

CHAPTER 2: The Founding and the Constitution

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. 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

2. 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. the poor
 - d. small farmers
 - e. shopkeepers

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

MSC: Remembering

3. 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: Difficult TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

MSC: Understanding

4. 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.
 - e. an inability to bridge their language barriers.

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

MSC: Remembering

5. The colonists organized and participated in the Boston Tea Party of 1773 as a 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

6. In 1773, the British government granted a monopoly on the export of tea from Britain to the politically powerful East India Company, who 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 the
- a. Boston Tea Party.
 - b. attack on Fort Mifflin.
 - c. Philadelphia slaughter.
 - d. ceremonial burning of the Union Jack flag in the Philadelphia town square.
 - e. inciting of pirate attacks on East India Company ships.

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

MSC: Applying

7. 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

8. 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

9. 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

10. 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
- First Colonial Convention.
 - Grand Conclave.
 - Boston Confederated Congress.
 - Philadelphia Constitutional Convention.
 - First Continental Congress.

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

11. The Declaration of Independence was mostly written by
- James Madison.
 - Thomas Jefferson.
 - George Washington.
 - Alexander Hamilton.
 - John Randolph.

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

12. 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

13. In November 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

14. 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

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

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

16. Besides the United States under the Articles of Confederation, what is another example of a confederate system of government where the subunits of government retain sovereignty and virtually all government powers?
- a. the United States under the original Constitution of 1787
 - b. the United States today under the Constitution of 1787 as amended
 - c. the United Nations and its member states
 - d. the United Kingdom
 - e. Japan after the revision of its constitution in 1947

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

17. 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

18. The one positive result of the meeting of delegates from five states in Annapolis, Maryland, 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

19. The Constitutional Convention of 1787 in Philadelphia may never have taken place at all if not for a single event that occurred soon after the 1786 meeting of state delegates in Annapolis, Maryland. This event was
- a. Shays’s Rebellion.
 - b. the Boston Massacre.
 - c. the Boston Tea Party.
 - d. the hanging in effigy of the tax man.

e. the assassination of Elbridge Gerry, governor of Massachusetts.

ANS: A DIF: Easy

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

MSC: Remembering

20. Daniel Shays, a former army captain, led a mob in a rebellion against the Massachusetts government in order to
- open up western territories for expansion.
 - prevent foreclosures on farm lands.
 - release certain British loyalists from captivity as prisoners of war.
 - receive full military pensions for service in the Revolutionary War.
 - 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

21. Why did Shays's Rebellion enable collective action among those who wanted to revise the Articles of Confederation?
- Shays was a charismatic political entrepreneur who was able to bring together several key opponents of the Articles.
 - The rebellion provided politicians who were already convinced of the Articles' inadequacy with the ammunition they needed to convince a broader public of that inadequacy.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Shays demonstrated a new strategy to provide selective incentives to institutional reformers.

ANS: B DIF: Difficult

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

MSC: Understanding

22. Which state did NOT send delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia?
- New Hampshire
 - Delaware
 - Rhode Island
 - Massachusetts
 - Georgia

ANS: C DIF: Moderate

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

MSC: Remembering

23. The political significance of the Great Compromise and the Three-Fifths Compromise was to
- confirm the immorality of slavery.
 - affirm the principle of checks and balances.
 - support the unalienable rights of individuals.
 - ensure that the United States would continue to expand westward.
 - reinforce the unity of the mercantile and planter forces.

ANS: E DIF: Difficult

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

MSC: Understanding

24. In 2012, 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

25. The agreement reached during the Constitutional Convention to adopt the proposal that gave each state an equal number of senators regardless of population but linked 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

26. 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, the proportion of each state's revenue contribution, or both was known as the
- a. Virginia Plan.
 - b. New Jersey Plan.
 - c. Connecticut Plan.
 - d. Massachusetts Plan.
 - e. Rousseau Solution.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate

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

MSC: Remembering

27. Why did the smaller states object to the Virginia Plan?
- a. Roger Sherman and other small-state delegates disliked Madison and Randolph and did not want them to receive recognition for advancing the Virginia Plan.
 - b. Small states wanted to maintain the existing institutions (the Articles of Confederation), and thought the large states were wrong for trying to change the system.
 - c. The Virginia Plan provided greater representation in the national legislature for larger and/or wealthier states, which disadvantaged the small states.
 - d. The small states tended to be from the North and objected to the strong proslavery content in the Virginia Plan.
 - e. 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

28. 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

- a. Virginia Plan.
- b. Brunswick Plan.
- c. Connecticut Plan.
- d. Massachusetts Plan.
- e. New Jersey Plan.

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

29. 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

30. 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

31. Which constitutional provision was intended to ensure popular control over the federal government?
- a. allowing each branch of government to participate in and influence the activities of the other branches
 - b. life tenure for federal judges
 - c. electing the president by the Electoral College and senators by state legislatures
 - d. electing members of the House of Representatives every two years
 - e. renovating one-third of the Senate every two years

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

32. 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

33. Under the unamended Constitution of 1787, what entity selected U.S. senators?
- 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

34. 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

35. 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. Electoral College.

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

36. 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

37. The state legislature of Georgia, known as the Georgia General Assembly, has an upper chamber (the Georgia Senate) and lower chamber (the Georgia House of Representatives). It is an institution that exemplifies the principle of
- a. bicameralism.
 - b. bilateralism.
 - c. bipartisanship.
 - d. bifurcated representation.
 - e. institutional dualism.

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

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

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

39. 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?
- a. judiciary
 - b. legislative
 - c. executive
 - d. bureaucratic
 - e. attorney general's

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

40. 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

41. The framers intended an active and powerful government, so they included language to signify that the enumerated powers were meant to be a source of strength to the national government, not a limitation on it. This elastic clause is most commonly known as the
- national supremacy clause.
 - separation of powers clause.
 - necessary and proper clause.
 - privileges and immunities clause.
 - federal caveat.

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

42. 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

43. Which of the following is NOT a power that the president can exercise unilaterally (without the approval of Congress)?
- to grant reprieves and pardons
 - to accept ambassadors
 - to veto legislation
 - to declare war
 - to appoint department heads

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

44. Which branch of government was designed to make the federal government capable of timely and decisive action to deal with public issues and problems?
- executive
 - legislative
 - judicial
 - state
 - Federal Reserve's

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

45. When President George W. Bush reduced presidential assistant “Scooter” Libby’s jail sentence imposed for revealing the name of an undercover CIA operative, he exemplified the power of the president to
- recognize foreign countries.

- b. exert informal influence with the judiciary.
- c. exert civil authority over the military.
- d. issue executive orders.
- e. grant reprieves and pardons.

ANS: E DIF: Easy TOP: CH02 - The Constitution
 MSC: Applying

46. 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 re-election 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

47. 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 defined marriage as occurring between a man and a woman and banned recognition of same-sex marriages. The decision of the Supreme Court to take a case that challenged the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act is a reflection of which power?
- a. reserved power
 - b. expressed power
 - c. veto power
 - d. judicial review
 - e. supremacy clause

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

48. 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

49. Since 1960, the United States has maintained an embargo against Cuba to prevent individuals or businesses from engaging in economic activities with this island nation. If the state of Florida decided to sign a free trade agreement with Cuba, Florida 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

50. 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

51. 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

52. 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 remained law by the end of Obama's administration 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

53. 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 used to balance power.
 - 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

54. 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
- a. federalism.
 - b. checks and balances.
 - c. separation of powers.
 - d. separated institutions sharing powers.
 - e. gridlock intervals.

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

55. 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 does this statement best reflect?
- a. bicameralism
 - b. federalism
 - c. checks and balances
 - d. judicial review
 - e. representative government

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

56. The framers of the Constitution crafted a system in which each branch of government had a distinctly different constituency. Some call this system a
- a. democracy.
 - b. multiple principals system.
 - c. mixed regime.
 - d. confederation.
 - e. separated system.

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

57. Compared to the confederation principle of the Articles of Confederation, federalism was a step toward
- a. greater centralization of power.
 - b. eliminating the power of state governments.
 - c. increasing the sovereignty of state governments.
 - d. weakening the power of the national government.
 - e. increasing the separation of federal and state duties.

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

58. In the system devised by the framers of the Constitution, sovereignty was vested in
- a. the federal government only.
 - b. state governments only.
 - c. both the federal and state governments.
 - d. local governments.
 - e. the executive branch.

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

59. Why might the delegates to the Constitutional Convention reject a motion to include a bill of rights in the Constitution?
- a. The delegates thought rights should be guaranteed to the states, not to individual citizens.
 - b. The delegates thought that the federal government was already limited to its expressed powers, so a bill of rights was unnecessary.
 - c. The rights of citizens were a secondary concern to the delegates’ personal self-interest.
 - d. A bill of rights would have required granting equal rights to women, which the delegates found to be politically unsavory.
 - e. They considered a bill of rights unnecessary in the U.S. Constitution since 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

60. 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

61. 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
MSC: Remembering

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

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

63. 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 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 then been 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 then been 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 Framework: Constitutional Amendment
MSC: Remembering

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

c. the president.

ANS: B DIF: Difficult

TOP: CH02 - Changing the Framework: Constitutional Amendment

MSC: Remembering

65. The purpose of the 10 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 Framework: Constitutional Amendment

MSC: Remembering

66. Which amendment or set of amendments contained in the Bill of Rights specifically places limits on the powers of Congress?
- First
 - Ninth and Tenth
 - Second, Third, and Fourth
 - Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth
 - none of the first 10 amendments

ANS: A DIF: Moderate

TOP: CH02 - Changing the Framework: Constitutional Amendment

MSC: Remembering

67. Which 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 Framework: Constitutional Amendment

MSC: Remembering

68. 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
- slavery.
 - income tax.
 - presidential disability.
 - prohibition of alcohol.
 - poll taxes.

ANS: D DIF: Moderate

TOP: CH02 - Changing the Framework: Constitutional Amendment

MSC: Remembering

TRUE/FALSE

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

ANS: T
Conflicts

DIF: Moderate

TOP: CH02 - The First Founding: Interests and

MSC: Remembering

2. 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

3. 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

4. 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

5. Under the Articles of Confederation, the nation's armed forces were composed of the state militias.

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

MSC: Remembering

6. 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

7. 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

8. 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

9. The Three-Fifths Compromise established the principle, new in republican theory, that a man who lived 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

10. 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

11. 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

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

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

13. 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

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

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

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

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

16. Federal judges are given lifetime appointments.

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

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

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

18. 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

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

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

20. There were no “checks and balances” in the Constitution until the passage of the Bill of Rights.

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

21. 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

ESSAY

1. 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:

These were the sectors of colonial society:

- 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

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

2. 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

3. Why did the framers believe that a new Constitution was necessary?

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: Evaluating

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

ANS:

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 (e.g., with uniform rules and weights and measures)

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. More broadly, the new government effectively paired a larger grant of power to government with multiple checks to prevent tyrannical use of this power. As a result, citizens were more secure from the abuses of government, since they had previously been subject to potential abuse by state governments acting with little national oversight.

MSC: Evaluating

5. Why did the framers fear excessive democracy? Through what means were the framers able to limit democracy's 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 states' policies like diluting the value of currency, seizing property, cancelling 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.

Limits the Founders placed on democracy include the following:

- 1) Direct limits on the use of power in the Constitution, especially Article I, Section 9, and the Bill of Rights
- 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

6. 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:

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
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- e) Better-coordinated domestic trade (e.g., with uniform rules and weights and measures)

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.

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

- 1) Direct limits on the use of power in the Constitution, especially Article I, Section 9, and the Bill of Rights
- 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

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

ANS:

The text highlights two compromises: the Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise) between large and small states and the Three-Fifths Compromise between slave and nonslave states. The Great Compromise established a bicameral legislature, with one chamber based on representation and the other allowing states to have equal representation. The Three-Fifths Compromise settled the question of whether slaves would count toward congressional representation. The final agreement was that three-fifths of the population of slaves in a state would count toward its congressional representation.

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 his/her own prior knowledge of the Constitution.

MSC: Analyzing

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

ANS:

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.

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

- 1) Direct limits on the use of power in the Constitution, especially Article I, Section 9, and the Bill of Rights
- 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

9. 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 and 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 and 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 and approval by three-fourths of state legislatures (never used)
- 4) Proposal by a constitutional convention called by two-thirds of state legislatures and 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. (The text for Chapter 2 does not mention political parties on this point.) This makes gaining approval difficult for most structural changes. For most policy and legal issues, advocates are more likely to pursue their goals 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

10. 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 as in the Constitution.

Nominally, under 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 to form a national army.

In practice, however, Congress had little real power to execute its own laws or compel states to conform to its mandates under the Articles of Confederation.

MSC: Analyzing

11. 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.

MSC: Analyzing

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

ANS:

Bicameralism is a division of legislature into two chambers. The framers adopted the structure of the U.S. Congress, with two independently elected bodies, as the result of the Connecticut (or Great) Compromise.

Checks and balances are 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.

Staggered terms refer to the fact that the Senate, House of Representatives, and president serve terms of different lengths and thus do not have synchronized electoral terms. Additionally, the Senate is elected on a staggered cycle, so one-third of its members are chosen each election cycle. This approach helps to diversify the electoral incentives of elected officials—they have differing time horizons and were elected under different circumstances.

Indirect elections for senators were part of the original Constitution. Senators were selected by state legislatures in an attempt 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. The president is also 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

13. 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: the Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise) between large and small states and the Three-Fifths Compromise between slave and nonslave states. The Great Compromise established a bicameral legislature, with one chamber based on representation and the other allowing states to have equal representation. The Three-Fifths Compromise settled the question of whether slaves would count toward congressional representation. The final agreement was that three-fifths of the population of slaves in a state would count toward its congressional representation.

MSC: Analyzing

14. 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 and 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 and 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 and approval by three-fourths of state legislatures (never used)
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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. (The text for Chapter 2 does not mention political parties on this point.) This makes gaining approval difficult for most structural changes. For most policy and legal issues, advocates are more likely to pursue their goals 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