

Chapter 2: The Constitution

Reading Comprehension Quiz

Multiple Choice Questions

- 1) Eighteen to 21-year-olds received the right to vote with ratification of the
 - A) Constitution.
 - B) Bill of Rights.
 - C) Twenty-Sixth Amendment.
 - D) Nineteenth Amendment.
 - E) Twenty-Fifth Amendment.

- 2) Great Britain used the principle of mercantilism to justify
 - A) its legal authority over the colonies.
 - B) its assistance in the French and Indian Wars.
 - C) strict import/export controls on the colonies.
 - D) allowing colonists to levy their own taxes.
 - E) westward migration and settlement.

- 3) In 1765, the American colonists initiated a major protest against the
 - A) Treaty of Paris.
 - B) Quartering Act.
 - C) Sugar Act.
 - D) Tea Act.
 - E) Stamp Act.

- 4) To facilitate communication and the flow of information among independence-minded colonists, colonial leaders formed the
 - A) Sisters of Liberty.
 - B) Committees of Correspondence.
 - C) Continental Congress.
 - D) Stamp Act Congress.
 - E) Thomas Paine Society.

- 5) The "shot heard round the world" was fired at
 - A) Saratoga, New York.
 - B) Camden, New Jersey.
 - C) Concord, Massachusetts.
 - D) Yorktown, Virginia.
 - E) Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

6) Which of the following BEST describes the relationships among states under the Articles of Confederation?

- A) A strong constitutional system
- B) A form of government modeled after Canada
- C) A life-long rivalry
- D) A loose league of friendship
- E) An interdependent, cohesive partnership

7) The 1786 rebellion in which an army of 1,500 disgruntled farmers marched on Springfield, Massachusetts, to prevent foreclosure on their farms was called

- A) Shays's Rebellion.
- B) Paul Revere's Ride.
- C) Bacon's Rebellion.
- D) the Battle of Lexington and Concord.
- E) the Second Boston Tea Party.

8) The original purpose of the Constitutional Convention was to

- A) elevate George Washington to president.
- B) revise the Articles of Confederation.
- C) write a new constitution.
- D) add additional states to the new nation.
- E) resolve trade disputes among the states.

9) A committee was appointed at the Constitutional Convention to work out the differences between the proposals of large and small states; the result was the

- A) Virginia Plan.
- B) New Jersey Plan.
- C) Great Compromise.
- D) Electoral College.
- E) Bill of Rights.

10) The Electoral College system created by the Framers was designed to give

- A) federal government the preeminent role in choosing the president.
- B) states a key role in choosing the president.
- C) average voters the decisive power in choosing the president.
- D) electors the power to choose members of Congress.
- E) the Supreme Court a role in choosing the president.

11) The system of government in which power is divided between the state and national governments is called

- A) federalism.
- B) unitarism.
- C) pluralism.
- D) confederation.
- E) constitutionalism.

- 12) The _____ is empowered by the Constitution to make all federal laws.
- A) federal bureaucracy
 - B) judicial branch
 - C) legislative branch
 - D) executive branch
 - E) Electoral College
- 13) Without the supremacy clause,
- A) state laws could supersede national law.
 - B) states could impeach U.S. Supreme Court justices.
 - C) federal government could enact laws dealing with education.
 - D) international law would be supreme to acts of Congress.
 - E) local law could supersede state law.
- 14) The series of 85 political papers written by John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison in support of ratification of the new constitution are called the
- A) *Pennsylvania Packet*.
 - B) *Federalist Papers*.
 - C) *Anti-Federalist Papers*.
 - D) *Crisis*.
 - E) *Common Sense*.
- 15) The amendment process for the Constitution is set out in Article V and creates a
- A) two-stage process of proposal and ratification.
 - B) fairly easy procedure for changing the document.
 - C) single-stage process utilizing conventions or Congress.
 - D) process by which the states, Congress, the executive branch, and a majority of voters must agree on changes to the document.
 - E) process of congressional approval and presidential signing into law.
- 16) Informal methods of amending the Constitution include
- A) social change, judicial interpretation, and acts of Congress.
 - B) judicial interpretation and cultural and social change.
 - C) executive orders.
 - D) acts of state legislatures.
 - E) a national referendum and/or initiative.
- 17) The First Amendment of the Constitution provides for which of the following?
- A) Freedom of assembly
 - B) Right to bear arms
 - C) Right to vote
 - D) Right to an attorney
 - E) Federal form of government

True/False Questions

- 1) The Committees of Correspondence were established to communicate ideas among the colonies in 1772.
- 2) Thomas Paine wrote *Common Sense* to argue for American independence from Great Britain.
- 3) Shays's Rebellion was the first battle of the Revolutionary War.
- 4) The 1787 Convention in Philadelphia was called for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation.
- 5) To appease southern states, slaves were counted as three-fifths of a person for representation purposes.
- 6) Article II of the Constitution vests the executive power in a president.
- 7) Article I of the Constitution creates the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 8) In *Federalist No. 10*, Madison argued that the greatest threat to individual liberty comes from factions within the government.
- 9) The U.S. Constitution has been regularly rewritten.
- 10) The Constitution has only changed through formal amendments.
- 11) Originally, electors did not vote for the president and vice president separately.

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 - C) Twenty-Sixth Amendment.
 - D) Nineteenth Amendment.
 - E) Twenty-Fifth Amendment.

Answer: C

Reference: Chapter Opener, pg 28-30

Skill: Understanding

- 2) Great Britain used the principle of mercantilism to justify
- A) its legal authority over the colonies.
 - B) its assistance in the French and Indian Wars.
 - C) strict import/export controls on the colonies.
 - D) allowing colonists to levy their own taxes.
 - E) westward migration and settlement.

Answer: C

Reference: LO 2.1, pgs. 30-38

Skill: Understanding

- 3) In 1765, the American colonists initiated a major protest against the
- A) Treaty of Paris.
 - B) Quartering Act.
 - C) Sugar Act.
 - D) Tea Act.
 - E) Stamp Act.

Answer: E

Reference: LO 2.1, pgs. 30-38

Skill: Understanding

4) To facilitate communication and the flow of information among independence-minded colonists, colonial leaders formed the

- A) Sisters of Liberty.
- B) Committees of Correspondence.
- C) Continental Congress.
- D) Stamp Act Congress.
- E) Thomas Paine Society.

Answer: B

Reference: LO 2.1, pgs. 30-38

Skill: Understanding

5) The "shot heard round the world" was fired at

- A) Saratoga, New York.
- B) Camden, New Jersey.
- C) Concord, Massachusetts.
- D) Yorktown, Virginia.
- E) Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Answer: C

Reference: LO 2.1, pgs. 30-38

Skill: Understanding

6) Which of the following BEST describes the relationships among states under the Articles of Confederation?

- A) A strong constitutional system
- B) A form of government modeled after Canada
- C) A life-long rivalry
- D) A loose league of friendship
- E) An interdependent, cohesive partnership

Answer: D

Reference: LO 2.2, pgs. 38-40

Skill: Understanding

7) The 1786 rebellion in which an army of 1,500 disgruntled farmers marched on Springfield, Massachusetts, to prevent foreclosure on their farms was called

- A) Shays's Rebellion.
- B) Paul Revere's Ride.
- C) Bacon's Rebellion.
- D) the Battle of Lexington and Concord.
- E) the Second Boston Tea Party.

Answer: A

Reference: LO 2.2, pgs. 38-40

Skill: Understanding

8) The original purpose of the Constitutional Convention was to

- A) elevate George Washington to president.
- B) revise the Articles of Confederation.
- C) write a new constitution.
- D) add additional states to the new nation.
- E) resolve trade disputes among the states.

Answer: B

Reference: LO 2.3, pgs. 40-44

Skill: Understanding

9) A committee was appointed at the Constitutional Convention to work out the differences between the proposals of large and small states; the result was the

- A) Virginia Plan.
- B) New Jersey Plan.
- C) Great Compromise.
- D) Electoral College.
- E) Bill of Rights.

Answer: C

Reference: LO 2.3, pgs. 40-44

Skill: Understanding

10) The Electoral College system created by the Framers was designed to give

- A) federal government the preeminent role in choosing the president.
- B) states a key role in choosing the president.
- C) average voters the decisive power in choosing the president.
- D) electors the power to choose members of Congress.
- E) the Supreme Court a role in choosing the president.

Answer: B

Reference: LO 2.3, pgs. 40-44

Skill: Understanding

11) The system of government in which power is divided between the state and national governments is called

- A) federalism.
- B) unitarism.
- C) pluralism.
- D) confederation.
- E) constitutionalism.

Answer: A

Reference: LO 2.4, pgs. 44-50

Skill: Understanding

12) The _____ is empowered by the Constitution to make all federal laws.

- A) federal bureaucracy
- B) judicial branch
- C) legislative branch
- D) executive branch
- E) Electoral College

Answer: C

Reference: LO 2.4, pgs. 44-50

Skill: Understanding

13) Without the supremacy clause,

- A) state laws could supersede national law.
- B) states could impeach U.S. Supreme Court justices.
- C) federal government could enact laws dealing with education.
- D) international law would be supreme to acts of Congress.
- E) local law could supersede state law.

Answer: A

Reference: LO 2.4, pgs. 44-50

Skill: Application

14) The series of 85 political papers written by John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison in support of ratification of the new constitution are called the

- A) *Pennsylvania Packet*.
- B) *Federalist Papers*.
- C) *Anti-Federalist Papers*.
- D) *Crisis*.
- E) *Common Sense*.

Answer: B

Reference: LO 2.5, pgs. 50-54

Skill: Understanding

15) The amendment process for the Constitution is set out in Article V and creates a

- A) two-stage process of proposal and ratification.
- B) fairly easy procedure for changing the document.
- C) single-stage process utilizing conventions or Congress.
- D) process by which the states, Congress, the executive branch, and a majority of voters must agree on changes to the document.
- E) process of congressional approval and presidential signing into law.

Answer: A

Reference: LO 2.6, pgs. 54-59

Skill: Understanding

- 16) Informal methods of amending the Constitution include
- A) social change, judicial interpretation, and acts of Congress.
 - B) judicial interpretation and cultural and social change.
 - C) executive orders.
 - D) acts of state legislatures.
 - E) a national referendum and/or initiative.

Answer: B

Reference: LO 2.6, pgs. 54-59

Skill: Understanding

- 17) The First Amendment of the Constitution provides for which of the following?

- A) Freedom of assembly
- B) Right to bear arms
- C) Right to vote
- D) Right to an attorney
- E) Federal form of government

Answer: A

Reference: Annotated Constitution, pgs. 62-88

Skill: Understanding

True/False Questions

- 1) The Committees of Correspondence were established to communicate ideas among the colonies in 1772.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 2.1, pgs. 30-38

Skill: Understanding

- 2) Thomas Paine wrote *Common Sense* to argue for American independence from Great Britain.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 2.1, pgs. 30-38

Skill: Understanding

- 3) Shays's Rebellion was the first battle of the Revolutionary War.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 2.2, pgs. 38-40

Skill: Understanding

4) The 1787 Convention in Philadelphia was called for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 2.3, pgs. 40-44

Skill: Understanding

5) To appease southern states, slaves were counted as three-fifths of a person for representation purposes.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 2.3, pgs. 40-44

Skill: Understanding

6) Article II of the Constitution vests the executive power in a president.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 2.4, pgs. 44-50

Skill: Understanding

7) Article I of the Constitution creates the U.S. Supreme Court.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 2.4, pgs. 44-50

Skill: Understanding

8) In *Federalist No. 10*, Madison argued that the greatest threat to individual liberty comes from factions within the government.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 2.5, pgs. 50-54

Skill: Understanding

9) The U.S. Constitution has been regularly rewritten.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 2.5, pgs. 50-54

Skill: Understanding

10) The Constitution has only changed through formal amendments.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 2.5, pgs. 50-54

Skill: Understanding

11) Originally, electors did not vote for the president and vice president separately.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: Annotated Constitution, pgs. 62-88

Skill: Understanding