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Chapter 2—Forging a New Government: The Constitution

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. The Jamestown colonists set a precedent in government by
 - a. allowing the governor to use a line-item veto.
 - b. instituting a direct democracy.
 - c. instituting a representative assembly.
 - d. creating a judicial system.
 - e. writing a constitutional document.

ANS: C

PTS: 1

REF: 20

TOP: The Colonial Background

2. The Separatist leaders deemed the Mayflower Compact necessary in order to
 - a. limit the power of women in the colonies.
 - b. impose some form of public authority on the colonists.
 - c. protect the colonists from England.
 - d. protect the colonists from other foreign governments.
 - e. impose religious order on the colonies.

ANS: B

PTS: 1

REF: 20

TOP: The Colonial Background

3. One element of the Mayflower Compact's historical and political significance was that it
 - a. served as a prototype for many similar compacts.
 - b. shunned all previous forms of government.
 - c. did not depend on the consent of the affected individuals.
 - d. established the colony of Massachusetts.
 - e. was a constitution.

ANS: A

PTS: 1

REF: 21

TOP: The Colonial Background

4. During the colonial period, which of the following developments did NOT take place?

- a. The colonists developed a concept of limited government.
- b. The colonists exercised a large measure of self-government.
- c. The colonists passed the Pennsylvania Frame of Government, which foreshadowed our modern Constitution.
- d. Louisiana was established as the last of the thirteen colonies.
- e. The colonists acquired crucial political experience.

ANS: D

PTS: 1

REF: 21

TOP: The Colonial Background

5. The British government imposed taxes on the colonists to pay for
 - a. the coronation of King George III.
 - b. the establishment of more colonies.
 - c. the costs of defending the colonists during the French and Indian War.
 - d. the purchase of Canada (Quebec) from the French.
 - e. the Revolutionary War.

ANS: C

PTS: 1

REF: 21

TOP: British Restrictions and Colonial Grievances

6. Taxes that the British attempted to impose in the years leading up to the Revolution included all of the following **EXCEPT**
 - a. the Sugar Act.

- b. the Stamp Act, which taxed, among other things, legal documents and newspapers.
- c. duties on glass, lead, and paint.
- d. a tax on tea.
- e. an income tax.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: 21-22
TOP: British Restrictions and Colonial Grievances

7. The colonists' fury over taxation climaxed in
- a. the French and Indian War.
 - b. the repeal of the Stamp Act.
 - c. the passage of the Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges.
 - d. the Boston Tea Party.
 - e. the Mayflower Compact.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 22
TOP: British Restrictions and Colonial Grievances

8. The First Continental Congress
- a. was called by the colonies to seek independence from Britain.
 - b. called for the abdication of King George III.
 - c. passed resolutions requiring that the colonies raise their own troops and boycott British trade.
 - d. was ignored by the British.
 - e. was attended by delegates from only six colonies.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 23
TOP: The Colonial Response: The Continental Congresses

9. One of the main actions of the Second Continental Congress was
- a. to establish an army.
 - b. to sign a treaty with Britain prohibiting armed conflict.
 - c. to sign a treaty with France to declare war on Britain.
 - d. the creation of a unitary government in America.
 - e. to bring the remaining seven colonies into the congress.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: 23
TOP: The Colonial Response: The Continental Congresses

10. Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense* argued that
- a. a new government should be formed that would still be loyal to the king.
 - b. a government should be established that would limit further immigration.
 - c. it is unwise and unsafe to form a constitution of our own.
 - d. a government of our own is our natural right.
 - e. taxation is an immoral act.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 23
TOP: The Colonial Response: The Continental Congresses

11. In June 1776, ____ was already writing drafts of the Declaration of Independence.
- a. John Locke
 - b. John Adams
 - c. Thomas Jefferson
 - d. George Washington
 - e. Benjamin Franklin

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 24 TOP: Declaring Independence

12. “We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal” are words from the
- Constitution of the United States of America.
 - Declaration of Independence.
 - Magna Charta.
 - United Nations Charter.
 - Bill of Rights.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 24 TOP: Declaring Independence

13. A voluntary agreement among individuals to secure their rights and welfare by creating a government and abiding by its rules is called
- a confederation.
 - a social contract.
 - a syndicate.
 - a constitution.
 - natural law.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 25 TOP: Declaring Independence

