

Chapter 02: The Constitution

Multiple Choice

1. The Madisonian Model of government was devised to _____.
 - a. create a unicameral legislature
 - b. give the judiciary supreme power
 - c. promote controlling factions
 - d. implement separation of powers
 - e. eliminate the judiciary branch

2. The Philadelphia meeting, which became the Constitutional Convention, was called "for the sole and express purpose" of:
 - a. revising the Articles of Confederation.
 - b. drafting the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut.
 - c. revising the Mayflower Compact.
 - d. electing a president.
 - e. reviewing the provisions in the Great Compromise.

3. The Articles of Confederation provided that:
 - a. each state could send two to seven representatives to the congress.
 - b. the Congress of the Confederation could force the states to meet military quotas.
 - c. a bicameral Congress of the Confederation would act as the central governing body.
 - d. each state, no matter what its size, had two votes.
 - e. a powerful central government would be formed based on the system of monarchy.

4. The earliest colonial legislature in America was the _____.
 - a. Virginia House of Burgesses
 - b. Assembly of Freemen
 - c. Massachusetts House of Representatives
 - d. Connecticut House of Representatives
 - e. House of Delegates

5. In an attempt to negotiate with the Anti-Federalists during the Constitutional ratification, the Federalists promised to:
 - a. establish a federal court system once the Constitution was ratified.
 - b. add a bill of rights to the Constitution under the new government.
 - c. guarantee voting rights for women and slaves to ensure complete representation.
 - d. appoint Anti-Federalists to important positions in the government.
 - e. minimize the powers of the judicial branch of government to ensure privileges to aristocrats.

6. In the context of the Continental Congress, which of the following is true of the committees of "safety" or "observation"?
 - a. They were formed after the battles at Lexington and Concord.
 - b. They conducted paramedical training for the colonists' army.
 - c. They were responsible for propagating a sense of loyalty to the British Crown among the colonists.

Chapter 02: The Constitution

- d. They were formed as a result of the Second Continental Congress.
 - e. They reported to the press the names of those who violated the boycott against Britain.
7. Which of the following is true of the provisions of the Articles of Confederation?
- a. The Congress of the Confederation was established as a unicameral assembly of representatives.
 - b. Civil officers could be elected by the public to manage general affairs.
 - c. States were deprived of their independent political authority.
 - d. The Congress of the Confederation needed the consent of at least five states to amend the Articles.
 - e. Each state could send only one representative to the congress.
8. After the British victory in the Seven Years' War, the:
- a. relationship between the American colonists and the British greatly improved.
 - b. British government began imposing taxes on the American colonists.
 - c. American colonists began to enjoy more independence from British control.
 - d. American colonists convened for the First Continental Congress on September 5, 1774, to discuss an alliance with the French.
 - e. American colonists strategized for a war against the Native Americans.
9. Which of the following proposals was part of the Virginia Plan?
- a. A unicameral legislature with states' representations based on their population
 - b. A national executive branch, elected by a bicameral legislature
 - c. A state court system, created by the legislature
 - d. A committee of states based on their participation in the Constitutional Convention
 - e. A federal court judge elected by the people
10. The first time a majority of American colonists joined together to oppose British rule was during:
- a. the Second Continental Congress.
 - b. Shays' Rebellion.
 - c. the Boston Tea Party.
 - d. the First Continental Congress.
 - e. the Stamp Act Congress.
11. The colonists began using the word American to describe themselves:
- a. after writing the Articles of Confederation.
 - b. when the Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts.
 - c. after adopting the Declaration of Independence.
 - d. after the conclusion of the Seven Years' War.
 - e. when the British Parliament refused to repeal the Stamp Act.
12. Which of the following was proposed in the New Jersey Plan?
- a. The legislature would create a national court system.
 - b. A state's population would determine its number of representatives in Congress.
 - c. A bicameral legislature would have two chambers that represented the states equally.

Chapter 02: The Constitution

- d. The Acts of Congress would be the supreme law of the land.
 - e. The state laws would overrule Acts of Congress in matters of conflict between states.
13. One of the reasons there are so few amendments to the Constitution is that _____.
- a. the original Constitution was passed by a majority vote
 - b. the framers made the formal amendment process difficult
 - c. amendments were initially prohibited in the Constitution
 - d. amendments which have been proposed have been few and far between
 - e. amendments must be passed unanimously by Congress
14. As opposed to their opponents, which of the following is an advantage the Federalists had in the debate over the ratification of the Constitution?
- a. They assumed a positive name, leaving their opposition with a negative label.
 - b. They favored the bill of rights more strongly than their opponents.
 - c. They had the support of ordinary farmers and merchants.
 - d. They wrote brilliantly, attacking nearly every clause of the new constitution document.
 - e. They stood for the status quo, which gave them the support of the working class.
15. At the Constitutional Convention, in exchange for a ban on export taxes, the South agreed to let Congress have the power to _____.
- a. impose import taxes
 - b. regulate voting rights
 - c. appoint an independent executive
 - d. ban slavery
 - e. regulate interstate commerce
16. _____ emphasizes "effective government" rather than "limited government."
- a. The parliamentary system
 - b. The concept of the separation of power
 - c. Federalism
 - d. The concept of checks and balances
 - e. The concept of the veto power
17. The _____ pioneered the popular election of a governor and judges.
- a. Bill of Rights
 - b. Mayflower Compact
 - c. Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges
 - d. Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
 - e. Northwestern Ordinance
18. The First Continental Congress:
- a. called for a continued boycott of British goods.
 - b. had all thirteen colonies participate in it.

Chapter 02: The Constitution

- c. immediately assumed the powers of a central government.
 - d. named George Washington as the commander in chief of the army.
 - e. declared that the militiamen who had gathered around Boston were a full army.
19. The _____ established a national form of government following the American Revolution.
- a. Articles of Confederation
 - b. Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
 - c. Declaration of Independence
 - d. Mayflower Compact
 - e. Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges
20. In response to the Boston Tea Party, the British Parliament:
- a. passed new laws designed to give the colonists in Boston more right to govern themselves.
 - b. repealed the Stamp Act and allowed greater representation for the colonists in the parliament.
 - c. closed Boston Harbor and placed the government of Massachusetts under direct British control.
 - d. imposed additional taxes on glass, paint, and lead that was imported by the colonists in Boston.
 - e. wrote the Articles of Confederation to limit the freedom of American colonists.
21. Which of the following is true of the pamphlet Common Sense?
- a. It was an Anti-Federalist essay which argued that the Constitution would lead the nation to tyranny.
 - b. It expressed the desire to acquire a strong central government.
 - c. It was a pamphlet that reflected the Hobbesian views on world politics.
 - d. It argued that America could be economically self-sufficient and does not need its British connection.
 - e. It helped re-establish loyalty to the British monarch.
22. Which of the following statements is true about the Declaration of Independence?
- a. It served as a draft of America's first national constitution.
 - b. It empowered state governments to write their own constitutions.
 - c. It was written by the Pilgrims to serve as a social contract.
 - d. It was issued by the British Government to grant freedom to its American colonies.
 - e. It elevated the dispute between Britain and the American colonies to a universal level.
23. All the amendments to the Constitution have been proposed by:
- a. a vote by one-third of the state legislatures.
 - b. a vote by three-fourths of the state legislatures.
 - c. a two-thirds vote in the Senate and in the House of Representatives.
 - d. a three-fourths vote in the Senate and in the House of Representatives.
 - e. a three-fourths vote in the House of Representatives.
24. Which of the following statements is true about the Stamp Act?
- a. It imposed a tax on all paper imported into the American colonies.
 - b. It was the second direct tax that the British Parliament imposed on the colonists.

Chapter 02: The Constitution

- c. It was a document prepared by colonial delegates outlining their perceived rights and grievances against the British rule.
 - d. It required that packaged sugar should have the stamp of the British crown.
 - e. It required that all legal documents use specially embossed paper that was to be purchased from the government.
25. Within a year of signing the _____, the new nation was suffering from a serious economic depression.
- a. Mayflower Compact
 - b. Treaty of Versailles
 - c. Treaty of Paris
 - d. Declaration of Independence
 - e. Magna Carta
26. The Madisonian Model of government is based on the principle of _____.
- a. separation of powers
 - b. representative government
 - c. rule of law
 - d. taxation without representation
 - e. the Great Compromise
27. The _____ was adopted on July 4, 1776 and most of the document was written by Thomas Jefferson.
- a. Mayflower Compact
 - b. Bill of Rights
 - c. Declaration of Independence
 - d. Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
 - e. Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges
28. For the most part, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention were _____.
- a. representative of the population as a whole
 - b. from the best-educated and wealthiest classes
 - c. members of the Anti-Federalist group
 - d. ordinary farmers and merchants
 - e. Native Americans
29. Which of the following is true of the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut?
- a. It set up the western boundary of the Connecticut colony.
 - b. It consisted of the first ten amendments to the Constitution which codified the inalienable rights.
 - c. It proposed that Connecticut's laws should be made by the British Crown and not the settlers in the New World.
 - d. It called for the civil laws to be made by an assembly of elected representatives from each town.
 - e. It provided the basic architectural layout for Connecticut.
30. The delegates of the _____ wrote a new constitution, the U.S. Constitution that established a federal form of

Chapter 02: The Constitution

government.

- a. Nominating Convention
- b. Boston Tea Party
- c. Second Continental Congress
- d. Constitutional Convention
- e. First Continental Congress

31. Which of the following is true of Shays' Rebellion?

- a. It was an indication to American political leaders that the national government was too discriminating.
- b. It was one of the series of disruptions which indicated the need for a strong central government.
- c. It was a protest against the imposition of a tax on all sugar imported into the American colonies.
- d. It was a catalyst for the Boston Tea Party in rebellion of the Stamp Act.
- e. It was an indication of the dependence of American colonists on the British Crown.

32. The Constitution incorporated the principle of _____ as the solution to the debate over whether the national government or the states should have ultimate sovereignty.

- a. popular sovereignty
- b. rule of law
- c. limited government
- d. federalism
- e. partisanship

33. In the context of the issues regarding slavery, which of the following statements is true about the settlement that was reached at the Constitutional Convention?

- a. The South won fifty years of unrestricted slave trade by agreeing to its prohibition thereafter.
- b. Slaves were not considered as part of a state's population.
- c. Slaves who had fled to the northern states had to be returned to their owners.
- d. Domestic slave trading was banned immediately after the Convention.
- e. Slaves who had escaped to England were considered free.

34. Which of the following was a fear expressed by the new Constitution's critics?

- a. Americans would consider themselves superior to other nations and declare war unreasonably.
- b. The rights of the wealthy upper classes would not be protected because of the principle of equality before law.
- c. A republican form of government would not work in a nation the size of the United States.
- d. A slave rebellion would ensue because the problem of slavery in the northern states was unresolved despite widespread disapproval.
- e. Extensive individual freedom in the hands of the common people would lead to chaos.

35. The _____ consists of the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

- a. Bill of Rights
- b. Mayflower Compact
- c. Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges
- d. Declaration of Independence

Chapter 02: The Constitution

- e. Gettysburg Address
36. The framers of the Constitution brought with them _____ when they met in Philadelphia in 1787.
- a. their hands-on political experience
 - b. the Bill of Rights
 - c. the principle of separation of powers
 - d. their Darwinian views on politics
 - e. the wealth acquired during the colonial era
37. The "traditional" amendment ratification method involves:
- a. a three-fourths vote in the Senate in favor of the proposed amendment.
 - b. a three-fourths vote in the House of Representatives requesting Congress to call a national convention.
 - c. a two-thirds vote in the Senate and in the House of Representatives in favor of the amendment.
 - d. a vote by two-thirds of the state legislatures requesting Congress to call a national convention.
 - e. a vote by three-fourths of the state legislatures in favor of the proposed amendment.
38. Which of the following is true of a confederation?
- a. States are governed centrally so that they can progress in a unified direction.
 - b. It is a party convention held at the local level that elects delegates to conventions at the national level.
 - c. The member states let the central government undertake most state activities.
 - d. It is an involuntary association of states which are annexed by the most powerful state.
 - e. The member states typically govern most state affairs as they see fit.
39. Which of the following is a consequence of Shays' Rebellion?
- a. Banks started refusing to issue new loans.
 - b. States started printing their own money at dizzying rates, leading to inflation.
 - c. Similar protests, emphasizing the need of a strong national government, started in many areas.
 - d. It led to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
 - e. States increasingly taxed each other's imports and at times even prevented trade altogether.
40. The battle over the ratification of the Constitution was fought chiefly by two opposing groups, _____.
- a. the Nationalists and the Federalists
 - b. the Republicans and the Conservatives
 - c. the Anti-Federalists and the Confederates
 - d. the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists
 - e. the Conservatives and the Libertarians
41. Which of the following is true of the Mayflower Compact?
- a. It served as a draft of America's first national constitution.
 - b. It declared British colonists' independence from their home country.
 - c. It was a petition to the British Crown to remove taxation.
 - d. It was essentially a bill of rights which became the first ten amendments to the Constitution.

Chapter 02: The Constitution

- e. It was written by the Protestant Pilgrims who went on to settle in the New World.
42. As the American colonies transformed themselves into sovereign states, republican sentiment was so strong in many of them that the _____ became all-powerful.
- a. legislatures
 - b. courts
 - c. executive branches
 - d. state governments
 - e. bureaucracies
43. The _____ was America's first written constitution, which was adopted in 1639.
- a. Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges
 - b. Articles of Confederation
 - c. Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
 - d. New Jersey Plan
 - e. Declaration of Independence
44. Which of the following is true of the Second Continental Congress?
- a. It intended to reach a peaceful settlement with the British Parliament.
 - b. It intended to impose taxes on Native Americans.
 - c. It decided that the colonies should send a petition to King George III to explain their grievances.
 - d. It named Thomas Jefferson as its commander in chief.
 - e. It was convened with the primary intention of declaring war on Britain.
45. Following Paine's publication of Common Sense, the Second Continental Congress:
- a. suggested that all colonies establish state governments separate from Britain.
 - b. voted for free trade at all American ports with all countries including Britain.
 - c. immediately accepted the resolution for independence proposed by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia.
 - d. appointed Paine as the commander in chief of its army.
 - e. decided to declare war on Britain.
46. The Mayflower Compact reflected the fact that Plymouth was essentially a _____ colony.
- a. Political
 - b. Independent
 - c. Tax exempt
 - d. Loyalist
 - e. Religious
47. Which of the following statements is true of The Massachusetts Body of Liberties?
- a. Was America's first written constitution.
 - b. It protected individual rights.
 - c. It became the Bill of Rights.
 - d. Was written by Thomas Paine.

Chapter 02: The Constitution

- e. Was a loyalist pamphlet.
48. Why did most American colonists did not want to become independent of Britain?
- a. The relationship between the American colonists and the British was steadily improving.
 - b. They felt the taxation was fair.
 - c. Britain was the homeland, and ties of loyalty were strong.
 - d. They were anti-France.
 - e. American colonists felt they needed Britain for a war against the Native Americans.
49. How did the British Parliament respond to the declaration of rights and grievances sent to King George III after being drafted at the Stamp Act Congress?
- a. The British Parliament repealed the Stamp Act.
 - b. The British Parliament ignored the colonists.
 - c. The British Parliament imposed higher taxes on stamped paper.
 - d. The British Parliament refused to change the Stamp Act.
 - e. The British Parliament said they would no longer defend the colonies.
50. Which of the thirteen colonies did not participate in the First Continental Congress?
- a. Maryland
 - b. Massachusetts
 - c. South Carolina
 - d. North Carolina
 - e. Georgia
51. The congress of the colonies that met in 1775 to assume the powers of a central government and to establish an army is known as the _____.
- a. Paine's *Common Sense*
 - b. Mayflower Compact
 - c. First Continental Congress
 - d. Second Continental Congress
 - e. Confederation
52. Which of the following settled states' claims to many of the western lands and established a basic pattern for the government of new territories.
- a. Mayflower Compact
 - b. Treaty of Versailles
 - c. Treaty of Paris
 - d. The peace treaty negotiated with Britain
 - e. The Northwest Ordinance
53. Which of the following documents confirmed the colonies' independence from Britain?
- a. Mayflower Compact
 - b. Treaty of Versailles

Chapter 02: The Constitution

- c. Treaty of Paris
 - d. The peace treaty negotiated with Britain
 - e. The Northwest Ordinance
54. Why did Rhode Island refuse to send delegates to the Constitutional Convention?
- a. They were not invited.
 - b. They were against allowing slavery to continue in the South.
 - c. They did not want to create a more powerful central government.
 - d. They remained loyal to Britain.
 - e. They wanted to form an independent country.
55. Under the Articles of Confederation, each state had _____ the unicameral assembly of representatives.
- a. proportional representation (based on state population) in
 - b. one vote in
 - c. seven votes in
 - d. one vote for each ambassador it sent to
 - e. two votes in
56. The Philadelphia meeting, which became the Constitutional Convention, was called “for the sole and express purpose” of
- a. revising the Articles of Confederation.
 - b. drafting the Bill of Rights.
 - c. revising the Mayflower Compact.
 - d. electing a president.
 - e. drafting a national constitution.
57. Under the Articles of Confederation,
- a. the new government had an excess of power in enforcing laws.
 - b. all thirteen states had to approve any law before it was enacted.
 - c. Vermont was annexed to Canada.
 - d. nine states had to approve any law before it was enacted.
 - e. congress imposed excessive taxes on the new states.

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Chapter 02: The Constitution

Essay

56. Discuss the necessity and significance of the Mayflower Compact.
57. Describe the four possible ways for an amendment to be added to the Constitution.
58. Discuss how the system of checks and balances in the Constitutional framework ensures that no one group or branch of government can exercise exclusive control.
59. In the context of the history of the American government, explain the structure and benefits of colonial legislatures.
60. Summarize the Constitution's principles of limited government and federalism.