

Chapter 2: Early Governance and the Constitutional Framework

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. What term best describes the form of government currently found in Russia?

- a. constitutional monarchy
- b. democracy
- c. dictatorship
- d. oligarchy

Answer: d

Topic: Types of Governments

Learning Objective: 2.2 Differentiate between different types of governments.

Skill: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

2. In which of the following systems is government by representatives of the people instead of directly by the people themselves?

- a. republic
- b. monarchy
- c. democracy
- d. oligarchy

Answer: a

Topic: Types of Governments

Learning Objective: 2.2 Differentiate between different types of governments.

Skill: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

3. James Madison was the author of many of the essays known as _____.

- a. *Common Sense*
- b. *Two Treatises of Government*
- c. *The New Jersey Plan*
- d. *The Federalist Papers*

Answer: d

Topic: The Struggle Over Ratification

Learning Objective: 2.8 Analyze how the ratification debate structured the nature of our democracy.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

4. In _____, kings and queens head the government, but their role is largely ceremonial.

- a. monarchies
- b. democracies
- c. constitutional monarchies
- d. oligarchies

Answer: c

Topic: Types of Governments

Learning Objective: 2.2 Differentiate between different types of governments.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

5. Denmark and Japan represent a form of government called _____.

- a. a republic
- b. a constitutional monarchy
- c. a democracy
- d. an oligarchy

Answer: b

Topic: Types of Governments

Learning Objective: 2.2 Differentiate between different types of governments.

Skill: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

6. In _____ regimes, leaders have no real limits on how they proceed or what they do.

- a. republic
- b. totalitarian
- c. democratic
- d. oligarchic

Answer: b

Topic: Types of Governments

Learning Objective: 2.2 Differentiate between different types of governments.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

7. In _____, government policies are kept in check by informal limits, the military, and social institutions. Leaders face real limits, but they are not imposed through formal political or legal processes.

- a. a republic
- b. a monarchy
- c. an oligarchy
- d. an authoritarian regime

Answer: d

Topic: Types of Governments

Learning Objective: 2.2 Differentiate between different types of governments.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

8. Which Compact set up the laws for the new settlement at Plymouth, Massachusetts?

- a. Mayflower
- b. Massachusetts
- c. Pilgrim's
- d. Plymouth

Answer: a

Topic: Early Governance in America

Learning Objective: 2.3 Describe how forces in Colonial America helped set the stage for the American Revolution.

Skill: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

9. What did the Great Squeeze represent?

- a. Britain's attempt to mitigate the influence of Indians on colonists.
- b. Britain's attempt to financially bankrupt French business interests.
- c. Britain's attempt to colonize around France and squeeze them out.
- d. Britain's attempt to pay for the French and Indian War.

Answer: d

Topic: Early Governance in America

Learning Objective: 2.3 Describe how forces in Colonial America helped set the stage for the American Revolution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

10. Which of the following best reflects the thought of Thomas Hobbes?

- a. The state of nature is utopia, and government should be limited.
- b. The state of nature is harsh, and government should be liberal.
- c. The state of nature is harsh, and government should rule autocratically.
- d. The state of nature is unknowable, and government should rule democratically.

Answer: c

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

11. What was supported by the outcome of the trial of Peter Zenger?

- a. the right to property
- b. the right to a trial by jury
- c. the right to bear arms
- d. freedom of the press

Answer: d

Topic: Early Governance in America

Learning Objective: 2.3 Describe how forces in Colonial America helped set the stage for the American Revolution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

12. During the Great _____, Parliament passed a number of taxes on the colonies.

- a. Push
- b. Crush
- c. Squeeze
- d. Grip

Answer: c

Topic: Early Governance in America

Learning Objective: 2.3 Describe how forces in Colonial America helped set the stage for the American Revolution.