14. The unalienable rights stipulated in the Declaration of Independence included the right
- of free speech and a free press.
 - to freely associate and assemble.
 - to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
 - to life, liberty, and property.
 - to freedom of religion.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 25 TOP: Declaring Independence

15. Rights held to be inherent in natural law, not dependent on governments, are called
- constitutional rights.
 - social benefits.
 - implied rights.
 - natural rights.
 - enumerated rights.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 25 TOP: Declaring Independence

16. After the colonists formally declared independence from Britain, the fight to gain actual independence continued for
- five more months.
 - one more year.
 - five more years.
 - eight more years.
 - thirteen more years.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 26 TOP: The Rise of Republicanism

17. Britain formally recognized the independence of the United States in the
- Treaty of Paris.
 - Treaty of Washington.
 - Treaty of London.
 - Treaty of Peace.
 - Declaration of Statehood.

ANS: A

PTS: 1

REF: 26

TOP: The Rise of Republicanism

18. A legislature with only one legislative chamber is called a
- parliamentary democracy.
 - consensus.
 - monotheistic legislature.
 - bicameral legislature.
 - unicameral legislature.

ANS: E

PTS: 1

REF: 26

TOP: The Rise of Republicanism

19. The term *confederation* refers to
- a system in which most power is with the central government.
 - a voluntary association of independent states.
 - a system in which state and local governments have equal power with the central government.
 - a national legislature.
 - the southern states where slavery was legal.

ANS: B

PTS: 1

REF: 26

TOP: The Articles of Confederation: Our First Form of Government

20. Which of the following was NOT true under the Articles of Confederation?
- Congress was a unicameral assembly.
 - Congress lacked an independent source of revenue.
 - Congress could regulate foreign affairs.
 - The president of the United States was chosen by Congress.
 - Each state possessed a single vote in Congress.

ANS: D

PTS: 1

REF: 27

TOP: The Articles of Confederation: Our First Form of Government

21. Probably the most fundamental weakness of the Articles of Confederation, and the most basic cause of their eventual replacement by the Constitution, was the
- absence of an executive committee.
 - lack of provision for a president of the United States.
 - one-vote-per-state system.
 - lack of ability to conduct foreign policy.
 - lack of power to raise funds for the militia.

ANS: E

PTS: 1

REF: 28

TOP: The Articles of Confederation: Our First Form of Government

22. Which state refused to send delegates to the Constitutional Convention?
- Delaware
 - South Carolina
 - Rhode Island
 - Maryland
 - Virginia

ANS: C

PTS: 1

REF: 29

TOP: Drafting the Constitution

23. A majority of the delegates at the Constitutional Convention were
- unaware that there were problems with the Articles of Confederation.
 - against a strong central government.

- c. nationalists in favor of instituting a monarchy.
- d. moderates in favor of keeping the Articles of Confederation with very few changes.
- e. nationalists in favor of a stronger central government.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: 29 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

24. The Virginia Plan
- a. called for a bicameral legislature.
 - b. worked to the advantage of small states.
 - c. provided for the direct election of a president by the people.
 - d. settled all controversy at the Constitutional Convention.
 - e. lacked the creation of a national judiciary.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: 30 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

25. Basically, the New Jersey Plan was
- a. the result of the Great Compromise.
 - b. a way for large states to grab power.
 - c. simply an amendment of the Articles of Confederation.
 - d. simply an amendment of the Mayflower Compact.
 - e. the Constitution.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 30 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

26. The supremacy doctrine asserts the priority of
- a. large states over small states.
 - b. non-slave states over slave states.
 - c. national law over state laws.
 - d. natural law over man-made laws.
 - e. the legislative body over the chief executive.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 30 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

27. The plan known as the Great Compromise
- a. was advanced by the delegates from Georgia.
 - b. proposed a bicameral legislature.
 - c. was presented too late to be considered.
 - d. was proposed by Texas.
 - e. proposed a unicameral legislature in which each state would have one vote.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 30 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

28. The three-fifths compromise illustrates the power of _____ at the Constitutional Convention.
- a. the southern states
 - b. the northern states
 - c. the small states
 - d. the large states
 - e. women

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: 31 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

29. Which of the following was NOT a compromise made in the Constitution?
- a. There was no ban on the importation of slaves before 1808.
 - b. Only a Supreme Court was mandated, and the establishment of lower courts was left up to Congress.
 - c. Slavery was outlawed.

- d. Representation in the House of Representatives was based on a state's population.
- e. States were equally represented in the Senate.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 31 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

30. The United States is among the few countries that do not tax their exports because
- a. it does not need the money.
 - b. exportation is a natural right.
 - c. the South obtained a promise that export taxes would not be imposed.
 - d. the World Trade Organization prohibits it from doing so.
 - e. the president of the United States of America vetoed the bill.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 31 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

31. The concept of separation of powers was included in the Constitution to prevent
- a. disputes between the federal and state governments.
 - b. the imposition of export taxes.
 - c. a major dispute over power between the House and the Senate.
 - d. disputes over power between Congress and the president.
 - e. the imposition of tyranny—either by the majority or by a minority.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: 32 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

32. The separation of government powers into three branches (executive, legislative, and judicial) is sometimes called the
- a. Compromise model.
 - b. American model.
 - c. Washingtonian model.
 - d. Madisonian model.
 - e. Jeffersonian model.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 32 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

33. The concept of checks and balances allows
- a. each branch of the government to be able to check the actions of the others.
 - b. the president to veto judicial decisions.
 - c. the president to pass laws during a time of crisis.
 - d. Congress to select justices of the Supreme Court.
 - e. the Treasury to print paper currency.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: 32 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

34. The group that officially elects the president of the United States is called
- a. the Presidential Election Commission.
 - b. the Congressional Election Forum.
 - c. the Association of State Legislatures.
 - d. the Electoral College.
 - e. the Electorate at Large.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 33 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

35. The Constitution that was to be ratified established the following fundamental principles **EXCEPT**
- a. popular sovereignty, or control by the people.
 - b. a republican government in which the people choose representatives to make decisions for them.
 - c. limited government with written laws.

- d. a federal system that allows for states' rights, because the states feared too much centralized control.
- e. presidential infallibility.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: 34 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

36. Ratification of the Constitution was to occur when it was approved by
- a. the thirteen state legislatures.
 - b. nine out of thirteen states.
 - c. the thirteen state legislatures and two-thirds of Congress.
 - d. popular vote in nine states.
 - e. popular vote in all thirteen states.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 34
TOP: The Difficult Road to Ratification

37. The Federalists advocated
- a. preserving the status quo.
 - b. returning to the Articles of Confederation.
 - c. ratifying the new Constitution.
 - d. a strong state government system.
 - e. constitutional monarchy.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 34
TOP: The Difficult Road to Ratification

38. The Anti-Federalists advocated
- a. altering the Constitution to include guaranteed personal liberties.
 - b. a strong central government.
 - c. ratifying the new Constitution.
 - d. an end to slavery.
 - e. rule by the aristocracy.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: 34
TOP: The Difficult Road to Ratification

39. The Bill of Rights was important for ratification of the Constitution because
- a. state constitutions already had such rights.
 - b. such rights were stipulated in the Articles of Confederation.
 - c. some states would not have voted to ratify the Constitution without the promise of amendments to protect individual liberties.
 - d. the colonists wanted to conform to international standards.
 - e. the Federalists were wary of a strong central government.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 35 TOP: The Bill of Rights

40. The Bill of Rights provided for
- a. protection of individual liberties at the state level.
 - b. protection of individual liberties at the national level.
 - c. equal protection under the law.
 - d. protection against state infringements on the freedoms of conscience, the press, and jury trial.
 - e. separation of powers.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 36 TOP: The Bill of Rights

41. The U.S. Constitution is shorter than any state constitution EXCEPT that of
- Maryland.
 - Vermont.
 - South Carolina.
 - Georgia.
 - New York.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 36
TOP: Altering the Constitution: The Formal Amendment Process

42. One of the two formal methods of proposing an amendment to the Constitution is by
- popular vote.
 - a two-thirds vote in each chamber of Congress.
 - approval of the legislatures in a majority of the states.
 - a majority vote in both chambers of Congress, provided the amendment is not vetoed by the president.
 - a judicial submission.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 36
TOP: Altering the Constitution: The Formal Amendment Process

