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
   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.
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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A) Constitution.
B) Bill of Rights.
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
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.
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