

2

The Constitution

▣ Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Why is burning the flag is generally permissible?
 - a. It is considered free speech.
 - b. It is a symbol of the United States that Congress has the right to protect.
 - c. It is a form of due process that is explicitly protected by the Bill of Rights.
 - d. Because it is a commercial act, the government cannot regulate it.

Answer: a

Topic: Politics in Action: Amending the Constitution

Learning Objective: None

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

2. Why did the British government impose taxes on the colonies?
 - a. to punish the colonies for the French and Indian War
 - b. to help pay the cost of defending the colonies
 - c. to support the king's lavish lifestyle
 - d. to support a system of free and efficient public education

Answer: b

Topic: The Road to Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.1 Describe the ideas behind the American Revolution and their role in shaping the Constitution.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

3. The colonists rebelled against the imposition by the British government of _____.
- a. taxes
 - b. a military draft
 - c. curfews
 - d. religious laws
- Answer: a
Topic: The Road to Revolution
Learning Objective: 2.1 Describe the ideas behind the American Revolution and their role in shaping the Constitution.
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
4. Which of the following urged the colonies to become independent from Britain?
- a. *Common Sense*
 - b. *Leviathan*
 - c. Federalist 10
 - d. flag burning
- Answer: a
Topic: Declaring Independence
Learning Objective: 2.1 Describe the ideas behind the American Revolution and their role in shaping the Constitution.
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
5. Which of the following issued the Declaration of Independence?
- a. the Common Sense Committee
 - b. the Continental Congress
 - c. the Committees of Correspondence
 - d. the Constitutional Convention
- Answer: b
Topic: Declaring Independence
Learning Objective: 2.1 Describe the ideas behind the American Revolution and their role in shaping the Constitution.
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

6. What is the name given to the rights that are inherent in all human beings and not dependent on government?
- a. natural rights
 - b. positive rights
 - c. intrinsic laws
 - d. constitutional law

Answer: a

Topic: The English Heritage: The Power of Ideas

Learning Objective: 2.1 Describe the ideas behind the American Revolution and their role in shaping the Constitution.

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

7. Which of the following is a natural right that is specifically mentioned in the Declaration of Independence?
- a. liberty
 - b. social equality
 - c. tyranny
 - d. universal suffrage

Answer: a

Topic: The English Heritage: The Power of Ideas

Learning Objective: 2.1 Describe the ideas behind the American Revolution and their role in shaping the Constitution.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

8. According to John Locke, what was the most important purpose of government?
- a. the education of the people
 - b. the protection of private property
 - c. the advancement of arts and literature
 - d. economic and social equality

Answer: b

Topic: The English Heritage: The Power of Ideas

Learning Objective: 2.1 Describe the ideas behind the American Revolution and their role in shaping the Constitution.

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

9. Which of the following is a statement from the Constitution that was directly influenced by John Locke's writings?
- a. "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed"
 - b. "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union"
 - c. "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Power"
 - d. "If men were angels, no government would be necessary."

Answer: a

Topic: The American Creed

Learning Objective: 2.1 Describe the ideas behind the American Revolution and their role in shaping the Constitution.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

10. Which of the following most directly increases the legitimacy of the U.S. government?
- a. the right to bear arms
 - b. the divine right
 - c. consent of the governed
 - d. executive privilege

Answer: c

Topic: The American Creed

Learning Objective: 2.1 Describe the ideas behind the American Revolution and their role in shaping the Constitution.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

11. In what way was the American Revolution conservative?
- a. There were few casualties on either side during the Revolution.
 - b. The colonists did not seek a great social, political, or economic upheaval.
 - c. The Revolution created enduring class conflicts.
 - d. The colonists fought for a whole new set of rights.

Answer: b

Topic: The "Conservative" Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.1 Describe the ideas behind the American Revolution and their role in shaping the Constitution.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

12. What type of legislature did the United States have under the Articles of Confederation?
- a. a single chamber with membership based on a state's population
 - b. a single chamber with each state receiving equal power
 - c. a single chamber whose members were appointed by the president
 - d. two chambers with membership based on a state's population in one and each state receiving equal power in the other

Answer: b

Topic: The Articles of Confederation

Learning Objective: 2.2 Analyze how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to its failure.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

13. Which of the following was a problem under the Articles of Confederation?
- a. The national government was too strong compared to the states.
 - b. Amendments were too easy to ratify.
 - c. Congress imposed excessive taxes.
 - d. Congress lacked the authority to regulate commerce.

Answer: d

Topic: The Articles of Confederation

Learning Objective: 2.2 Analyze how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to its failure.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

14. The Articles of Confederation required _____ consent from the states for ratification.
- a. plurality
 - b. majority
 - c. two-thirds
 - d. unanimous

Answer: d

Topic: The Articles of Confederation

Learning Objective: 2.2 Analyze how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to its failure.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

15. _____ was a protest by Massachusetts farmers to stop foreclosures by state courts.

- a. The Whiskey Rebellion
- b. The Boston Tea Party
- c. The aborted Annapolis meeting
- d. Shays's Rebellion

Answer: d

Topic: Economic Turmoil

Learning Objective: 2.2 Analyze how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to its failure.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

16. How did the Constitution differ from the Articles of Confederation?

- a. The Constitution was based on democratic principles; the Articles of Confederation was based on tyrannical principles.
- b. The Constitution contained strong protections for individual rights; the Articles of Confederation contained strong protections for collective rights.
- c. The Constitution created a stronger national government than did the Articles of Confederation.
- d. The Constitution contained stronger safeguards for states' rights than did the Articles of Confederation.

Answer: c

Topic: The Articles of Confederation; Writing a Constitution: The Philadelphia Convention

Learning Objective: 2.2 Analyze how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to its failure.; 2.3 Describe the delegates to the Constitutional Convention and the core ideas they shared.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

17. The U.S. Constitution was adopted in response to the weaknesses of which document?

- a. *The Second Treatise of Civil Government*
- b. *Common Sense*
- c. the Declaration of Independence
- d. the Articles of Confederation

Answer: d

Topic: Writing a Constitution: The Philadelphia Convention

Learning Objective: 2.3 Describe the delegates to the Constitutional Convention and the core ideas they shared.

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

18. Which of the following accurately describes the Constitutional Convention?
- a. The delegates spent most of their time trying to figure out how to revise the Articles of Confederation.
 - b. Many of the delegates were economic elites.
 - c. The Convention was free of significant disagreement.
 - d. The Convention included representatives of the British government.

Answer: b

Topic: Gentlemen in Philadelphia

Learning Objective: 2.3 Describe the delegates to the Constitutional Convention and the core ideas they shared.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

19. The authors of the Constitution viewed humans as naturally _____.
- a. compassionate
 - b. empathetic
 - c. self-interested
 - d. communal

Answer: c

Topic: Philosophy into Action

Learning Objective: 2.3 Describe the delegates to the Constitutional Convention and the core ideas they shared.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

20. According to James Madison in Federalist 10, what is the most common source of political conflict? Or, in his words, what is the “most common and durable source of factions”?
- a. dissatisfaction with government policies
 - b. excessive taxation
 - c. family discord
 - d. the unequal distribution of wealth

Answer: d

Topic: Philosophy into Action

Learning Objective: 2.3 Describe the delegates to the Constitutional Convention and the core ideas they shared.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

21. Which of the following is a reason for the separation of powers?
- a. to ensure the power of the executive
 - b. to promote the general welfare
 - c. to prevent tyranny by any one branch
 - d. to prevent gridlock in government

Answer: c

Topic: Philosophy into Action

Learning Objective: 2.3 Describe the delegates to the Constitutional Convention and the core ideas they shared.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

22. Which of the following was part of both the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution?
- a. a congress
 - b. the presidency
 - c. the federal judiciary
 - d. federal taxes

Answer: a

Topic: The Articles of Confederation; The Equality Issues

Learning Objective: 2.2 Analyze how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to its failure; 2.4 Categorize the issues at the Constitutional Convention and outline the resolutions reached on each type of issue.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

23. What was the subject of the New Jersey Plan?
- a. the legality of slavery
 - b. the structure of the legislative branch
 - d. the number of Supreme Court justices
 - e. the structure of the executive branch

Answer: b

Topic: The Equality Issues

Learning Objective: 2.4 Categorize the issues at the Constitutional Convention and outline the resolutions reached on each type of issue.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

24. During the Constitutional Convention, how did Virginia and other large states want representation in Congress to be determined?
- a. equal representation for each state
 - b. according to the amount of taxes paid to the national government
 - c. according to population
 - d. according to the number of troops contributed to the national army

Answer: c

Topic: The Equality Issues

Learning Objective: 2.4 Categorize the issues at the Constitutional Convention and outline the resolutions reached on each type of issue.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

25. What did the Connecticut Compromise help to establish?
- a. the Senate and the House of Representatives
 - b. the federalist system
 - c. an independent judiciary
 - d. universal male suffrage

Answer: a

Topic: The Equality Issues

Learning Objective: 2.4 Categorize the issues at the Constitutional Convention and outline the resolutions reached on each type of issue.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

26. In most cases, the president is officially selected by _____.
- a. Congress
 - b. state legislatures
 - c. the Electoral College
 - d. direct popular election

Answer: c

Topic: The Equality Issues

Learning Objective: 2.4 Categorize the issues at the Constitutional Convention and outline the resolutions reached on each type of issue.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

27. The Constitution limits the government's ability to suspend writs of habeas corpus. What does this protect individuals against?
- free speech infringement
 - taxation of private property
 - unlawful detention
 - infringement of religious freedom
- Answer: c
Topic: The Individual Rights Issues
Learning Objective: 2.4 Categorize the issues at the Constitutional Convention and outline the resolutions reached on each type of issue.
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
28. The Constitution prohibits imposing _____ qualifications for holding national office.
- residency
 - age
 - religious
 - citizenship
- Answer: c
Topic: The Individual Rights Issues
Learning Objective: 2.4 Categorize the issues at the Constitutional Convention and outline the resolutions reached on each type of issue.
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
29. What was Madison's concern regarding tyranny of the majority?
- Tyrants can use brute force to yield desirable policy outcomes despite the wishes of the majority.
 - The poorly educated majority could elect the wrong sort of president and Congress.
 - Elites could operate tyrannically at great expense to the electoral process.
 - A majority of the public could infringe on the rights of a minority.
- Answer: d
Topic: Thwarting the Tyranny of the Majority
Learning Objective: 2.5 Analyze how the components of the Madisonian system addressed the dilemma of reconciling majority rule with the protection of minority interests.
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

30. What is the feature of the Constitution that allows each branch of government to limit the power of the other branches?
- a. weights and measures
 - b. checks and balances
 - c. oversight and influence
 - d. privileges and immunities
- Answer: b
Topic: Thwarting the Tyranny of the Majority
Learning Objective: 2.5 Analyze how the components of the Madisonian system addressed the dilemma of reconciling majority rule with the protection of minority interests.
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
31. Which branch of government is responsible for passing laws?
- a. bureaucratic
 - b. judicial
 - c. executive
 - d. legislative
- Answer: d
Topic: Thwarting the Tyranny of the Majority
Learning Objective: 2.5 Analyze how the components of the Madisonian system addressed the dilemma of reconciling majority rule with the protection of minority interests.
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
32. Which of the following is a form of government in which the people select representatives to govern them and make laws?
- a. republic
 - b. monarchy
 - c. theocracy
 - d. oligarchy
- Answer: a
Topic: The Constitutional Republic
Learning Objective: 2.5 Analyze how the components of the Madisonian system addressed the dilemma of reconciling majority rule with the protection of minority interests.
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

33. Which of the following was written to encourage ratification of the Constitution and remains a compelling source for determining the intent of the Framers?
- the Declaration of Independence
 - the *Federalist Papers*
 - Common Sense*
 - Two Treatises on Government*
- Answer: b
Topic: Ratifying the Constitution
Learning Objective: 2.6 Compare and contrast the Federalists and Anti-Federalists in terms of their background and their positions regarding government.
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
34. Which of the following documents did the Federalists support?
- Marbury v. Madison*
 - the Constitution
 - the Articles of Confederation
 - the writ of habeas corpus
- Answer: b
Topic: Federalists and Anti-Federalists
Learning Objective: 2.6 Compare and contrast the Federalists and Anti-Federalists in terms of their background and their positions regarding government.
Difficulty Level: Difficult
Skill Level: Analyze It
35. Who was most in favor of a strong state government and a weak national government?
- Daniel Shays
 - Gregory Johnson
 - Federalists
 - Anti-Federalists
- Answer: d
Topic: Federalists and Anti-Federalists
Learning Objective: 2.6 Compare and contrast the Federalists and Anti-Federalists in terms of their background and their positions regarding government.
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

36. What was the biggest concern about the newly drafted Constitution during the debates over ratification?
- a. that the Constitution should have required unanimous approval from the states for ratification
 - b. that the Constitution did not sufficiently protect individual liberties
 - c. that the proposed national government would be not be strong enough to protect the new nation
 - d. that the states in present-day Canada were not included in the new nation

Answer: b

Topic: Federalists and Anti-Federalists

Learning Objective: 2.6 Compare and contrast the Federalists and Anti-Federalists in terms of their background and their positions regarding government.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

37. Which of the following most directly protects individuals' civil liberties?
- a. *The Second Treatise of Civil Government*
 - b. the *Federalist Papers*
 - c. the Bill of Rights
 - d. the Declaration of Independence

Answer: c

Topic: Federalists and Anti-Federalists

Learning Objective: 2.6 Compare and contrast the Federalists and Anti-Federalists in terms of their background and their positions regarding government.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

38. Which of the following is included in the Bill of Rights?
- a. direct election of the president and Congress
 - b. freedom from want
 - c. "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."
 - d. protection of defendants' rights

Answer: d

Topic: Federalists and Anti-Federalists

Learning Objective: 2.6 Compare and contrast the Federalists and Anti-Federalists in terms of their background and their positions regarding government.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

39. Which of the following were most likely to oppose the proposed Constitution?
- lawyers
 - merchants
 - small farmers
 - large landowners
- Answer: c
Topic: Federalists and Anti-Federalists
Learning Objective: 2.6 Compare and contrast the Federalists and Anti-Federalists in terms of their background and their positions regarding government.
Difficulty Level: Difficult
Skill Level: Analyze It
40. Which of the following is a procedure for amending the Constitution?
- proposed by three-fourths vote in each house of Congress and ratified by two-thirds vote in each house during the next session of Congress
 - proposed by the president and ratified by a two-thirds vote in each house of Congress
 - proposed by a two-thirds vote in each house of Congress and ratified by conventions in three-fourths of the states
 - proposed by a national constitutional convention called by a two-thirds majority of states and ratified by a three-fourths vote in each house of Congress
- Answer: c
Topic: The Formal Amending Process
Learning Objective: 2.7 Explain how the Constitution can be formally amended and how it changes informally.
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
41. Which of the following is a method for proposing constitutional amendments?
- by a majority of voting-age citizens
 - by a majority of state governors
 - by a two-thirds vote in each house of Congress
 - by a two-thirds vote in a special election called for the purpose of voting on the amendment
- Answer: c
Topic: The Formal Amending Process
Learning Objective: 2.7 Explain how the Constitution can be formally amended and how it changes informally.
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

42. The meaning of the Constitution can change through _____.
- a. judicial interpretation
 - b. national referendum
 - c. congressional inaction
 - d. natural law

Answer: a

Topic: The Informal Processes of Constitutional Change

Learning Objective: 2.7 Explain how the Constitution can be formally amended and how it changes informally.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

43. Which of the following resulted from changing political practice rather than from a formal constitutional amendment or judicial interpretation?
- a. the Equal Rights Amendment
 - b. the two-party system
 - c. the Bill of Rights
 - d. the constitutionally protected right to an abortion

Answer: b

Topic: The Informal Processes of Constitutional Change

Learning Objective: 2.7 Explain how the Constitution can be formally amended and how it changes informally.

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

44. How many amendments have been made to the Constitution since its ratification?
- a. 10
 - b. 27
 - c. 436
 - d. 2,876

Answer: b

Topic: The Importance of Flexibility

Learning Objective: 2.7 Explain how the Constitution can be formally amended and how it changes informally.

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

45. How is voter eligibility determined?
- a. by Congress
 - b. by states
 - c. by counties
 - d. through the constitutional provision for universal suffrage.

Answer: b

Topic: The Constitution and Democracy

Learning Objective: 2.8 Assess whether the Constitution establishes a majoritarian democracy and how it limits the scope of government.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts