

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. four-fifths
- b. one-fourth
- c. one-third
- d. three-fifths

Answer: d

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe and evaluate the framework for government that the Constitutional Convention created.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

2. Which of the following was the key inspiration for the American Revolution?

- a. to increase trade with Great Britain
- b. to preserve an existing way of life
- c. to promote expansion to the west
- d. to protect fledgling state's rights

Answer: b

Topic: The American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence

Learning Objective: 2.1 Assess the enduring legacies of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Moderate

3. It was the weaknesses of the first constitution, known as the _____, that prompted the call for a constitutional convention by the various states.

- a. Magna Carta
- b. Articles of Confederation
- c. Confederacy of Newly Independent States
- d. Declaration of Independence

Answer: b

Topic: Factors Leading to the Constitutional Convention

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the developments that led to the Constitutional Convention.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

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

- a. a military draft
- b. curfews
- c. religious laws
- d. taxes

Answer: d

Topic: The American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence

Learning Objective: 2.1 Assess the enduring legacies of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

5. The Declaration of Independence was debated and adopted by which of the following institutions?

- a. the U.S. Congress
- b. Constitutional Congress
- c. Continental Congress
- d. Revolutionary Congress

Answer: c

Topic: The American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence

Learning Objective: 2.1 Assess the enduring legacies of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

6. Which clause provides that the Constitution shall have ultimate authority in the United States?

- a. due process
- b. full faith and credit

- c. primacy
- d. supremacy

Answer: d

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

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Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

7. Which of the following plans proposed proportional representation for the U.S. Congress?

- a. New Jersey
- b. Ohio
- c. Pennsylvania
- d. Virginia

Answer: d

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

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Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

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

- a. 1776
- b. 1777
- c. 1788
- d. 1791

Answer: c

Topic: The American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence

Learning Objective: 2.1 Assess the enduring legacies of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

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

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

Answer: d

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

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Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

10. For a democracy to work, elections must be which of the following?

- a. fair
- b. inexpensive
- c. hotly contested
- d. frequent

Answer: a

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Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Moderate

11. The Founders were both politicians and philosophers who were heavily influenced by the work of which of the following great thinkers?

- a. George Berkeley
- b. John Dewey
- c. John Locke
- d. Michael Foucault

Answer: c

Topic: The American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence

Learning Objective: 2.1 Assess the enduring legacies of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

12. Both eighteenth-century republicanism and the democratic ideal believed that government must be based on which of the following?

- a. submission
- b. popular consent
- c. equality
- d. participation

Answer: b

Topic: Factors Leading to the Constitutional Convention

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the developments that led to the Constitutional Convention.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

13. Which Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence?

- a. Second
- b. Third
- c. Fourth
- d. Fifth

Answer: a

Topic: The American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence

Learning Objective: 2.1 Assess the enduring legacies of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

14. The biggest and most hotly contested question in the design of the governing institutions in the U.S. Constitution was _____.

- a. representation in Congress
- b. states' rights and federalism
- c. the military powers of the president
- d. the scope of judicial review under the Supreme Court

Answer: a

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

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Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

15. The stay acts passed by various states prior to the adoption of the U.S. Constitution were seen by some American notables as _____.

- a. a threat to private property by radical state legislatures
- b. an assault against the power of the national government
- c. an attempt to establish an aristocracy similar to that in Great Britain
- d. a test of the ability of the states to force citizens to quarter state militia in their homes

Answer: a

Topic: Factors Leading to the Constitutional Convention

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the developments that led to the Constitutional Convention.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Difficult

16. In what year was the Bill of Rights added to the Constitution?

- a. 1776
- b. 1788

- c. 1789
- d. 1791

Answer: d

Topic: The Struggle to Ratify the Constitution

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

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

17. Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution contains which powers of Congress?

- a. enumerated
- b. executive
- c. implied
- d. military

Answer: a

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

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Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

18. What explains the decision to eventually eliminate anti-slavery language in the new constitution?

- a. anti-slavery sentiment
- b. Connecticut Compromise
- c. fear of splintering the convention
- d. slave states had more votes

Answer: c

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe and evaluate the framework for government that the Constitutional Convention created.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

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

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

Answer: d

Topic: Factors Leading to the Constitutional Convention

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the developments that led to the Constitutional Convention.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

20. Which of the following statements best characterizes the ratification process for the new constitution?

- a. It was done without debate.
- b. It was done by unanimous consent.
- c. It was relatively easy.
- d. It was a close call.

Answer: d

Topic: The Struggle to Ratify the Constitution

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

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

21. Many of the Founders believed that the _____ contract gave the government its legitimacy.

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

Answer: d

Topic: The American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence

Learning Objective: 2.1 Assess the enduring legacies of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

22. Despite the recent changes to the U.S. Constitution that have enhanced its democratic character, the U.S. system is best described as _____ in nature.

- a. republican
- b. oligarchic
- c. dogmatic
- d. socialist

Answer: a

Topic: Factors Leading to the Constitutional Convention

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the developments that led to the Constitutional Convention.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

23. Which of the following advocates limited government that is based on popular consent but protects against majority tyranny?

- a. constitutionalism
- b. democracy
- c. libertarianism
- d. republicanism

Answer: d

Topic: Factors Leading to the Constitutional Convention

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the developments that led to the Constitutional Convention.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

24. Article VI, Section 2, of the Constitution, commonly called the supremacy clause, _____.

- a. blocked the possibility of a tyrannical federal government
- b. recast a loose confederation into a more centralized federal system
- c. positioned the judiciary as the ultimate arbiter of federal law
- d. protected states' rights against a powerful national government

Answer: b

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe and evaluate the framework for government that the Constitutional Convention created.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Difficult

25. As a check against majority tyranny, under the Constitution the president is elected by which of the following?

- a. Congressional College
- b. Election College
- c. Electoral College
- d. Presidential College

Answer: c

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

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Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Easy

26. 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. balances and powers
- b. checks and balances
- c. checks and freedoms
- d. freedom and power

Answer: b

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Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

27. Which of the following specifies the procedure for amending the Constitution?

- a. Article I
- b. Article III
- c. Article V
- d. Article IX

Answer: c

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe and evaluate the framework for government that the Constitutional Convention created.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

28. Which of the following would the framers have seen as a serious encroachment on controls to protect against majority rule?

- a. abolishment of the Electoral College
- b. expansion of the use of executive privilege
- c. repeal of the Seventeenth Amendment
- d. voter ID laws and other voter suppression efforts

Answer: a

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe and evaluate the framework for government that the Constitutional Convention created.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Difficult

29. The U.S. Supreme Court has just declared a law passed by Congress as unconstitutional. In the context of checks and balances, which of the following can Congress do?

- a. vote to eliminate the Supreme Court
- b. rewrite the law to address the constitutional concerns of the Court
- c. impeach the majority justices for failing to comply with the will of Congress
- d. pass an immediate constitutional amendment to deal with the constitutionality issue

Answer: b

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe and evaluate the framework for government that the Constitutional Convention created.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Difficult

30. Jackie attends a protest against animal testing. Which of the following secures her right to attend this protest?

- a. *The Second Treatise on Government*
- b. *The Federalist Papers*
- c. the Declaration of Independence
- d. the Bill of Rights

Answer: d

Topic: The Struggle to Ratify the Constitution

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

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

31. Which plan called for a one-house legislature and multi-person executive?

- a. Connecticut
- b. Maryland
- c. New Jersey
- d. Virginia

Answer: c

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe and evaluate the framework for government that the Constitutional Convention created.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

32. The Great Compromise sought to address which heavily debated issue at the 1787 Constitutional Convention?

- a. the form of the executive branch
- b. the form of the legislative branch
- c. the legality of slavery
- d. the number of Supreme Court justices

Answer: b

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe and evaluate the framework for government that the Constitutional Convention created.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

33. Who among the following founding thinkers was most likely to support proposed provisions that strengthened national power?

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

Answer: b

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe and evaluate the framework for government that the Constitutional Convention created.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

34. The members of the Second Continental Congress were pushed toward independence in part through the publication of which essay?

- a. *American Cousin*
- b. *Articles of Confederation*
- c. *Common Sense*
- d. *Federalist No. 10*

Answer: c

Topic: The American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence

Learning Objective: 2.1 Assess the enduring legacies of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

35. 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 lacked a national identity.

Answer: d

Topic: The Articles of Confederation: Our First Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the governmental system established by our first constitution.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

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

- a. The convention was free of significant disagreement.
- b. The convention was secretive.
- c. The convention was transparent.

d. The convention was split by party divisions.

Answer: b

Topic: Factors Leading to the Constitution Convention

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the developments that led to the Constitutional Convention.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

37. The Articles of Confederation were so weak they could not prevent states from engaging in _____ war with one another.

- a. political
- b. outright
- c. commercial
- d. territorial

Answer: c

Topic: The Articles of Confederation: Our First Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the governmental system established by our first constitution

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Moderate

38. The original purpose of the 1787 meeting in Philadelphia was to _____.

- a. repeal the stay acts
- b. approve the Bill of Rights for the new Constitution
- c. amend and strengthen the Articles of Confederation
- d. write a new constitution for the United States

Answer: c

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe and evaluate the framework for government that the Constitutional Convention created.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult

39. Prior to the 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 Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe and evaluate the framework for government that the Constitutional Convention created.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty: Moderate

40. Why did Madison and others insist on adopting a system of separation of powers for the United States?

- 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 Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe and evaluate the framework for government that the Constitutional Convention created.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult

41. Which of the following was not included in the Articles of Confederation?

- a. Congress
- b. the presidency
- c. a central government
- d. the ability to declare war

Answer: b

Topic: The Articles of Confederation: Our First Constitution

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the governmental system established by our first constitution.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult

42. 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 Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

Learning Objective: 2.4 Describe and evaluate the framework for government that the Constitutional Convention created.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult

43. Why were the Founders worried about the popular assemblies that had been implemented by the states at the time of the Constitutional Convention?

- a. the assemblies lacked real democratic mechanisms

- b. the assemblies violated the republican notions of a deliberative legislative body insulated from popular opinion
- c. the assemblies were voting to overturn slavery in the southern states
- d. the assemblies contradicted the values of a unitary system embedded in the philosophies of the Founders

Answer: b

Topic: Factors Leading to the Constitutional Convention

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the developments that led to the Constitutional Convention.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult

44. The Great Compromise ended an impasse over the makeup of the legislative branch of government. Under which plan would California and Wyoming (had those states existed at the time) have had the same number of representatives in Congress?

- a. Connecticut Plan
- b. New Jersey Plan
- c. New York Plan
- d. Virginia Plan

Answer: b

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

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Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty: Moderate

45. Which of the following best explains why slavery was allowed when the Constitution was written?

- a. Many feared that condemning slavery would splinter the convention and doom the Union.
- b. No slaves or free blacks were selected to serve as delegates to the convention.
- c. There was little public outcry at this time against the institution of slavery.
- d. The wealthy elites at the convention could not see beyond their own self-interest.

Answer: a

Topic: The Constitutional Convention and a New Framework for Government

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Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult

46. With respect to the new Constitution, if you wanted to understand what the framers thought were the strengths of the document, where would you look?

- a. minutes of the Constitutional Convention
- b. *The Federalist Papers*

- d. Treatise on Government
- d. Declaration of Independence

Answer: b

Topic: The Struggle to Ratify the Constitution

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

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult

47. During the Constitutional Convention and the ensuing ratification debates, the Anti-Federalists argued that the new Constitution suffered from what fundamental flaw?

- a. The new Constitution created a national government that was too weak and would undermine the survival of the United States.
- b. The new Constitution created a national government so strong that it would infringe on the essential liberties of the people.
- c. The new Constitution gave too much power and authority to the states.
- d. The new Constitution would be unenforceable due to judicial weakness.

Answer: b

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Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty: Difficult