

Chapter 2: The Constitution

Multiple-Choice Questions

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

Answer: b

Topic: Writing the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.3 Outline the issues resolved by compromise during the writing of the Constitution.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. In what year was the Declaration of Independence signed?
- a. 1776
 - b. 1787
 - c. 1797
 - d. 1801

Answer: a

Topic: Roots of the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.1 Identify the causes of the American Revolution and the ideals on which the United States and the Constitution are based.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. How many constitutions has the United States had since the end of the Revolutionary War?
- a. one
 - b. two
 - c. three
 - d. four

Answer: b

Topic: Roots of the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.1 Identify the causes of the American Revolution and the ideals on which the United States and the Constitution are based.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Moderate

4. The U.S. Constitution was adopted in response to the weaknesses of which document?
- a. the Federalist Papers
 - b. the Constitution of the United Kingdom
 - c. the Declaration of Independence
 - d. the Articles of Confederation

Answer: d

Topic: An Attempt at a National Government: The Articles of Confederation

Learning Objective: 2.2 Identify the components of the Articles of Confederation and the reasons for their failure.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. The colonists rebelled against the imposition by the British government of which of the following?
- a. taxes
 - b. a military draft
 - c. curfews
 - d. religious laws

Answer: a

Topic: Roots of the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.1 Identify the causes of the American Revolution and the ideals on which the United States and the Constitution are based.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. 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: Roots of the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.1 Identify the causes of the American Revolution and the ideals on which the United States and the Constitution are based.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. Which of the following debated and drafted the Declaration of Independence from 1775 to 1776?
- a. the First Continental Congress
 - b. the Second Continental Congress
 - c. the Committees of Correspondence
 - d. the Constitutional Convention

Answer: b

Topic: Roots of the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.1 Identify the causes of the American Revolution and the ideals on which the United States and the Constitution are based.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

8. Which clause provides that the Constitution shall be the supreme law of the land?
- a. full faith and credit
 - b. supremacy
 - c. primacy
 - d. due process

Answer: b

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4: Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Which of the following people generally favored a stronger national government and supported the proposed U.S. Constitution?
- a. Shaysites
 - b. Federalists
 - c. Anti-Federalists
 - d. Constitutionalists

Answer: b

Topic: Ratifying the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.5 Outline the arguments for and against ratification of the Constitution.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. The Bill of Rights comprises how many amendments?
- a. ten
 - b. thirteen
 - c. twenty
 - d. twenty-seven

Answer: a

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

11. In what year was the U.S. Constitution ratified?

a. 1776

b. 1797

c. 1791

d. 1788

Answer: d

Topic: Ratifying the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.5 Outline the arguments for and against ratification of the Constitution.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

12. Which of the following articles contains constitutional language about the executive branch of government?

a. Article I

b. Article II

c. Article III

d. Article IV

Answer: b

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

13. Which constitutional amendment allowed voting for citizens who were eighteen or older?

a. Nineteenth

b. Twentieth

c. Twenty-Sixth

d. Twenty-Seventh

Answer: c

Topic: Introduction

Learning Objective: None

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. Which of the following philosophers greatly influenced the colonists' views on the role of government?
- a. Daniel Shays
 - b. John Locke
 - c. Karl Marx
 - d. Jean Jacques Rousseau

Answer: b

Topic: Roots of the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.1 Identify the causes of the American Revolution and the ideals on which the United States and the Constitution are based.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

15. Which of the following imposed a tax on paper items such as cards and books?
- a. Crown Act
 - b. Paper Act
 - c. Stamp Act
 - d. Tax Act

Answer: c

Topic: Roots of the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.1 Identify the causes of the American Revolution and the ideals on which the United States and the Constitution are based.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

16. How many of the thirteen colonies voted for independence?
- a. nine
 - b. ten
 - c. twelve
 - d. thirteen

Answer: c

Topic: Roots of the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.1 Identify the causes of the American Revolution and the ideals on which the United States and the Constitution are based.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

17. In what year was the Bill of Rights added to the Constitution?
- a. 1776
 - b. 1782
 - c. 1791

d. 1828

Answer: c

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

18. Article I, section 8 of the Constitution contains the _____ powers.

a. legislative

b. executive

c. judicial

d. states'

Answer: a

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

19. During the Constitutional Convention, which states generally opposed an unelected federal judiciary?

a. small states

b. large states

c. southern states

d. northern states

Answer: a

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

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

a. The Committee of Correspondence

b. *The Federalist Papers*

c. The Declaration of Independence

d. Shays's Rebellion

Answer: d

Topic: An Attempt at a National Government: The Articles of Confederation

Learning Objective: 2.2 Identify the components of the Articles of Confederation and the reasons for their failure.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

21. The Constitution required consent from _____ for ratification.

- a. a majority of the states
- b. nine states
- c. twelve states
- d. all thirteen states

Answer: b

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

22. Many of the Founders believed that government legitimacy is derived from _____, which holds that governments exist based on the consent of the governed.

- a. an implied right
- b. a social contract
- c. a divine right
- d. presidential appointment

Answer: b

Topic: Roots of the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.1 Identify the causes of the American Revolution and the ideals on which the United States and the Constitution are based.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

23. What type of legislature did the United States have under the Articles of Confederation?

- a. unilateral
- b. bilateral
- c. bicameral
- d. unicameral

Answer: d

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

24. Under the Constitution, the president is elected by which of the following?

- a. the Senate
- b. the People's Plebiscite
- c. the Electoral College
- d. direct popular election

Answer: c

Topic: Writing the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.3 Outline the issues resolved by compromise during the writing of the Constitution.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

25. What is the principle that each branch of the federal government has some ability to oversee and influence actions by other branches of government?

- a. weights and measures
- b. checks and balances
- c. action and reaction
- d. privileges and immunities

Answer: b

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

26. The First Continental Congress was called partially in response to which of the following?

- a. concerns about the Articles of Confederation
- b. Shays's Rebellion
- c. the Coercive Acts
- d. the Three-Fifths Compromise

Answer: c

Topic: Roots of the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.1 Identify the causes of the American Revolution and the ideals on which the United States and the Constitution are based.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Level: Difficult

27. The executive branch is in charge of which of the following?

- a. passing federal laws
- b. declaring war
- c. interpreting federal laws
- d. enforcing federal laws

Answer: d

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

28. The “Intolerable Acts” was the colonists’ name for the _____ Acts of 1774.
- a. Stamp
 - b. Tea
 - c. Coercive
 - d. Mercantile

Answer: c

Topic: Roots of the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.1 Identify the causes of the American Revolution and the ideals on which the United States and the Constitution are based.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

29. In the United States, the national government derives its power from which of the following?
- a. states
 - b. courts
 - c. laws
 - d. the people

Answer: d

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

30. Which of the following most directly protects individuals’ civil liberties?
- a. the Magna Carta
 - b. the Articles of Confederation
 - c. the Bill of Rights
 - d. the Declaration of Independence

Answer: c

Topic: Ratifying the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.5 Outline the arguments for and against ratification of the Constitution.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Difficult

31. What was the subject of the Great Compromise?
- a. the legality of slavery
 - b. representation in Congress
 - c. the number of Supreme Court justices
 - d. the form of the executive branch

Answer: b

Topic: Writing the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.3 Outline the issues resolved by compromise during the writing of the Constitution.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

32. _____ was/were most likely to support a strong state government and a weak national government.
- a. James Madison
 - b. John Jay
 - c. The Federalists
 - d. The Anti-Federalists

Answer: d

Topic: Ratifying the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.5 Outline the arguments for and against ratification of the Constitution.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Moderate

33. What does the Ninth Amendment say?
- a. The states have all of the powers not granted to the federal government.
 - b. The people have all of the powers not granted to the federal government
 - c. The Constitution's enumerated rights are not inclusive.
 - d. Those accused of a crime have certain rights designed to prevent the government from abusing individual liberties.

Answer: c

Topic: Ratifying the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.5 Outline the arguments for and against ratification of the Constitution.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

34. 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 specific power to tax.

Answer: d

Topic: An Attempt at a National Government: The Articles of Confederation

Learning Objective: 2.2 Identify the components of the Articles of Confederation and the reasons for their failure.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Moderate

35. What did supporters of the New Jersey Plan want to do to the Articles of Confederation?
- a. repeal them
 - b. strengthen them
 - c. weaken them
 - d. keep them the way they were

Answer: b

Topic: Writing the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.3 Outline the issues resolved by compromise during the writing of the Constitution.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

36. 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 legislatures

Answer: d

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

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

Answer: c

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Level: Difficult

38. 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. a national tax collection agency

Answer: a

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Level: Difficult

39. Which of the following can be found in Article I?
- a. Electoral College
 - b. procedure for presidential impeachment
 - c. necessary and proper clause
 - d. supremacy clause

Answer: c

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

40. Which government entity has the power to settle disputes between the states?
- a. Senate
 - b. House of Representatives
 - c. Department of State
 - d. Supreme Court

Answer: d

Topic: The U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe the framework for government expressed in the Constitution.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

41. Which of the following were most likely to oppose the proposed Constitution?
- a. lawyers
 - b. merchants
 - c. small farmers
 - d. plantation owners

Answer: c

Topic: Ratifying the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.5 Outline the arguments for and against ratification of the Constitution.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Level: Difficult

42. Which of the following can be used to help determine the intent of the Framers?
- a. the Equal Rights Amendment

- b. *The Federalist Papers*
- c. checks and balances
- d. *Full Faith and Credit*

Answer: b

Topic: Ratifying the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.5 Outline the arguments for and against ratification of the Constitution.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Level: Difficult

43. 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 rights of the states
- c. that a powerful judiciary would restrict freedom of religion
- d. that powerful state governments would infringe on individual liberties

Answer: b

Topic: Ratifying the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.5 Outline the arguments for and against ratification of the Constitution.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Level: Difficult

44. Which of the following is a method of ratifying constitutional amendments?

- a. by a majority of voting-age citizens
- b. by a majority of state governors
- c. by three-fourths of the state legislatures
- d. by three-fourths of the state governors

Answer: c

Topic: Toward Reform: Methods of Amending the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.6 Describe the processes by which the Constitution can be amended.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

45. _____ was/were used by colonists to keep each other abreast of developments with the British and helped to ferment public opposition to Britain.

- a. *The Federalist Papers*
- b. The Second Continental Congress
- c. The Committees of Correspondence
- d. *Common Sense*

Answer: c

Topic: Roots of the U.S. Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.1 Identify the causes of the American Revolution and the ideals on which the United States and the Constitution are based.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate