

Student name: _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1) In the Preamble to the Constitution, the language "promote the general welfare" is part of what two common components of a constitution?

- A) fundamental principles and description of foundational bodies
- B) fundamental principles and ambiguous language
- C) ambiguous language and essential operating procedures
- D) mission statement and essential operating procedures
- E) description of foundational structures and mission statement

2) Which of these features is contained within written constitutions?

- A) mission statements
- B) descriptions of foundational structures
- C) fundamental principles
- D) details of essential operating procedures
- E) All of these answers are correct.

3) How many foundational government bodies, or branches, are described by the U.S. Constitution?

- A) one
- B) two
- C) three
- D) four
- E) six

4) According to the Constitution,

- A) the legislature enforces the law.
- B) the executive makes the law.
- C) the judicial branch resolves conflicts over the law.
- D) the bureaucrats make the law.
- E) All of these answers are correct.

5) Indentured servants were those who worked for a number of years

- A) for a master in America, then returned to Europe.
- B) for a master in America who had paid for their passage.
- C) for a master in America after being transported against their will.
- D) in America, then gained access to land and other property.
- E) for a master in America, then left for the Caribbean and Mexico.

6) Which of the following best represents the eighteenth-century colonists' desire for government by the people?

- A) popular sovereignty
- B) representational democracy
- C) universal suffrage
- D) government established to protect the people's liberties
- E) a two-tiered system of government, with power split between Britain and the colonies

7) In the two-tiered system of colonial government in the early eighteenth century, which group had authority over day-to-day matters?

- A) local officials and assemblies elected by the colonists
- B) Parliament
- C) governors appointed by royal authority
- D) local officials and assemblies appointed by royal governors
- E) the British cabinet

- 8) In the two-tiered system of colonial government in the early eighteenth century, which group enacted the laws that Great Britain expected the colonists to comply with?
- A) local officials and assemblies
 - B) Parliament
 - C) governors appointed by royal authority
 - D) the king
 - E) the British cabinet
- 9) The North American component of the Seven Years' War was fought between
- A) Britain and Holland.
 - B) Britain and Russia.
 - C) Britain and France.
 - D) Britain and Spain.
 - E) Britain and Portugal.
- 10) After the Sugar and Stamp Acts were imposed by Britain's Parliament, what proved to be the colonists' "single most valuable tool, short of war"?
- A) protests
 - B) supplying the British soldiers
 - C) boycotting
 - D) women who provided homegrown or homespun textiles
 - E) None of these answers is correct.
- 11) Which of the following chronologies is correct?

- A) Stamp Act, Sugar Act, Declaratory Act, Townshend Duties Act
- B) Sugar Act, Stamp Act, Declaratory Act, Townshend Duties Act
- C) Declaratory Act, Sugar Act, Stamp Act, Townshend Duties Act
- D) Sugar Act, Declaratory Act, Stamp Act, Townshend Duties Act
- E) Stamp Act, Declaratory Act, Sugar Act, Townshend Duties Act

12) In 1772, which colony formed the first Committee of Correspondence, which called for rebellion and organized acts of resistance and protest toward the British?

- A) New Hampshire
- B) Virginia
- C) Maryland
- D) Massachusetts
- E) All of these colonies were involved in creating the first Committee of Correspondence.

13) In 1770, about how many British soldiers were quartered among the civilians living in Boston?

- A) about thirty
- B) a hundred or so
- C) nearly five hundred
- D) thousands
- E) the number is unknown

14) Who formed the Massachusetts Committee of Correspondence in 1772?

- A) John Hancock
- B) Paul Revere
- C) Patrick Henry
- D) Samuel Adams
- E) Benjamin Franklin

- 15) Which group gained a monopoly over the tea trade with passage of the Tea Act (1773)?
- A) a shipping cartel led by John Hancock
 - B) the East India Tea Company
 - C) business interests connected to King George III
 - D) French and Dutch traders
 - E) Mohawk Indians
- 16) What repercussion followed the Boston Tea Party of December 16, 1773?
- A) passage of the Coercive Acts
 - B) closure of the port of Boston
 - C) imposition of martial law
 - D) shutting down of the colonial assembly and prohibition of town meetings
 - E) All of these answers are correct.
- 17) Which of the following chronological sequences of events is correct?
- A) Boston Tea Party; First Continental Congress; Declaration of Independence
 - B) Shays's Rebellion; Annapolis Convention; Declaration of Independence
 - C) Declaration of Independence; Stamp Act; Philadelphia Convention
 - D) Articles of Confederation; Declaration of Independence; Annapolis Convention
 - E) First Continental Congress; Stamp Act; Articles of Confederation
- 18) In September 1774, all colonies sent delegates to the First Continental Congress EXCEPT

- A) Delaware.
- B) Georgia.
- C) Rhode Island.
- D) New York.
- E) New Hampshire.

19) The assembled delegates at the Second Continental Congress

- A) called for a truce in the hostilities with the British.
- B) demanded participation in Parliament's policy-making processes.
- C) empowered Congress to function as an independent government.
- D) adopted the Declaration of Rights and Grievances.
- E) All of these answers are correct.

20) According to Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, _____ was the only option that would ensure American liberty and religious freedom.

- A) diplomacy
- B) civil disobedience
- C) parliamentary representation
- D) popular protest
- E) war

21) At the Second Continental Congress, who argued that "these united Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent States"?

- A) Richard Henry Lee
- B) Thomas Jefferson
- C) James Madison
- D) John Hancock
- E) Samuel Adams

- 22) Which of the following is a central principle of the Declaration of Independence?
- A) All men are equal.
 - B) Natural rights are derived from the consent of the governed.
 - C) Freedom is derived from the right to vote.
 - D) All men must relinquish their inalienable rights to the authority of the sovereign.
 - E) All men deserve the right to vote and gain parliamentary representation based on population numbers.
- 23) Which of these dates marked the War for Independence?
- A) 1756-1763
 - B) 1765-1775
 - C) 1770-1780
 - D) 1775-1783
 - E) 1776-1785
- 24) Which of these states enacted state constitutions in 1777?
- A) New York and Georgia
 - B) Georgia, Massachusetts, and Vermont
 - C) New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island
 - D) Connecticut, Georgia, and Rhode Island
 - E) Vermont, Georgia, and Massachusetts
- 25) Which of the following is NOT an element of the Declaration of Independence?

- A) All men are created equal.
- B) Governments should be based on the consent of the governed.
- C) The rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are natural rights possessed by all men.
- D) Citizens have the duty to abolish a government that does not protect their rights.
- E) Men and women should have equal rights.

26) In what way were the new state constitutions revolutionary?

- A) They were unwritten but strictly followed, unlike the English constitution.
- B) They were the accumulation of laws written over time and based on customs and traditions.
- C) They were adopted whole at a specific moment in time.
- D) They established independence, yet still submitted to the rule of a king.
- E) They lacked the specified principles and structures of previous constitutions.

27) Bicameral legislatures contain two separate parts, known as

- A) departments.
- B) chambers.
- C) houses.
- D) parliaments.
- E) bodies.

28) The state constitutions written after the Declaration of Independence were

- A) written under the guidance of Thomas Jefferson.
- B) specifically required to have bicameral legislatures.
- C) invalidated once the Constitution was ratified.
- D) designed to preserve natural rights.
- E) All of these answers are correct.

29) How many national governing bodies were created for the United States within the Articles of Confederation?

- A) one
- B) two
- C) three
- D) four
- E) six

30) Which of the following statements reflects the constitutional structure within the Articles of Confederation (1781-1789)?

- A) Approval of policies and treaty ratification required nine affirmative votes.
- B) State courts retained jurisdiction over legal matters except in cases of interstate conflict.
- C) State governments would implement and pay for congressionally approved policies.
- D) Any constitutional amendments required unanimous approval of all 13 states.
- E) All of these answers are correct.

31) How could the Articles of Confederation be amended?

- A) by a majority vote of Congress
- B) by approval of seven of the thirteen state delegations to Congress
- C) by approval of nine of the thirteen state delegations to Congress
- D) by approval of eleven of the thirteen state delegations to Congress
- E) by approval of all thirteen state delegations to Congress

32) Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress did NOT have the power to

- A) negotiate treaties.
- B) levy taxes.
- C) appoint a presiding officer.
- D) pass legislation.
- E) coin money.

33) Under the Articles of Confederation, most power rested with

- A) Congress.
- B) the states.
- C) towns and cities.
- D) the British government.
- E) the national court system.

34) Shays's Rebellion was undertaken by

- A) Revolutionary War veterans who wanted to be paid.
- B) small farmers with large debts.
- C) urban businessmen concerned about high taxes.
- D) Revolutionary War veterans who wanted to be paid and small farmers with large debts.
- E) All of these answers are correct.

35) Shays's Rebellion

- A) was a successful revolt.
- B) occurred after the Philadelphia Convention of 1787.
- C) helped convince many political leaders that the national government was not powerful enough.
- D) reinforced public support for the Articles of Confederation.
- E) All of these answers are correct.

36) Which state was the only one that did NOT send delegates to the Constitutional Convention in 1787?

- A) Georgia
- B) Rhode Island
- C) New York
- D) New Jersey
- E) Maryland

37) The main factor in the eventual ratification of the Constitution by the states was

- A) the creation of the office of vice president.
- B) the large amount of power given to the national government.
- C) the elegant nature of the separation of powers.
- D) the promise that a bill of rights would be added.
- E) the inclusion of checks and balances.

38) The "dual sovereignty" of the Constitution refers to

- A) its provision for both a president and a vice president.
- B) the way it pit the legislative branch against the executive branch.
- C) a federal system, or the sharing of power between the national government and state governments.
- D) the creation for the national government of both strong domestic power and strong international power.
- E) None of these answers is correct.

39) That national laws prevail over conflicting state laws is part of the Constitution's

- A) separation of powers.
- B) supremacy clause.
- C) checks and balances.
- D) judiciary function.
- E) None of these answers is correct.

40) The president vetoing congressional legislation best illustrates

- A) the supremacy of the federal government over state governments.
- B) the concept of separation of powers.
- C) the concept of checks and balances.
- D) the wisdom of the Connecticut Compromise.
- E) the importance of judicial review.

41) Which of the following is NOT a congressional power?

- A) initiation of constitutional amendments
- B) impeaching and removing the president
- C) approving presidential appointments
- D) appointing Supreme Court justices
- E) overriding presidential vetoes

42) Which of the following is NOT a presidential power?

- A) calling emergency sessions of Congress
- B) making foreign treaties
- C) appointing federal judges
- D) vetoing laws passed by Congress
- E) deciding the constitutionality of laws

43) At Philadelphia, who drafted the Virginia Plan, which included a three-branch government?

- A) James Madison
- B) William Paterson
- C) Benjamin Franklin
- D) George Washington
- E) John Hancock

44) The Connecticut Compromise (or Great Compromise) produced

- A) checks and balances.
- B) the abolition of slavery.
- C) a bicameral Congress.
- D) separation of powers.
- E) federalism.

45) In designing the Constitution, which component of the federal government was the only one the framers allowed to be elected directly by citizens?

- A) the president
- B) the House of Representatives
- C) the Senate
- D) the Supreme Court
- E) the Vice President

46) The Constitution

- A) protected the voting rights of all citizens.
- B) gave the national government the power to determine who gets to vote.
- C) gave state governments the power to determine who gets to vote.
- D) gave local governments the power to determine who gets to vote.
- E) did not provide for any direct election of federal office holders.

47) What issue led to the Three-Fifths Compromise?

- A) states' rights
- B) individual liberty versus federal power
- C) slavery
- D) foreign treaties
- E) disagreement over separation of powers

48) Under the original Constitution, Congress could not ban the slave trade until

- A) 1808.
- B) 1818.
- C) 1828.
- D) 1857.
- E) 1865.

49) According to Article I of the Constitution, a proposed piece of legislation requires a _____ in both the House and Senate to become law.

- A) simple majority vote
- B) three-fifths majority vote
- C) two-thirds majority vote
- D) three-quarters majority vote
- E) unanimous vote

50) Based on the sum total of its powers in the Constitution, which body of government is the main check of the legislative authority of Congress?

- A) the judiciary
- B) the executive
- C) the president of the Senate
- D) the Electoral College
- E) None of these answers is correct.

51) Article III of the Constitution describes the powers and structure of which of the following?

- A) legislative branch
- B) executive branch
- C) judicial branch
- D) state-to-state relations
- E) the amendment process

52) *Marbury v. Madison* is a landmark Supreme Court decision that

- A) established national supremacy.
- B) set the precedent for judicial review.
- C) defined the scope of state powers under the Tenth Amendment.
- D) affirmed the necessary and proper clause.
- E) helped to end Thomas Jefferson's political career.

53) Article _____ of the Constitution details the process of constitutional amendment.

- A) IV
- B) V
- C) VI
- D) VII
- E) VIII

54) Which article of the Constitution describes the process of constitutional ratification?

- A) Article IV
- B) Article V
- C) Article VI
- D) Article VII
- E) Article VIII

55) Constitutional amendments are proposed in Congress by

- A) a majority vote that can be vetoed by the president.
- B) a two-thirds vote majority vote in both the House and Senate.
- C) a two-thirds vote in the Senate.
- D) a three-fourths vote in either the House or Senate.
- E) a three-fourths vote that cannot be vetoed by the president.

56) Constitutional amendments can be ratified by

- A) a two-thirds vote in Congress.
- B) a three-fourths vote in Congress.
- C) a two-thirds vote in either state legislatures or state conventions.
- D) a three-fourths vote in either state legislatures or state conventions.
- E) a unanimous vote of the president and the president's cabinet.

57) *The Federalist Papers* were written by

- A) Washington, Adams, and Jefferson.
- B) Madison, Hamilton, and Jay.
- C) Marshall, Jefferson, and Madison.
- D) Jefferson, Washington, and Madison.
- E) Marshall, Jay, and Jefferson.

58) Which Anti-Federalist wrote under the pen name "A Columbian Patriot"?

- A) Thomas Jefferson
- B) Alexander Hamilton
- C) Mercy Otis Warren
- D) John Jay
- E) James Madison

59) What year saw the passage of the Bill of Rights?

- A) 1787
- B) 1789
- C) 1791
- D) 1793
- E) 1795

60) Which constitutional amendment indicated that the list of already-included civil liberties in previous amendments was NOT exhaustive?

- A) Sixth Amendment
- B) Seventh Amendment
- C) Eighth Amendment
- D) Ninth Amendment
- E) Tenth Amendment

- 61) How many amendments have actually been ratified by the states since 1789?
- A) 23
 - B) 27
 - C) 29
 - D) 33
 - E) 35
- 62) How many proposed constitutional amendments are introduced in Congress every term?
- A) 100 to 200
 - B) about 500
 - C) about 700
 - D) about 900
 - E) 1,000 to 2,000

ESSAY. Write your answer in the space provided or on a separate sheet of paper.

- 63) Detail the core components of a constitution.
- 64) Outline the factors that led to increased friction between Britain and its North American colonial subjects during the eighteenth century.
- 65) Identify the factors that encouraged the formation of the First Continental Congress.

66) Discuss the philosophical principles of the Declaration of Independence.

67) Outline the important features of the federal structure created by the Articles of Confederation.

68) Explain and discuss the important features of the system of dual sovereignty.

69) Discuss the formation of electors and the Electoral College, and discuss the role they play in the election of the president and vice president.

70) Describe the way that the issue of slavery was dealt with during the Constitutional Convention.

71) Discuss the chief issues of debate between Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

72) Identify the factors that have allowed for the continuous re-interpretation of the Constitution since its creation.

Answer Key

Test name: Democracy 2

- 1) B
- 2) E
- 3) C
- 4) C
- 5) B
- 6) A
- 7) A
- 8) B
- 9) C
- 10) C
- 11) B
- 12) D
- 13) D
- 14) D
- 15) B
- 16) E
- 17) A
- 18) B
- 19) C
- 20) E
- 21) A
- 22) A
- 23) D
- 24) A
- 25) E
- 26) C

- 27) B
- 28) D
- 29) A
- 30) E
- 31) E
- 32) B
- 33) B
- 34) D
- 35) C
- 36) B
- 37) D
- 38) C
- 39) B
- 40) C
- 41) D
- 42) E
- 43) A
- 44) C
- 45) B
- 46) C
- 47) C
- 48) A
- 49) A
- 50) B
- 51) C
- 52) B
- 53) B
- 54) D
- 55) B
- 56) D

57) B

58) C

59) C

60) D

61) B

62) A

63) A constitution typically has several core components. The first is usually the mission of the government, such as in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution. Constitutions must also have a list of fundamental principles, a description of its foundational structures (like executive, legislative, and judicial branches), and its essential operating procedures. Most constitutions will inevitably also contain vague and ambiguous language that will spark conflict and debate.

64) Unlike British subjects living in England in the period before the War for Independence, the colonists, who also regarded themselves as British, were largely excluded from participating in the political process. This exclusion alienated the American colonists, who since early colonization had become used to managing most of their local affairs. This changed after the Seven Years' War, as Britain attempted to shift the costs of colonial governance onto the colonies themselves. A series of British laws such as the Stamp, Quartering, and Declaratory Acts were seen by the colonists as unreasonable and onerous, especially since they had no political say in their passage or enforcement.

65) The Continental Congress emerged in response to several issues: anger over the British government's passage of laws that, in the eyes of opponents such as Samuel Adams, fundamentally infringed on colonial liberties; sympathy for Massachusetts, which after the "Boston Massacre" and the Tea Party chafed under martial law; and finally, a realization of the growing shared consciousness of the colonials and their understanding of the need for collective action.

66) Created by Thomas Jefferson and unanimously endorsed by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence advanced three core principles that were radical for the time. It argued that all people are born free and equal and enjoy natural rights, such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The second two principles were drawn from social contract theory--both that the consent of the governed must form the basis of all governments and that the people have the duty to abolish a government that is not protecting their rights.

67) The Articles of Confederation were ratified by 13 states in 1781. The Articles created a unicameral legislature, the Congress. Each state had from two to seven delegates, but only one vote. The Articles did not create any other governing bodies, and the Congress had limited authority, with most matters remaining in the hands of the states. Congress could not levy taxes or regulate commerce between states. Finally, amending the Articles required unanimous consent from all thirteen states.

68) The framers of the Constitution created an innovative system of government with dual sovereignty—a system of government in which governing authority is divided between two levels of government, a central government and regional governments, with each level having ultimate authority over different policy matters.

69) In striking a compromise between those who wanted popular election of the president and those who wanted it done by national or state legislatures, the framers of the Constitution devised a particular system of electing the president and vice president. The Constitution delegates to states the authority to appoint individuals known as electors (whose numbers match those of the state's representatives to Congress) to elect the president and vice president. Electors used to cast two votes for president, but it was reduced to one after the 12th amendment. Now they each cast one vote for president and one vote for vice president.

70) Delegates from southern states wanted to preserve slavery, and because the delegates from northern states needed their support to create a stronger central government, they compromised by essentially agreeing to delay the debate over its existence by letting slavery continue. The Constitution prevented debate on its legality until at least 1808, and it also included provisions that forced northern states to affirm slaves as property and to return escaped slaves to their owners. Additionally, the Three-Fifths Compromise allowed southern states to count each male slave as three-fifths of a person for the purposes of voting representation in Congress.

71) Immediately after the publication of the 1787 Constitution, both supporters and opponents began to debate the merits of the stronger national government it had created. The Federalists, such as James Madison and Alexander Hamilton, supported the Constitution on the grounds that it provided the greatest likelihood of preserving individual liberties by preventing external encroachment. The Anti-Federalists, led by Thomas Jefferson, argued that the Constitution placed too much power with the federal government at the expense of the states and individual freedoms.

72) Two core factors have enabled the Constitution to remain relevant as society has changed. First, the role of judicial review, which grants courts the power to re-interpret constitutional law, has enabled considerable flexibility. Second, a formal amendment process has allowed the constitution to change with the times, though this process has proven very difficult and relatively rare over time, with only 27 total amendments making it all the way through the approval process.