Skill: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

13. Before laws, humans lived in _____.

- a. a state of universal law
- b. a state of nature
- c. traditional states
- d. constitutional states

Answer: b

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

14. The colonists rebelled against the unilateral imposition by the British government of which of the following?

- a. taxes
- b. a military draft
- d. religious laws
- e. health care

Answer: a

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

15. Who was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence?

- a. James Madison
- b. Benjamin Franklin
- c. Thomas Jefferson
- d. John Adams

Answer: c

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

16. Which of the following debated and drafted the Declaration of Independence?

- a. Constitutional Congress
- b. Continental Congress
- c. Revolutionary Congress
- d. Liberty Congress

Answer: b

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

17. Which of the following philosophers greatly influenced the colonists' views on the role of government?

- a. John Dewey
- b. John Locke
- c. Martin Heidegger
- d. Michael Foucault

Answer: b

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

18. _____ argued that all legitimate governing authority is based on the consent of the governed and that all individuals have "natural rights."

- a. Burke
- b. Hobbes
- c. Locke
- d. Zenger

Answer: c

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

19. Many of the founders believed that the _____ contract gave the government its legitimacy.

- a. implied
- b. social
- c. consent
- d. natural

Answer: b

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

20. Which of the following persuaded many of the importance of American independence from Britain?

- a. The Articles of Confederation
- b. *Common Sense*
- c. *The Federalist Papers*
- d. The Mayflower Compact

Answer: b

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

21. What document states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

- a. the Articles of Confederation
- b. the Mayflower Compact
- c. the Magna Carta
- d. the Declaration of Independence

Answer: d

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

22. Social contract theory states that _____.

- a. individual freedom requires a written contract with the government
- b. individuals must give up certain rights in return for certain protections
- c. individual freedom is preeminent above all else
- d. individuals have no freedom without the consent of the government

Answer: b

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

23. Who was pivotal in obtaining French support for America's revolution?

- a. John Adams
- b. Benjamin Franklin
- c. John Jay
- d. George Washington

Answer: b

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

24. What was the underlying cause for the starvation and deplorable conditions during the Continental Army's famed winter encampment at Valley Forge in 1777–1778?

- a. a deplorable growing season that year
- b. a poorly selected location
- c. local farmers selling their produce to the British army
- d. British naval blockade of French supply ships

Answer: c

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

25. The colonists' name for the _____ Acts of 1774 was "Intolerable Acts."

- a. Stamp

- b. Tea
- c. Coercive
- d. Commerce

Answer: c

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

26. Which theory holds that individuals give up certain rights in return for receiving certain protections from the state?

- a. natural law
- b. social contract
- c. revolutionary
- d. natural rights

Answer: b

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

27. Which of the following is one of the three major events that helped turn a faltering revolt into the successful American Revolution?

- a. the support of the Spanish government
- b. Native Americans participating as soldiers
- c. the support of the French government
- d. Thomas Jefferson's "Crisis" Papers

Answer: c

Topic: The American Revolution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Identify the core principles of the American Revolution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

28. Which of the following inspired the Constitutional Convention in 1787?

- a. George Washington refused to serve as president, wanting instead to be crowned as king.
- b. England would not fully surrender until the colonists had a government in place.
- c. The Articles of Confederation provided no mechanism for levying taxes in order to pay the costs of the war.
- d. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson continued to argue about slavery in the new nation.

Answer: c

Topic: The Articles of Confederation

Learning Objective: 2.5 Determine the reasons for the failure of the Articles of Confederation.

Skill: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult

29. The U.S. Constitution was adopted in response to the weaknesses of the Articles of _____.

- a. Confederation
- b. Revolution
- c. America
- d. Democracy

Answer: a

Topic: The Articles of Confederation

Learning Objective: 2.5 Determine the reasons for the failure of the Articles of Confederation.

Skill: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

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

- a. Brown's
- b. Smith's
- c. Miller's
- d. Shays's

Answer: d

Topic: The Articles of Confederation

Learning Objective: 2.5 Determine the reasons for the failure of the Articles of Confederation.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

31. Under the Articles of Confederation, what could Congress do?

- a. collect money from states for services
- b. collect taxes from citizens
- c. request money from states
- d. prohibit states from conducting foreign affairs

Answer: c

Topic: The Articles of Confederation

Learning Objective: 2.5 Determine the reasons for the failure of the Articles of Confederation.

Skill: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

32. Which of the following was a problem under the Articles of Confederation?

- a. The national government was too strong compared to the states.
- b. The government derived its power from the citizens themselves.

- c. Congress imposed excessive taxes.
- d. Citizens identified with their states more than with the confederation.

Answer: d

Topic: The Articles of Confederation

Learning Objective: 2.5 Determine the reasons for the failure of the Articles of Confederation.

Skill: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

33. At the Constitutional Convention, the delegates agreed that slaves would be counted as _____ of a person for determining population for representation in the House of Representatives.

- a. four-fifths
- b. three-fifths
- c. two-thirds
- d. one-third

Answer: b

Topic: The Constitutional Convention

Learning Objective: 2.6 Assess how compromises at the Constitutional Convention shaped our political system.

Skill: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

34. Which of the following plans proposed proportional representation in both the House of Representatives and the Senate?

- a. Ohio Plan
- b. Virginia Plan
- c. New Jersey Plan
- d. Massachusetts Plan

Answer: b

Topic: The Constitutional Convention

Learning Objective: 2.6 Assess how compromises at the Constitutional Convention shaped our political system.

Skill: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

35. What was the subject of the Great Compromise?

- a. the legality of slavery
- b. the form of the legislative branch
- c. the number of states in the Union
- d. the form of the executive branch

Answer: b

Topic: The Constitutional Convention

Learning Objective: 2.6 Assess how compromises at the Constitutional Convention shaped our political system.

Skill: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

36. Which of the following best describes the Constitutional Convention?

- a. The Convention was transparent.
- b. The Convention was secretive.
- c. The Convention was free of significant disagreement.
- d. The Convention was inclusive of all types of citizens.

Answer: b

Topic: The Constitutional Convention

Learning Objective: 2.6 Assess how compromises at the Constitutional Convention shaped our political system.

Skill: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

37. What did supporters of the New Jersey Plan want to do to the Articles of Confederation?

- a. repeal them
- b. replace them
- c. strengthen them
- d. not change them

Answer: c

Topic: The Constitutional Convention

Learning Objective: 2.6 Assess how compromises at the Constitutional Convention shaped our political system.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

38. What was a key underlying cause of Shay's Rebellion?

- a. Business interests dominated the state legislature to the detriment of farmers.
- b. Farmers were allowed to use "soft money" to pay off debts.
- c. Farmers were allowed to pay off debts with agricultural goods.
- d. Innovative "stay laws" were used to resolve crises.

Answer: a

Topic: The Articles of Confederation

Learning Objective: 2.5 Determine the reasons for the failure of the Articles of Confederation.

Skill: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult

39. In drafting the Constitution, which plan was predominantly supported by states with smaller populations?

- a. Connecticut Compromise
- b. Virginia Plan
- c. New Jersey Plan
- d. Ohio Compromise

Answer: c

Topic: The Constitutional Convention

Learning Objective: 2.6 Assess how compromises at the Constitutional Convention shaped our political system.

Skill: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult

40. What critical issue was at stake with the three-fifths compromise?

- a. gender equality
- b. judicial oversight
- c. representation
- d. voting rights

Answer: c

Topic: The Constitutional Convention

Learning Objective: 2.6 Assess how compromises at the Constitutional Convention shaped our political system.

Skill: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult

41. The Constitution has been amended _____ times.

- a. 10
- b. 12
- c. 22
- d. 27

Answer: d

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.7 Identify the core principles of the Constitution.

Skill: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

42. The _____ of powers is a key feature of the government established by the Constitution.

- a. equality
- b. separation
- c. justification
- d. divine rule

Answer: b

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.7 Identify the core principles of the Constitution.

Skill: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

43. Which of the following steps is part of the process for amending the Constitution?

- a. ratification by three-fourths of states' legislatures
- b. approval by three-fourths of both houses of Congress
- c. confirmation by the Supreme Court
- d. an executive order by the president

Answer: a

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.7 Identify the core principles of the Constitution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

44. What is the principle that each branch of the federal government has the means to thwart or influence actions by other branches of government?

- a. weights and measures
- b. checks and balances
- c. balances and powers
- d. checks and freedoms

Answer: b

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.7 Identify the core principles of the Constitution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

45. In the United States, the national government derives its power from which of the following?

- a. God
- b. courts
- c. legislature
- d. citizens

Answer: d

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.7 Identify the core principles of the Constitution.

Skill: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

46. Which of the following is a right secured by the Bill of Rights?

- a. the right to work
- b. the right to bear arms
- c. the right to own property
- d. the right to happiness

Answer: b

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.7 Identify the core principles of the Constitution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

47. Prior to ratification of the Seventeenth Amendment, how were senators selected?

- a. by direct election
- b. by the president
- c. by state governors
- d. by state legislators

Answer: d

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.7 Identify the core principles of the Constitution.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

48. Which of the following is a reason for the separation of powers?

- a. to ensure the power of the executive
- b. to promote justice
- c. to prevent tyranny by any one branch
- d. to create gridlock in government

Answer: c

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.7 Identify the core principles of the Constitution.

Skill: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult

49. Which of the following generally favored a strong national government and supported the proposed U.S. Constitution?

- a. Whigs
- b. Federalists
- c. Anti-Federalists
- d. Constitutionalists

Answer: b

Topic: The Struggle Over Ratification

Learning Objective: 2.8 Analyze how the ratification debate structured the nature of our democracy.

Skill: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

50. Which of the following was most likely to support proposed provisions that strengthened national power?

- a. James Madison
- b. Patrick Henry
- c. George Mason
- d. Samuel Adams

Answer: a

Topic: The Struggle Over Ratification

Learning Objective: 2.8 Analyze how the ratification debate structured the nature of our democracy.

Skill: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

51. Why are *The Federalist Papers* still relevant to legal scholars?

- a. because Thomas Jefferson used them as a basis for the Declaration of Independence
- b. because reference to them is a requirement of judicial procedure
- c. because the documents show how citizens should behave in a pure democracy
- d. because they offer a comprehensive explanation of the Constitution's intentions

Answer: d

Topic: The Struggle Over Ratification

Learning Objective: 2.8 Analyze how the ratification debate structured the nature of our democracy.

Skill: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult

52. Which of the following remains a compelling source for determining the intent of the framers?

- a. minutes of the Constitutional Convention
- b. *The Federalist Papers*
- c. *Common Sense*
- d. Declaration of Independence

Answer: b

Topic: The Struggle Over Ratification

Learning Objective: 2.8 Analyze how the ratification debate structured the nature of our democracy.

Skill: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

53. What was the greatest fear of the Anti-Federalists during the Constitutional Convention and subsequent debate?

- a. that a weak national government would undermine the survival of the United States
- b. that a strong national government would infringe on the essential liberties of the people
- c. that a powerful judiciary would restrict freedom of religion
- d. that powerful state governments would never assent to the new Constitution

Answer: b

Topic: The Struggle Over Ratification

Learning Objective: 2.8 Analyze how the ratification debate structured the nature of our democracy.

Skill: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult

54. How did the inclusion of the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution come about?

- a. As president, George Washington requested that it be included.
- b. It was a concession to the Anti-Federalists in return for ratifying the Constitution.
- c. It was a concession to the Federalists in return for ratifying the Constitution.
- d. Members to the convention added it in deference to Thomas Jefferson, who wrote it.

Answer: b

Topic: The Struggle Over Ratification

Learning Objective: 2.8 Analyze how the ratification debate structured the nature of our democracy.

Skill: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate