorities.
 - promote the economic interests of those at the Constitutional Convention.
 - prevent the people from instituting the ideas of John Locke.
 - protect debtors from abusive creditors.
 - ensure that the United States would remain a nation of small farmers.
7. The Founding Fathers designed a system of checks and balances for the national government. Which of the following best illustrates that concept?
- Congress overrides a president's veto.
 - The Supreme Court declares a law unconstitutional.
 - The president issues an executive order reducing the size of the bureaucracy.
 - The House and Senate cannot agree on a Conference Committee report.
- I and II
 - II and III
 - III and IV
 - II and IV
 - I and IV
8. A law goes into effect declaring that a business practice that has been legal in the past will be illegal in the future, and the law is made retroactive. Why would the Supreme Court likely rule the new law unconstitutional?
- It would constitute a bill of attainder.
 - It would violate double jeopardy.
 - It would bypass grand jury indictment.
 - It would violate the concept of eminent domain.
 - It would be an ex post facto law.
9. Which plan proposed at the Constitutional Convention called for a bicameral legislature with one chamber having members from states calculated proportionally based upon population and the other having two members per state?
- Connecticut Compromise
 - Virginia Plan
 - Annapolis Convention Plan
 - Philadelphia Plan
 - New Jersey Plan
10. The case of *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) established which principle?
- the supremacy clause
 - judicial review
 - natural rights of citizens
 - the writ of habeas corpus rule
 - the separation of powers

11. A state must honor the public acts and records of any other state under the
 - a. full faith and credit clause.
 - b. supremacy clause.
 - c. elastic clause.
 - d. commerce clause.
 - e. extradition clause.

12. Which of the following is an informal way of amending the Constitution?
 - a. passage of an amendment by a simple majority vote in two consecutive sessions of Congress
 - b. a vote of two-thirds of the state legislatures specifically requesting Congress to call a national convention to propose amendments
 - c. passage of an amendment by a vote of two-thirds of the state legislatures without congressional approval
 - d. changes in social and cultural attitudes that lead to substantive changes in how people interpret the Constitution
 - e. passage of an amendment by a vote of two-thirds of Congress

13. The outcome of a conflict between the Constitution and the states is determined by
 - a. the Great Compromise.
 - b. the supremacy clause.
 - c. *Federalist* No. 10.
 - d. judicial review.
 - e. ex post facto laws.

14. The Articles of Confederation failed for all of the following reasons EXCEPT
 - a. The national government lacked the power to tax.
 - b. The national government lacked the ability to regulate trade.
 - c. There was no national judiciary.
 - d. The central government was too weak.
 - e. There was no provision to amend the Articles.

15. Which of the following was stipulated in Article III of the Constitution?
 - a. creation of the Supreme Court
 - b. executive powers
 - c. powers of Congress
 - d. full faith and credit clause
 - e. the separation of powers

16. The significance of Shays' Rebellion was:
 - a. It demonstrated that the Articles of Confederation was weak and unable to adequately respond to a crisis.
 - b. It exposed the flaws in the Constitution.
 - c. It demonstrated the superiority of the national standing army.
 - d. It demonstrated the effectiveness of the national court system.
 - e. It increased the power of the president.

17. The original Constitution provided that U.S. senators were to be elected by
 - a. the Supreme Court.
 - b. direct vote of the people.
 - c. the House of Representatives.
 - d. the President.
 - e. state legislatures.

18. The issue of representation in Congress was dealt with by
 - a. the Slave Trade Compromise.
 - b. the Voter Registration Compromise.
 - c. the Commerce Compromise.
 - d. the Great or Connecticut Compromise.
 - e. the Executive Compromise.

19. Individuals who supported the new Constitution were known as
 - a. Anti-Federalists.
 - b. States' Righters.
 - c. Federalists.
 - d. Philosophes.
 - e. Confederates.

20. The series of essays which encouraged the ratification of the Constitution was known as
 - a. *Common Sense*.
 - b. *The Spirit of the Laws*.
 - c. *The Social Contract*.
 - d. *The Federalist*.
 - e. *The Second Treatise of Civil Government*.

Free-Response Questions

1. The Constitution has had 17 formal amendments since the adoption of the Bill of Rights, yet there are basic elements that have changed because of informal processes as well.
 - a. Describe the most common process of formally amending the Constitution.
 - b. Identify one formal amendment and describe how it has changed the meaning of the Constitution.
 - c. Identify one informal change in the Constitution, and describe how it has changed the meaning of the Constitution even without formal amendment.

2. When James Madison proposed a new constitution, he tried to balance the need for "proper energy" in government with a clear limitation on government power as well.
 - a. Identify two features Madison proposed for keeping any branch of government from becoming too powerful.

- b. Explain how each feature identified in (a) balances the need for strong government with a need for limited government.
- c. Identify one feature Madison proposed for dividing powers between national and state governments.
- d. Explain how this feature balanced the need for a strong central government while assuring the states of adequate power.

□ Answers and Explanations

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Under America's first constitution, the Articles of Confederation,
 - (a) is incorrect because the state governments retained virtually all the power under the Articles of Confederation.
 - (b) is incorrect because there was no executive branch under the Articles of Confederation.
 - (c) is correct because the Articles of Confederation had a unicameral legislature.**
 - (d) is incorrect because the states were equally represented under the Articles of Confederation.
 - (e) is incorrect because there was no standing army under the Articles of Confederation.

Page reference: 40–43, AP Topic: The Constitutional underpinnings of the United States government
2. Which of the following founders was the “principal architect” of the Constitution?
 - (a) is incorrect because Edmund Randolph's role was far more limited than James Madison's.
 - (b) is incorrect because George Washington's impact on the document was far more limited than James Madison's.
 - (c) is incorrect because Thomas Jefferson was not at the Constitutional Convention.
 - (d) is incorrect because Alexander Hamilton's role was far more limited than James Madison's.
 - (e) is correct because James Madison provided the intellectual impetus for the Constitution, arriving at the convention with the Virginia Plan and as a result, in terms of his impact on the Constitution, Madison was known as “the Father of the Constitution.”**