

CHAPTER 2: Constructing a Government: The Founding and the Constitution

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Prior to the Revolutionary War, British policies harmed the economic interests of which two large sectors of colonial society that previously supported British rule?
 - a. royalists and small farmers
 - b. Southern planters and New England merchants
 - c. laborers and small farmers
 - d. New England merchants and shopkeepers
 - e. Southern planters and royalists

ANS: B DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

MSC: Understanding

2. Among the sectors of society that were important in colonial politics prior to the American Revolution, the more radical forces were represented by
 - a. New England merchants.
 - b. holders of lands, offices, and patents.
 - c. Southern planters and shipbuilders.
 - d. shopkeepers, laborers, and small farmers.
 - e. well-organized labor unions.

ANS: D DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

MSC: Remembering

3. Which of the following was NOT one of the sectors of society that was particularly influential in colonial politics?
 - a. New England merchants
 - b. Southern planters
 - c. suffragettes
 - d. small farmers
 - e. shopkeepers

ANS: C DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

MSC: Remembering

4. According to the rationality principle, all political actions have a purpose. When the British government attempted to raise taxes on American colonists, what services were they trying to force the colonists to pay for?
 - a. universal health care
 - b. moving new colonists to Quebec
 - c. pensions and disability for retired sailors
 - d. an invasion of Russia
 - e. defense of the colonies and its shipping

ANS: E DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

MSC: Remembering

5. In the chain of events leading up to the American Revolution, the radical forces were permitted to expand their political influence because the colonial elites were split by
 - a. disagreement over slavery.

- b. western boundary disputes.
- c. a lack of common currency.
- d. British tax and trade policies, especially the Tea Act of 1773.
- e. an inability to bridge their language barriers.

ANS: D DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

MSC: Remembering

6. Prior to the Revolutionary War, the British government suffered from high debt and a variety of financial problems. How does its solution to raise revenue through increasing taxes on the colonies illustrate the policy principle?
- a. Members of the British Parliament were running for reelection, and it was popular in Britain to campaign on raising taxes in the colonies instead of at home.
 - b. The British were interested in raising revenue to cover the costs of defending the colonies, while Parliament and the colonial government made it possible to tax colonial commerce.
 - c. Colonial administrators were weary of the economic and political power of the merchants and Southern planters and therefore sought to punish them by raising taxes on their commodities.
 - d. Colonial administrators wanted more independence from the British Parliament. In exchange for raising taxes, colonial administrators were granted more leeway in local matters.
 - e. The British thought that the colonists would see paying taxes as a duty of upstanding English citizens and, as such, would comply.

ANS: B DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

MSC: Understanding

7. Why did the British government impose taxes such as the Stamp Act specifically on the American colonies instead of in England only?
- a. Influential interest groups supported the colonial taxes.
 - b. Increased taxes were politically unpopular in England, so the government chose to raise taxes on the colonists instead.
 - c. The British government had spent large sums of money on defending the colonies and sought to recapture that revenue from the colonists.
 - d. Money raised from the taxes was intended to be used to pacify revolutionary citizens in the colonies.
 - e. It was especially costly to mail to and from the colonies.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

MSC: Understanding

8. In the mid-eighteenth century, the revenues that governments relied on came mostly from
- a. a flat tax.
 - b. an income tax.
 - c. tariffs and duties.
 - d. voluntary citizen donations—usually from elite property owners.
 - e. seizing the property of wealthy traitors.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

MSC: Remembering

9. After years of relatively little interference in the local affairs of its American colonies, the English government passed a tax on all printed and legal documents, including newspapers, pamphlets, advertisements, notes and bonds, leases, deeds, and licenses. Mass protests declaring “no taxation without representation” erupted throughout the colonies against the
- Tea Act.
 - Stamp Act.
 - Royalist Tariff.
 - Colonial Tariff.
 - Document Tax.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

10. The radicals led by Samuel Adams hoped that the Boston Tea Party would goad the British into strong reprisals. Which principle does this strategy illustrate?
- rationality principle
 - institution principle
 - collective action principle
 - policy principle
 - history principle

ANS: A DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

11. To show their displeasure with the Stamp Act of 1765, colonists in Boston
- stormed Bunker Hill and took over its fort.
 - organized demonstrations, parades, and mass meetings.
 - dumped tea into the harbor in what became known as the Boston Tea Party.
 - killed 12 British soldiers in what became known as the Boston Massacre.
 - marched to Lexington and seized a cache of British weapons.

ANS: B DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

12. The Stamp Act of 1765 and the Sugar Act of 1764 created incentives for which two groups to engage in collective action?
- small farmers and recent immigrants
 - artisans and laborers
 - holders of royal land offices and patents and shopkeepers
 - New England merchants and Southern planters
 - Southern planters and royalists

ANS: D DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

13. On March 5, 1770, nervous British soldiers opened fire on the mob surrounding them, killing five colonists and wounding eight others. News of this event spread quickly throughout the colonies and was used to fan anti-British sentiment by radicals who called the incident the
- Boston Massacre.
 - Tuesday butchery.
 - Boston Tea Party.
 - tragedy of the commons.
 - Guy Fawkes event.

ANS: A DIF: Easy TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

14. The British soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre were defended by _____, a pillar of Boston society and future president of the United States.
- a. John Adams
 - b. James Madison
 - c. Thomas Jefferson
 - d. George Washington
 - e. Ben Franklin

ANS: A DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

MSC: Remembering

15. Colonial society was made up of conflicting economic and political interests that made British rule possible. The Stamp Act and the Tea Act altered the interests of certain key sectors of colonial society, creating incentives to
- a. engage in collective action based on common goals.
 - b. delegate authority to the radicals.
 - c. resolve jurisdictional conflicts in the Continental Congress committee system.
 - d. free ride.
 - e. form a coalition with the royalists.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

MSC: Applying

16. Dramatic events like the Boston Massacre provide an issue for individuals to organize around when putting together revolutionary activities. This provides a way to overcome the
- a. collective action problem.
 - b. institution principle.
 - c. history principle.
 - d. revolutionary organization conundrum.
 - e. propaganda deficit.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

MSC: Applying

17. The colonists organized and participated in the Boston Tea Party of 1773 as a direct response to
- a. the unjustness of the Stamp Act.
 - b. military seizure of tea and other agricultural goods in Boston Harbor.
 - c. atrocities by British garrison troops.
 - d. the withdrawal of military protection from commercial ships sailing to the Americas.
 - e. the British granting the East India Company a monopoly on the export of tea from Britain.

ANS: E DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

MSC: Understanding

18. In 1773, the British government granted a monopoly on the export of tea from Britain to the politically powerful East India Company, which sought to bypass the colonial merchants and sell the tea directly to the colonies. The merchants called on their radical adversaries for support, and the most dramatic result was
- a. the Boston Tea Party.
 - b. an attack on Fort Mifflin.
 - c. the Philadelphia Midnight Murders.
 - d. the ceremonial burning of the Union Jack flag in the Philadelphia town square.

e. increased pirate attacks on East India Company ships.

ANS: A DIF: Easy TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Applying

19. The Boston Tea Party was led by

- a. Patrick Henry.
- b. Thomas Payne.
- c. Samuel Adams.
- d. Alexander Hamilton.
- e. John Burgoyne.

ANS: C DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

20. What was the ultimate goal of the radical participants in the Boston Tea Party?

- a. rescind the Tea Act
- b. rescind the Stamp Act
- c. close Boston Harbor to British commerce
- d. alienate the British government from its colonial supporters
- e. prevent the removal of British garrison troops

ANS: D DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

21. By dumping the East India Company's tea into Boston Harbor, Samuel Adams and his followers pressured the British into enacting a number of harsh reprisals that

- a. radicalized Americans to resist British rule.
- b. effectively ended the slave trade in the Northern states.
- c. temporarily softened public support for revolutionary forces.
- d. benefited Southern planters at the expense of New England merchants.
- e. spurred the emigration of French Huguenots.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

22. The Boston Tea Party set into motion a cycle of provocation and retaliation that, in 1774, resulted in the convening of an assembly of delegates from all parts of the colonies called the

- a. First Colonial Convention.
- b. Grand Conclave.
- c. Boston Confederated Congress.
- d. Philadelphia Constitutional Convention.
- e. First Continental Congress.

ANS: E DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

23. The Declaration of Independence was almost entirely written by

- a. James Madison.
- b. Thomas Jefferson.
- c. George Washington.
- d. Alexander Hamilton.
- e. John Randolph.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and

Conflicts

MSC: Remembering

24. The Declaration of Independence was remarkable for its assertion that there are certain unalienable rights including
- life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
 - due process and equal protection under the law.
 - justice, domestic tranquility, and general welfare.
 - freedom of religion, freedom of the press, and freedom of speech.
 - liberty, equality, and fraternity.

ANS: A

DIF: Easy

TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and

Conflicts

MSC: Remembering

25. In November of 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the United States' first written constitution. It was known as the
- Virginia Plan.
 - Annapolis Convention.
 - Declaration of Independence.
 - Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union.
 - Seneca Falls Declaration.

ANS: D

DIF: Easy

TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and

Conflicts

MSC: Remembering

26. The result of the 1777 Continental Congress was a constitution concerned primarily with
- preventing domestic insurrection.
 - limiting the powers of the central government.
 - generating new tax revenues to help pay for armed resistance.
 - regulating trade among the colonies as well as imports and exports.
 - centralizing currency and monetary policy.

ANS: B

DIF: Moderate

TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and

Conflicts

MSC: Remembering

27. Under the Articles of Confederation, what power was Congress given?
- the power to levy taxes
 - the power to restrict slavery
 - the power to regulate commerce
 - the power to build a standing army
 - the power to declare war

ANS: E

DIF: Difficult

TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and

Conflicts

MSC: Remembering

28. An extension of the policy principle is that rational actors design institutions that help them bring about the outcomes they desire. How did the Three-Fifths Compromise bias outcomes, compared to the Northerners' preference on the issue of slavery and representation?
- Southern states were able to ensure that no more than three-fifths of all federal revenue came from trade tariffs.
 - It ensured that three-fifths of all new territory acquired by the United States would allow slavery.
 - States with relatively more slaves gained representation in Congress and thus were better

able to protect the interests of slave owners.

- d. It ensured that a vote of three-fifths of the Senate would be required to shut off debate on legislation to restrict slavery.
- e. It guaranteed that enslaved persons would be able to cast votes that counted for 60 percent of the weight of a free person's vote in federal elections.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Applying

29. The Articles of Confederation provided a set of rules and procedures that provided incentives for states to compete with each other for foreign commerce. This effect of the Articles best reflects which principle of politics?
- a. the institution principle
 - b. the policy principle
 - c. the rationality principle
 - d. the history principle
 - e. the collective action principle

ANS: A DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Applying

30. During the winter of 1786–1787, John Adams of Massachusetts was sent to negotiate a new treaty with the British to cover disputes left over from the war. The British government responded that it would
- a. set a blockade around Boston Harbor.
 - b. relinquish control over the lands to the west.
 - c. negotiate with each of the 13 states separately.
 - d. require war reparations before signing any new treaty.
 - e. need France's approval before suspending war reparations.

ANS: C DIF: Difficult
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

31. Early states had broad latitude to pursue their own policies, and the national government, under the Articles of Confederation, had little recourse if it disliked those policies. For example, the Rhode Island legislature—dominated by representatives of small farmers, artisans, and shopkeepers—frightened businessmen and property owners throughout the country by instituting
- a. free trade policies.
 - b. economic policies including drastic currency inflation.
 - c. generous agricultural subsidies and severely protective tariffs.
 - d. eminent domain activities for an extensive statewide park system.
 - e. abolition of minimum wage requirements.

ANS: B DIF: Difficult
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

32. In hindsight, the decision of New England merchants and Southern planters to ally with small farmers, shopkeepers, and other pro-independence radicals to defeat the British seems puzzling as the balance of power in post-Revolutionary America shifted in favor of the radicals and threatened the interests of the pre-Revolutionary elite. However, the decision of the merchants and planters to join forces with the radicals may be considered _____ if each group considered the costs and benefits of the decision and speculated about future effects.
- a. smart
 - d. intelligent

- b. irrational
- c. rational
- e. insane

ANS: C DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Applying

33. The one positive result of the Annapolis Convention was a resolution calling for
- a. a declaration of independence from England.
 - b. a boycott of tea, linens, and other goods from England.
 - c. ratification of the new Constitution of the United States.
 - d. a national day of prayer.
 - e. a later meeting in Philadelphia to reform the Articles of Confederation.

ANS: E DIF: Easy
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

34. It is possible that the Constitutional Convention of 1787 in Philadelphia would never have taken place at all if not for a single event that occurred soon after the Annapolis Convention. This event was
- a. Shays's Rebellion.
 - b. the Boston Massacre.
 - c. the Boston Tea Party.
 - d. the Whiskey Rebellion.
 - e. the assassination of Elbridge Gerry, governor of Massachusetts.

ANS: A DIF: Easy
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

35. Daniel Shays, a former army captain, led a mob in a rebellion against the Massachusetts government in order to
- a. open up western territories for expansion.
 - b. prevent foreclosures on debt-ridden farm lands.
 - c. release certain British loyalists from captivity as prisoners of war.
 - d. resist taxes on whiskey.
 - e. destroy excess supplies of wheat and corn, thereby increasing the market price for these commodities.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

36. Why did Shays's Rebellion enable collective action among those who wanted to revise the Articles of Confederation?
- a. Shays was a charismatic political entrepreneur who was able to bring together several key opponents of the Articles.
 - b. Shays demonstrated a new strategy to provide selective incentives to institutional reformers.
 - c. The rebellion showed that the federal government was already strong enough to quell an uprising, which demonstrated that taking further steps toward a stronger central government was an attainable goal.
 - d. Shays introduced key figures in western Massachusetts to the concept of civil disobedience, which in turn caught on with opponents of the Articles across the country.

- e. The rebellion provided politicians who were already convinced of the inadequacy of the Articles with the ammunition they needed to convince a broader public of their inadequacy.

ANS: E DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Understanding

37. Which state did NOT send delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia?
- a. Vermont
 - b. Delaware
 - c. Rhode Island
 - d. Massachusetts
 - e. Georgia

ANS: C DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

38. According to historian Charles Beard, the framers of the Constitution were motivated primarily by
- a. revenge.
 - b. moral principles.
 - c. the quest for justice.
 - d. personal enrichment.
 - e. religious fervor.

ANS: D DIF: Easy
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

39. Charles Beard's interpretation of the framing of the Constitution was primarily
- a. legal.
 - b. ethical.
 - c. ontological.
 - d. philosophical.
 - e. economic.

ANS: E DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

40. In contrast to Charles Beard's approach, some view the framers of the Constitution as being motivated by
- a. a desire to redistribute economic benefits to the working class.
 - b. economic self-interest.
 - c. the dominant philosophical and moral values of the day.
 - d. political party identification.
 - e. the obligation to expand the sphere of religious dominance across the continent.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

41. In 2016, the five smallest states held roughly 0.5 percent of the seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and 10 percent of the seats in the U.S. Senate. These differing levels of representation of the five small states were the result of which decision during the Constitutional Convention?
- a. the New Jersey Plan
 - b. the Virginia Plan
 - c. the Three-Fifths Compromise
 - d. the Great Compromise
 - e. the Separation of Powers

ANS: D DIF: Difficult

TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Applying

42. The founder who probably had the most influence on the Virginia Plan (which served as the framework for the eventual Constitution) was
- John Adams.
 - James Madison.
 - Thomas Jefferson.
 - Alexander Hamilton.
 - George Washington.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate

TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

43. The proposal to alter the Articles of Confederation by providing for a system of representation in the national legislature based on the population of each state or the proportion of each state's revenue contribution, or both, was known as the
- Virginia Plan.
 - New Jersey Plan.
 - Connecticut Plan.
 - Massachusetts Plan.
 - Rousseau solution.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate

TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

44. Why did the smaller states object to the Virginia Plan?
- Roger Sherman and other small state delegates disliked Madison and Randolph and did not want them to receive recognition for advancing the Virginia Plan.
 - In accordance with the institution principle, small states wanted to maintain the existing institutions (the Articles of Confederation), but the institution principle does not apply to large states.
 - In accordance with the rationality principle, the Virginia Plan provided greater representation in the national legislature for larger and/or wealthier states, which disadvantaged the small states.
 - The small states tended to be from the North and objected to the strong proslavery content in the Virginia Plan.
 - The smaller states feared that the national government would force them to pay equal shares of the national budget.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate

TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Understanding

45. The proposal offered by the smaller states during the Constitutional Convention that argued each state should be equally represented in the new regime regardless of its population was known as the
- Virginia Plan.
 - Brunswick Plan.
 - Connecticut Plan.
 - Massachusetts Plan.
 - New Jersey Plan.

ANS: E DIF: Moderate

TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

46. The agreement reached during the Constitutional Convention to give each state an equal number of senators regardless of population but link representation in the House of Representatives to population became known as the
- a. Boston Plan.
 - b. Philadelphia Plan.
 - c. Great Compromise.
 - d. Three-Fifths Compromise.
 - e. Jefferson Compromise.

ANS: C DIF: Easy
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

47. What was the most difficult issue faced by the framers of the Constitution?
- a. taxes
 - b. slavery
 - c. foreign trade
 - d. the status of the Native American tribes
 - e. religion

ANS: B DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

48. The question of counting slaves for purposes of representation was ultimately resolved by counting
- a. slaves as nonslaves just for purposes of representation.
 - b. every five slaves as three people for purposes of representation.
 - c. every four slaves as three people for purposes of representation.
 - d. every two slaves as one person for purposes of representation.
 - e. every slave as one person for allocation of block grants but prohibiting voting by slaves.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

49. The issue of counting slaves for purposes of representation was settled by the
- a. Great Compromise.
 - b. Virginia Plan.
 - c. Three-Fifths Compromise.
 - d. Seventh Amendment.
 - e. Franklin Proviso.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

50. The framers of the American Constitution sought to prevent the perceived threat of *excessive democracy* through a number of institutional innovations. Which of these constitutional provisions MOST prevents the threat of excessive democracy?
- a. requiring each state to have a “republican form of government”
 - b. requiring all tax and spending bills to originate in the U.S. House of Representatives
 - c. tying citizens’ eligibility to vote with that of state legislative bodies
 - d. providing for a judicial branch selected indirectly with judges serving life terms
 - e. prohibiting Congress, through Article I, from granting titles of nobility

ANS: D DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Understanding

51. Article I of the U.S. Constitution provides for the
- a. judicial branch.
 - b. executive branch.

- c. legislative branch.
- d. role of state governments.
- e. freedom of speech, religion, and press.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

52. Under the unamended Constitution of 1787, how were U.S. senators selected?
- a. direct elections
 - b. state legislatures
 - c. the Electoral College
 - d. the state delegation to the House of Representatives
 - e. random selection from the major landowners of each state

ANS: B DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

53. The terms of appointments for senators are staggered so that the terms of one-third of the senators expire every
- a. year.
 - b. two years.
 - c. four years.
 - d. six years.
 - e. eight years.

ANS: B DIF: Easy TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

54. Under the American Constitution, the part of elected government designed to be directly responsible to the people was the
- a. Senate.
 - b. judiciary.
 - c. bureaucracy.
 - d. House of Representatives.
 - e. state militias.

ANS: D DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

55. A legislative assembly such as the Congress that is divided into two chambers (or houses) is best described as
- a. bipolar.
 - b. dual-bodied.
 - c. bipartisan.
 - d. bicameral.
 - e. bilateral.

ANS: D DIF: Easy TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

56. The Georgia General Assembly, with its upper chamber (the Georgia Senate) and lower chamber (the Georgia House of Representatives), is an institution that exemplifies the principle of
- a. bicameralism.
 - b. bilateralism.
 - c. binary legislativism.
 - d. bifurcated representation.
 - e. institutional dualism.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Applying

57. The Constitution grants the power to ratify treaties to the
- a. Supreme Court.
 - b. president.
 - c. House of Representatives.
 - d. House of Representatives.
 - e. Senate.

c. State Department.

ANS: E DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

58. Under the American Constitution, the sole power to originate revenue bills is vested in the
- Senate.
 - vice president.
 - state legislatures.
 - House of Representatives.
 - Treasury Department.

ANS: D DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

59. Which branch of government has the power to create inferior (lower) courts, change the jurisdiction of federal courts, add or subtract federal judges, and even change the size of the Supreme Court?
- judiciary
 - Congress
 - executive
 - bureaucracy
 - attorney general

ANS: B DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

60. The idea that the federal government can exercise only the powers specifically articulated in the Constitution is known as the doctrine of
- implied powers.
 - expressed powers.
 - separation of powers.
 - necessary and proper powers.
 - original limits.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

61. The framers intended an active and powerful government, so they included language to ensure that Congress could take any step to achieve its enumerated responsibilities. This elastic clause is most commonly known as the
- necessary and proper clause.
 - separation of powers clause.
 - national supremacy clause.
 - privileges and immunities clause.
 - federal caveat.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

62. The framers of the Constitution sought to insulate the president from excessively democratic pressures through
- a lifetime appointment.
 - direct oversight by independent departments.
 - an indirect election through the Electoral College.
 - a limitation of only two consecutive terms in office.
 - the power to grant pardons.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

63. Why did the framers decide against a plural executive (two or more presidents) or executive council (presidency-by-committee)?
- They were familiar with the instability caused by ancient Rome's dual-consul system and

how it led to over-representation of the poor plebeian castes.

- b. They feared that a plural executive would increase regional conflicts and lead to civil war.
- c. They did not want the new government to have to pay salaries for multiple executives and their staffs.
- d. They preferred a single executive who could act quickly without waiting to consult with co-executives.
- e. They thought it would be easier for Congress to impeach and remove a single executive.

ANS: D DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution

MSC: Remembering

64. Which branch of government was designed to make the federal government capable of timely and decisive action to deal with public issues and problems?

- a. executive
- b. legislative
- c. judicial
- d. state governments
- e. Federal Reserve

ANS: A DIF: Easy TOP: CH02 - The Constitution

MSC: Remembering

65. In order to protect federal judges from political influence from citizens and other branches, the framers

- a. ordered that federal judges be selected in democratic elections.
- b. prohibited the selection of federal judges that share the sitting president's party identification.
- c. ruled that judges cannot run for reelection at the end of their terms.
- d. prohibited Congress from impeaching federal judges.
- e. granted federal judges lifetime appointments to their offices.

ANS: E DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution

MSC: Remembering

66. In 1996, the Defense of Marriage Act was enacted after passing both houses of Congress and being signed into law by President Bill Clinton. The Defense of Marriage Act defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman and bans recognition of same-sex marriages. The decision of the Supreme Court to take a case that challenged the constitutionality of the Act is a reflection of which power?

- a. reserved power
- b. expressed power
- c. veto power
- d. judicial review
- e. the supremacy clause

ANS: D DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution

MSC: Applying

67. The power of the courts to render the final decision in cases involving a conflict of interpretation of the Constitution or of laws between the courts and Congress, the courts and the executive branch, or the courts and the states is referred to as

- a. judicial review.
- b. *ceteris paribus*.
- c. juridic oversight.
- d. *contra bonos mores*.
- e. *lex suprema*.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution

MSC: Remembering

68. Since 1960, the United States has maintained an embargo against Iran to prevent individuals or businesses from engaging in economic activities with this nation. If the state of New York decided to sign a free trade agreement with Iran, New York would be violating which part of the Constitution?
- a. the commerce clause
 - b. the Bill of Rights
 - c. judicial review
 - d. the necessary and proper clause
 - e. the supremacy clause

ANS: E DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The Constitution

MSC: Applying

69. Article VI of the Constitution states that all laws passed by the national government and all treaties are superior to laws adopted by any state. This has come to be known as the
- a. supremacy clause.
 - b. judicial review clause.
 - c. full faith and credit clause.
 - d. necessary and proper clause.
 - e. popular mandate.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution

MSC: Remembering

70. In the United States, no set of institutional procedures is more important than the
- a. Constitution.
 - b. Bill of Rights
 - c. Articles of Confederation.
 - d. Declaration of Independence.
 - e. Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.

ANS: A DIF: Easy TOP: CH02 - The Constitution

MSC: Remembering

71. In 2010, the Republican Party was able to retake majority control of the U.S. House of Representatives due to anger toward President Barack Obama and the recent passage of the Affordable Care Act. With majority control of the House, Republicans were able to pass a repeal of the Affordable Care Act, yet the Act remains law due to continued support in the Senate and the Executive branch. The failure to overturn the Affordable Care Act reflects which component of the Constitution?
- a. separation of powers
 - b. Bill of Rights
 - c. federalism
 - d. necessary and proper clause
 - e. judicial review

ANS: A DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution

MSC: Applying

72. No principle was more widely shared among the framers of the American Constitution than the principle espoused by Baron de Montesquieu that
- a. the citizen must serve the state.
 - b. power must be divided among different actors.
 - c. the accused are innocent until proven guilty.
 - d. national powers must be delegated to the states.
 - e. absolute power corrupts absolutely.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution

MSC: Remembering

73. The presidential veto power over legislation, the power of the Senate to approve presidential appointments, and judicial review over acts of Congress and presidential actions are examples of the principle in the American political system of
- federalism.
 - checks and balances.
 - marble cake constitutionalism.
 - communal powers.
 - gridlock intervals.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Applying

74. James Madison wrote in *Federalist 51*, “The power surrendered by the people is first divided between two distinct governments, and then the portion allotted to each subdivided among distinct and separate departments. Hence a double security arises to the rights of the people. The different governments will control each other, at the same time that each will be controlled by itself.” Which constitutional principle is best reflected by this statement?
- republicanism
 - enumerated powers
 - checks and balances
 - judicial review
 - representative government

ANS: C DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Understanding

75. The framers of the Constitution crafted a system in which each branch of government had a distinctly different constituency to ensure different perspectives on public interests. Montesquieu and others called it a
- democracy.
 - multiple principals system.
 - mixed regime.
 - Confederation.
 - separated system.

ANS: C DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

76. Compared to the confederation principle of the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution’s balance of federal and state power represented
- greater centralization of power.
 - eliminating the power of state governments.
 - increasing the sovereignty of state governments.
 - weakening the power of the national government.
 - increasing the separation of federal and state duties.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

77. Why is the process for amending the Constitution a source of path dependency?
- All the good ideas were incorporated into the original Constitution.
 - After the Constitution was amended once, adding new amendments became easier and easier.
 - The amending process requires supermajority support from multiple institutions and levels of government.
 - Politicians learned how to amend the Constitution over time, so it became easier.
 - Congress often prefers to incorporate its policies into the Constitution instead of enacting public laws.

ANS: C DIF: Difficult
TOP: CH02 - Changing the Institutional Framework: Constitutional Amendment

MSC: Remembering

78. Why might the delegates to the Constitutional Convention reject a motion to include a bill of rights in the Constitution?
- The delegates thought rights should be guaranteed to the states, not to individual citizens.
 - The delegates felt a bill of rights was unnecessary because they thought that the federal government was already limited to its expressed powers.
 - The rights of citizens were a secondary concern to the delegates' personal self-interest.
 - A bill of rights would have required granting equal rights to women, which the delegates found to be politically unsavory.
 - They considered a bill of rights unnecessary in the U.S. Constitution because the United Nations' "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" already guaranteed a full set of political rights.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Understanding

79. During the Constitutional Convention, the motion to include a bill of rights was
- tabled at the insistence of delegates from Rhode Island.
 - approved almost unanimously.
 - incorporated as part of the full faith and credit clause after lengthy debate.
 - included in the section enumerating the powers of the national government with little floor debate.
 - overwhelmingly rejected.

ANS: E DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

80. The best-known arguments supporting ratification of the Constitution were the 85 essays written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay under the name of Publius. These essays are collectively known today as
- Common Sense*.
 - A Modest Proposal*.
 - the *Federalist Papers*.
 - The Democracy Dialogues*.
 - The New Yorker*.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Fight for Ratification: Federalists versus Antifederalists
MSC: Remembering

81. Which of the following statements describes the attitudes of Federalists and Antifederalists toward representation as it would likely be observed under the proposed Constitution?
- Neither the Federalists nor the Antifederalists cared a great deal about representative democracy.
 - Antifederalists thought that representation was critical and could best be achieved in small republics, while Federalists thought representatives did not need to perfectly represent the views of their constituents.
 - Federalists thought that representation was critical and could best be achieved in small republics, while Antifederalists thought representatives did not need to perfectly represent the views of their constituents.
 - Both the Federalists and Antifederalists thought that representation in the form of catering to public sentiment was vitally important.
 - Antifederalists thought fair representation was best achieved by choosing officeholders from the general population at random, while Federalists sought to ensure that legislators would be free from electoral or political considerations.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Fight for Ratification: Federalists versus Antifederalists
MSC: Applying

82. Imagine a scenario in which a large majority of people in your town wanted to eliminate all taxes even if that meant the local government could no longer fund road repairs or the local police force. A representative of this town would be acting as a _____ if he or she decided to eliminate all taxes. In contrast, this representative would be acting as a(n) _____ if he or she refused to eliminate all taxes, arguing that cutting all taxes was not in the best interest of the town.
- a. Federalist; Antifederalist
 - b. trustee; delegate
 - c. delegate; trustee
 - d. Democrat; tyrant
 - e. Republican; Democrat

ANS: C DIF: Difficult
TOP: CH02 - The Fight for Ratification: Federalists versus Antifederalists
MSC: Analyzing

83. Unjust rule by the group in power is called
- a. tyranny.
 - b. supremacy.
 - c. domination.
 - d. enforcement.
 - e. teleology.

ANS: A DIF: Easy
TOP: CH02 - The Fight for Ratification: Federalists versus Antifederalists
MSC: Remembering

84. The Federalists understood that temporary majorities could abuse their power in a democracy, but Madison argued that such an outcome is less likely if the nation is
- a. large with diverse interests.
 - b. small with diverse interests.
 - c. large with common interests.
 - d. small with common interests.
 - e. trained to have the same interests.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Fight for Ratification: Federalists versus Antifederalists
MSC: Remembering

85. The Antifederalists perceived the danger of tyranny to be posed most severely by
- a. small numbers of individuals in positions of authority.
 - b. majorities who wished to impose their will on minorities.
 - c. the House of Representatives.
 - d. direct democracy provisions like the initiative or referendum.
 - e. invasion by foreign autocracies.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Fight for Ratification: Federalists versus Antifederalists
MSC: Remembering

86. In order for Congress to send a small amendment to the Constitution to state legislatures or ratifying conventions for approval, it must pass
- a. in either the House or Senate with a simple majority.
 - b. in both the House and Senate with a simple majority.
 - c. in either the House or Senate with a two-thirds majority.
 - d. in both the House and Senate with a two-thirds majority.
 - e. in the House by a simple majority and the Senate by a two-thirds majority.

ANS: D DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - Changing the Institutional Framework: Constitutional Amendment
MSC: Remembering

87. Except for one, all of the amendments that have been added to the Constitution have passed in
- the House and Senate by two-thirds vote and then been ratified by a majority vote of the legislatures of three-fourths of the states.
 - the House and Senate by two-thirds vote and then been ratified by conventions that called for the purpose in three-fourths of the states.
 - a national convention called by Congress in response to petitions by two-thirds of the states and ratified by a majority vote of the legislatures of three-fourths of the states.
 - a national convention called by Congress in response to petitions by two-thirds of the states and ratified by conventions called for the purpose in three-fourths of the states.
 - a national popular vote on amendments proposed by Congress.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - Changing the Institutional Framework: Constitutional Amendment
MSC: Remembering

88. The First Amendment to the Constitution was specifically concerned with limits on the
- courts.
 - Congress.
 - president.
 - state governments.
 - citizens.

ANS: B DIF: Difficult
TOP: CH02 - Changing the Institutional Framework: Constitutional Amendment
MSC: Remembering

89. The purpose of the ten amendments in the Bill of Rights was basically to give each of the three branches of government
- increased flexibility.
 - broader and more explicit powers.
 - clearer and more restricted boundaries.
 - fewer opportunities to come into conflict with each other.
 - a broader grant of power.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - Changing the Institutional Framework: Constitutional Amendment
MSC: Remembering

90. Which of these amendments guarantees the right to vote to a significant portion of the U.S. population?
- Nineteenth
 - Seventeenth
 - Twelfth
 - Third
 - Twenty-Seventh

ANS: A DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - Changing the Institutional Framework: Constitutional Amendment
MSC: Remembering

91. Which amendment or set of amendments provides important safeguards against the arbitrary exercise of governmental power, especially within the judicial branch?
- First
 - Ninth and Tenth
 - Second, Third, and Fourth
 - Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth
 - Second and Eleventh

ANS: D DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - Changing the Institutional Framework: Constitutional Amendment
MSC: Remembering

92. The Eighteenth Amendment, having the dubious distinction of being the only constitutional amendment designed to deal directly with some substantive social problem and the only amendment to have been repealed, addressed the issue of
- a. slavery.
 - b. the income tax.
 - c. presidential disability.
 - d. prohibition of alcohol.
 - e. poll taxes.

ANS: D DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - Changing the Institutional Framework: Constitutional Amendment
MSC: Remembering

TRUE/FALSE

1. The income tax represented the single most important source of government revenue for the British regime prior to the American Revolution.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

2. During the lead-up to the American Revolution, the New England merchants who cried “no taxation without representation” cared more about expanded representation in the British Parliament than about lower taxes.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

3. During the 1750s, the British crown’s North American colonies on the whole paid remarkably little in taxes to the mother country.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

4. The British soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre were defended by future president John Adams.

ANS: T DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

5. Radicals seeking independence were primarily disgruntled members of the colonial merchant elite.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

6. Collective action was sparked by the British government’s harsh response to the Boston Tea Party.

ANS: F DIF: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

7. The First Continental Congress called for a total boycott of British goods.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

8. Under the Articles of Confederation, the central government was based entirely in Congress.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

9. Under the Articles of Confederation, each state was represented in the Continental Congress in proportion to its population.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

10. Under the Articles of Confederation, the presiding officer of the executive branch was appointed through a nomination and voting process of the assembled delegates in the Electoral College.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

11. Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress was given power to declare war and make peace.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

12. Under the Articles of Confederation, the nation's armed forces were financed by federal income taxes.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

13. The principal advantage of the Articles of Confederation was that the central government could prevent one state from discriminating against other states in the quest for foreign commerce.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts
MSC: Remembering

14. Delegates from all 13 colonies attended the Annapolis Convention.

ANS: F DIF: Easy

TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

15. Shays's Rebellion was forcefully ended by the quick and decisive actions by federal troops sent by Congress under the Confederation.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

16. The American colonists who led the revolution against England and worked to construct a workable constitution were not very concerned about philosophical and ethical ideas.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

17. The Constitutional Convention passed the New Jersey Plan with little compromise.

ANS: F DIF: Easy
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

18. Delegates from large states, such as Pennsylvania, were able to manipulate the procedures at the Constitutional Convention in order to achieve final adoption of the Virginia Plan with negligible amendment.

ANS: F DIF: Easy
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

19. The Three-Fifths Compromise established the principle, new in republican theory, that a man who lives among slaves had a greater share in the election of representatives than the man who did not.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

20. Members of the U.S. Supreme Court serve staggered six-year terms.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Second Founding: From Compromise to Constitution
MSC: Remembering

21. In the United States, no set of institutional procedures is more important than the Declaration of Independence.

ANS: F DIF: Easy TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

22. Under the Constitution as originally passed, the members of the Senate were to be appointed by the state legislatures.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution

MSC: Remembering

23. Staggered terms of service in the Senate were intended to make that body even more politically responsive to popular opinion.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

24. The Constitution implies that any power not explicitly granted to the federal government is not granted at all.

ANS: F DIF: Easy TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

25. In the absence of an amendment, any power not specifically enumerated in the Constitution is conceived to be reserved to the national government.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

26. The Constitution grants the president the unconditional power to accept ambassadors from other countries.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

27. The Constitution grants the Supreme Court the unconditional right to grant reprieves and pardons.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

28. Federal judges are given lifetime appointments.

ANS: T DIF: Easy TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

29. The Constitution makes no direct mention of judicial review.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

30. In Section 8 of Article III, the U.S. Constitution discusses the important principle of judicial review.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

31. There were no checks and balances in the Constitution until passage of the Bill of Rights.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

32. The Constitution does not explicitly mention the principle of the separation of powers.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

33. Each branch of the government of the United States is responsible to a different constituency.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
MSC: Remembering

34. Throughout the Constitution, the principle of majority rules prevails.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate
TOP: CH02 - The Fight for Ratification: Federalists versus Antifederalists
MSC: Remembering

35. The most recent amendment added to the American Constitution is the balanced budget amendment.

ANS: F DIF: Difficult
TOP: CH02 - Changing the Institutional Framework: Constitutional Amendment
MSC: Remembering

ESSAY

1. The U.S. Constitution has been amended 27 times, and just 17 times since 1791. What institutional factors help explain the (arguably) low number of amendments to the U.S. Constitution?

ANS:

The process for amending the Constitution is complex and difficult to satisfy.

There are four pathways to amending the Constitution.

- 1) Proposal by a two-thirds vote of both chambers of Congress, approval by three-fourths of state legislatures (the most common path)
- 2) Proposal by a two-thirds vote of both chambers of Congress, approval by conventions in three-fourths of states (used once)
- 3) Proposal by a constitutional convention called by two-thirds of state legislatures, approval by three-fourths of state legislatures (never used)
- 4) Proposal by a constitutional convention called by two-thirds of state legislatures, approval by conventions in three-fourths of states (never used)

Each pathway requires multiple supermajority thresholds. In practice, each constitutional amendment has required both federal and state support, and the support of both major political parties (note: the text for Chapter 2 does not mention political parties on this point). This makes it difficult for most structural changes to gain approval. And, for most policy and legal issues, advocates are more likely to pursue their goals by using the ordinary lawmaking process or to seek favorable Supreme Court interpretations of existing constitutional provisions rather than to add new provisions to the Constitution.

MSC: Analyzing

2. Were the British wrong to expect the American colonies to begin paying more in taxes during the years leading up to the American Revolution? Why or why not?

ANS:

YES: The increase in taxation violated preexisting expectations of the colonists, who did not want to be used to pay for the king's military adventures. One of the primary restraints on the British monarchy was the king's reliance on Parliament for funding, so there was a strong link between representation in Parliament and freedom from tyranny. American colonists were denied parliamentary representation and thus exposed to unlimited abuse by the monarchy.

NO: Fundamentally, the American colonists expected the British government to provide military security on the frontier and the high seas without contributing to the costs of these public goods. That is, they preferred to free ride. It was fair for the British government to expect American colonists to pay their fair share.

MSC: Evaluating

3. List and describe the various sectors of colonial society and explain the role of each during the events leading up to the American Revolution and writing of the Constitution.

ANS:

- 1) New England merchants
- 2) Southern planters
- 3) royalists—persons directly or indirectly supported by the Crown or otherwise intensely loyal
- 4) shopkeepers, artisans, and laborers
- 5) small farmers

Timeline

- Before 1765, New England merchants, Southern planters, and royalists supported the British government.
- Beginning with the Stamp Act of 1765, the imposition of taxes drove New England merchants and Southern planters out of the pro-Crown coalition and into the anti-Crown coalition.
- The harsh British response to the 1773 Boston Tea Party promoted the development of this anti-Crown coalition.
- After the outbreak of Revolutionary War hostilities, royalists either left the colonies, converted to pro-independence, or dropped out of politics.
- After the war was officially over, the New England merchants and Southern planters became nervous about the excesses of state-level democracy and the weakness of the central government. They supported the development and adoption of the new U.S. Constitution.

MSC: Analyzing

4. Why did the framers feel a need to replace the Articles of Confederation?

ANS:

The Articles of Confederation established a weak central government with no executive branch or independent judiciary. The Continental Congress lacked the ability to actually enforce its mandates.

As a result, the Continental Congress could not enforce the treaties it made with other countries or defend American merchant trade. State governments were often dominated by radical elements that interfered with the economic status quo, including diluting the value of currency to aid debtors.

Shays's Rebellion in Massachusetts in 1787 highlighted the fragility of internal security in the new country. The state of Massachusetts struggled to put down the revolt by desperate farmers, and the central government had little power to aid the state authorities or induce other states to assist.

MSC: Analyzing

5. Were the Founders motivated primarily by economic interests or moral principles?

ANS:

The economic interests argument was made first and most boldly by Charles Beard in 1913. Beard argues that the Founders wrote the Constitution to protect and expand their fortunes. This is consistent with some facts: Northern merchants did fear debtor riots, while Southern states feared slave revolts; both preferred a strong central government to address these potential problems. The new federal government also helped protect against currency inflation, limited credit markets, and high public debts.

The moral principles argument holds that the Founders were primarily acting on the political ideas current in their era. For example, they sought to protect commerce against state legislators seizing property and to ensure the ability of all citizens to participate in government.

MSC: Evaluating

6. In what ways did the new Constitution represent an improvement over the Articles of Confederation?

ANS:

- 1) The new Constitution delegated real power to the national government. Thus the federal government was much better able to provide collective goods to states and citizens, such as the following:
 - a) military security against potential invasions or internal revolt
 - b) defense of U.S. merchant ships at sea
 - c) effective and coordinated diplomacy with other countries
 - d) a national postal service
 - e) better-coordinated domestic trade with uniform rules and weights and measures
- 2) This new national government included independent executive and judicial branches. This provided a new source of quick action (the president) and oversight over the legislative branch.
- 3) More broadly, the new national government effectively paired a larger grant of power to itself with multiple checks to prevent tyrannical use of this power. As a result, citizens were more secure from the abuses of government; they had previously been subject to potential abuse by state governments acting with little national oversight.

MSC: Evaluating

7. Why did the framers fear excessive democracy? Through what means were they able to limit its influence on the structure of government?

ANS:

The text mentions that the framers feared excessive democracy at the state level and wanted to rein it in. This includes state policies like diluting the value of currency, seizing property, canceling or delaying debts, and refusing to pay off government debts. Such policies demonstrated the potential for democratic tyranny.

More broadly, the framers were familiar with democracies and republics throughout history and assumed that humans are ambitious and are prone to abuse power if they can. They worried, for example, that the new independent president included in the Constitution might become a popular demagogue and tyrant.

The limits they imposed include the following:

- 1) Direct limits on the use of power in the Constitution, especially the Bill of Rights and Article I, Section 9
- 2) Checks and balances
 - a. bicameralism
 - b. separation of powers, with three branches able to block and influence each other
 - c. federalism, with independent state governments able to block federal actions
- 3) Regular elections for politicians serving fixed terms

MSC: Analyzing

8. How did the Founders ultimately balance the need for an effective national government with the need to protect the rights of states and individuals?

ANS:

- 1) The new Constitution delegated real power to the national government. Thus the federal government was much better able to provide collective goods to states and citizens, such as the following:
 - a) military security against potential invasions or internal revolt
 - b) defense of U.S. merchant ships at sea
 - c) effective and coordinated diplomacy with other countries
 - d) a national postal service
 - e) better-coordinated domestic trade with uniform rules and weights and measures.
- 2) This new national government included independent executive and judicial branches. This separation provided a new source of quick action (the president) and oversight over the legislative branch.
- 3) More broadly, the new national government effectively paired a larger grant of power to itself with multiple checks to prevent tyrannical use of this power. These include the following:
 - a. Direct limits on the use of power in the Constitution, especially the Bill of Rights and Article I, Section 9
 - b. Checks and balances
 - i. bicameralism
 - ii. separation of powers, with three branches able to block and influence each other
 - iii. federalism, with independent state governments able to block federal actions
 - c. Regular elections for politicians serving fixed terms

MSC: Analyzing

9. What compromises were made during the Constitutional Convention and why?

ANS:

The text highlights two compromises: The Great Compromise (also known as the Connecticut Compromise) between large and small states and the Three-Fifths Compromise between slave and nonslave states. The first pact established a bicameral legislature, with one chamber based on representation and the other allowing states to have equal representation. The second settled the question of whether slaves would go toward Congressional representation by allowing three-fifths of a state's population of slaves to count.

In addition to these central compromises, student essays may mention any of several other provisions as the result of a compromise based on other course materials or students' own prior knowledge of the Constitution.

MSC: Analyzing

10. What strategies are built into the Constitution to prevent the abuse of power?

ANS:

- 1) The new national government included independent executive and judicial branches. This provided a new source of quick action (the president) and oversight over the legislative branch.
- 2) More broadly, the new government effectively paired a larger grant of power to government with multiple checks to prevent tyrannical use of this power. These include the following:
 - a. Direct limits on the use of power in the Constitution, especially the Bill of Rights and Article I, Section 9.
 - b. Checks and balances
 - i. bicameralism
 - ii. separation of powers, with three branches able to block and influence each other
 - iii. federalism, with independent state governments able to block federal actions
 - c. Regular elections for politicians serving fixed terms

MSC: Analyzing

11. During the fight for ratification, what major criticisms did the Antifederalists deliver against the proposed Constitution, and how did the Federalists respond?

ANS:

- 1) The Antifederalists argued that citizens could not be truly and fairly represented in a large republic. Genuine representation requires sympathy and similarity that can only be found in small republics—that is, states. Absent a close representational bond, citizens will ignore and violate federal laws.

Federalists replied that the Constitution would allow representatives to have some discretion—some independence from the opinions of their constituents—which would allow them to govern well. Good governance, in turn, would promote obedience.

- 2) Antifederalists were fearful of tyranny by a small group of elites who gained control of government and then gradually increased their hold on power. Federalists were concerned by the threat of majority tyranny by state legislatures. Larger republics are more diverse and hence less prone to abusive majorities, and the complex structure of the federal government, including staggered elections, would help limit the threat of tyranny by the new federal authorities.
- 3) The Antifederalists sought to limit the grant of power to the federal government by strictly enumerating what it could (a list of enumerated powers) and could not (a Bill of Rights) do.

Federalists believed the new government needed a broad mandate and some flexibility to adapt to new situations.

MSC: Analyzing

12. Explain the process for amending the Constitution and use specific examples to discuss the types of amendments that have actually been ratified.

ANS:

There are four pathways to amending the Constitution.

- 1) Proposal by a two-thirds vote of both chambers of Congress, approval by three-fourths of state legislatures (used for all amendments except the Twenty-First)
- 2) Proposal by a two-thirds vote of both chambers of Congress, approval by conventions in three-fourths of states (used once, to pass the Twenty-First Amendment repealing Prohibition)
- 3) Proposal by a constitutional convention called by two-thirds of state legislatures, approval by three-fourths of state legislatures (never used)
- 4) Proposal by a constitutional convention called by two-thirds of state legislatures, approval by conventions in three-fourths of states (never used)

Each pathway requires multiple supermajority thresholds. In practice, each constitutional amendment has required both federal and state support and the support of both major political parties (note: the text for Chapter 2 does not mention political parties on this point).

MSC: Analyzing

13. In what ways do we see the rationality principle manifest in the creation of the Constitution?

ANS:

- 1) The actions of individuals and groups of people were based on their perceived self-interest. Merchants and planters sought a stronger federal government to ensure security, domestic and foreign trade, and some protection from state legislatures. State legislators resisted the Constitution as a reduction in their power, while many delegates to the Constitutional Convention advocated for the interests of their states based on size, industry, and dependence on slavery.
- 2) The decision to cooperate at the Constitutional Convention by using negotiation and compromise reflected a rational calculus that the new nation would make them all better off if they could resolve their differences.
- 3) The Constitution is designed to accommodate and exploit the behavior of rational self-interest. Self-interested politicians' desire for power would motivate them to monitor and check the other branches of government, while elected representatives would seek to do the best possible job so they could be reelected.

- 4) The process for ratification of the Constitution reflected a strategic decision to avoid the process for amendment laid out in the Articles of Confederation: unanimous consent of state legislatures. This would never work, because state legislatures would lose authority in general and Rhode Island in particular was opposed to the new Constitution.

Note: There may be several other legitimate points.

MSC: Understanding

14. Compare and contrast the powers of Congress under the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution. Was Congress more or less powerful under the Articles of Confederation?

ANS:

Congress was much less powerful under the Articles of Confederation. Structurally, Congress was the only real branch under the Articles of Confederation, with no independent executive or judicial branch.

Nominally, the Articles of Confederation Congress had the power to declare war and make peace, to make treaties and alliances, to coin or borrow money, and to regulate trade with Native Americans. It did not have the power to regulate commerce between states, levy taxes, or form a national army. In practice, however, the Articles of Confederation Congress had little real power to execute its own laws or compel states to conform to its mandates.

MSC: Analyzing

15. What types of collective dilemmas did the United States face under the Articles of Confederation?

ANS:

The Articles of Confederation established a weak central government with no executive branch or independent judiciary. The Continental Congress lacked the ability to actually enforce its mandates.

As a result, the Continental Congress could not enforce the treaties it made with other countries or defend American merchant trade. State governments were often dominated by radical elements that interfered with the economic status quo, including diluting the value of currency to aid debtors.

Shays's Rebellion in Massachusetts in 1787 highlighted the fragility of internal security in the new country. The state of Massachusetts struggled to put down the revolt by desperate farmers, and the central government had little power to aid the state authorities or induce other states to assist.

See pages 37–40.

MSC: Analyzing

16. Institutions shape politics. Why did the institutions designed by the Articles of Confederation lead to pressures to draft a new Constitution?

ANS:

The Articles of Confederation established a weak central government with no executive branch or independent judiciary. The Continental Congress lacked the ability to actually enforce its mandates.

As a result, the Continental Congress could not enforce the treaties it made with other countries or defend American merchant trade. State governments were often dominated by radical elements that interfered with the economic status quo, including diluting the value of currency to aid debtors.

Shays's Rebellion in Massachusetts in 1787 highlighted the fragility of internal security in the new country. The state of Massachusetts struggled to put down the revolt by desperate farmers, and the central government had little power to aid the state authorities or induce other states to assist.

See pages 37–40.

MSC: Analyzing

17. The framers developed four constitutional principles that prevent the threat of excessive democracy: bicameralism, checks and balances, staggered terms of office, and indirect election. Describe these principles and how they prevent the federal government from directly reflecting the will of the people.

ANS:

- 1) Bicameralism: The use of a legislature with two chambers. The framers adopted the structure of the U.S. Congress, with two independently elected bodies, as the result of the Connecticut Compromise or Great Compromise.
- 2) Checks and balances: The mechanisms through which each branch of government is able to participate in and influence the activities of the other branches. Students may provide specific examples, such as the executive veto.
- 3) Staggered terms: The Senate, House of Representatives, and president serve terms of different lengths and thus their electoral terms are not synchronized. The Senate, in addition, is elected on a staggered cycle, so one-third of its members are elected each time. This approach helps diversify the electoral incentives of elected officials; they have differing time horizons and were elected under different circumstances.
- 4) Indirect elections: The original Constitution provided for indirect election of senators. They were selected by state legislatures as a way to limit popular influence on senators and to ensure that the Senate was composed of more elite members. This changed with the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution. Additionally, the president is elected indirectly. Each state chooses an allotted number of presidential electors, who vote to choose the president. In practice, however, these electors are elected by popular vote and have nearly zero discretion.

MSC: Analyzing

18. How did the cleavages between small states and large states and between slave states and nonslave states shape the institutional design of the Constitution?

ANS:

The text highlights two compromises (see pages 41–46): The Great Compromise (also known as the Connecticut Compromise) between large and small states and the Three-Fifths Compromise between slave and nonslave states. The first pact established a bicameral legislature, with one chamber based on representation and the other allowing states to have equal representation. The second settled the question of whether slaves would go toward Congressional representation by allowing three-fifths of a state's population of slaves to count.

MSC: Analyzing