43. A constitutional amendment can be ratified by
- a majority of the popular vote.
 - a positive vote in three-fourths of the legislatures of the various states.
 - a two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress.
 - approval of the legislatures in two-thirds of the states.
 - presidential approval.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 36
TOP: Altering the Constitution: The Formal Amendment Process

44. Which groups are involved in proposing and ratifying amendments to the Constitution?
- The state legislatures, the president, and Congress
 - The Senate, the Supreme Court, and the House of Representatives
 - Congress, the president, and the people
 - The Senate, the House of Representatives, and the state legislatures
 - The House of Representatives, the president, and the Senate

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 36
TOP: Altering the Constitution: The Formal Amendment Process

45. Out of more than 11,000 amendments to the Constitution that have been considered by Congress, _____ only have been ratified.
- 10
 - 12
 - 18
 - 27
 - 33

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 37
TOP: Altering the Constitution: The Formal Amendment Process

46. Judicial review is
- a method by which the president can check the judiciary.
 - the process of confirmation of federal judges by Congress.

- c. the power of the courts to declare federal or state laws and other acts of government unconstitutional.
- d. not applicable to actions by state governments.
- e. restricted to the Supreme Court in overturning decisions by lower courts.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 38
TOP: Informal Methods of Constitutional Change

47. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power to _____, and this clause has been cited as the basis for passing thousands of laws.
- a. override presidential vetoes
 - b. regulate foreign and interstate commerce
 - c. limit the power of local governments
 - d. regulate the media
 - e. levy income taxes

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 38
TOP: Informal Methods of Constitutional Change

48. An executive agreement is
- a. any law which deals with the administration of the federal bureaucracy.
 - b. a legally binding agreement between the president and the electorate.
 - c. an unwritten agreement between the president and Congress.
 - d. an informal agreement between the president and a foreign head of state.
 - e. a legally binding agreement between the president and a foreign head of state.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: 38
TOP: Informal Methods of Constitutional Change

49. In 1803, the Supreme Court claimed the power of _____ for itself in *Marbury v. Madison*.
- a. judicial review
 - b. constitutional amendment
 - c. legislative ratification
 - d. executive review
 - e. appeal

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: 38
TOP: Informal Methods of Constitutional Change

50. Basically, the law is what _____ says it is at any point in time.
- a. the Senate
 - b. the Supreme Court
 - c. the president
 - d. the press
 - e. the academic community

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 39
TOP: Informal Methods of Constitutional Change

ESSAY

1. Explain what impact the institutions established in the early American settlements had on the structure and operation of later governments in the U.S.

ANS:

Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 21 TOP: The Colonial Background

2. Did the founders intend the United States to be a Christian nation? Describe both sides of the argument.

ANS:
Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 22 TOP: At Issue: Just How Christian Were the Founders?

3. Describe the significance of the Declaration of Independence. What was its immediate practical significance versus its more lasting significance? What philosophies influenced the ideas it contained?

ANS:
Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 24 TOP: Declaring Independence

4. Explain the structure of the government formed under the Articles of Confederation. How did the shortcomings of this structure necessitate the Constitutional Convention?

ANS:
Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 27
TOP: The Articles of Confederation: Our First Form of Government

5. Describe the controversy surrounding the slavery issue. How was this resolved at the Constitutional Convention?

ANS:
Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 31 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

6. Describe the concepts of separation of powers and checks and balances, and explain why the Founding Fathers included these concepts in the framework of the Constitution.

ANS:
Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 32 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

7. At the Constitutional Convention, several compromises were made to garner the support of various states. Describe these compromises and the debates that surrounded them.

ANS:
Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 32 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

8. The Constitution's ratification process included arguments for and against ratification by Federalists and Anti-Federalists, respectively. Describe and evaluate the arguments expressed by both of these groups.

ANS:

Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1

REF: 34

TOP: The Difficult Road to Ratification

9. Describe the two formal methods of proposing an amendment to the Constitution.

ANS:

Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1

REF: 36

TOP: Altering the Constitution: The Formal Amendment Process

10. The process of amending the U.S. Constitution is an intentionally difficult one. Yet those in each branch of government have found ways in which the Constitution can be changed informally. Describe the methods, both formal and informal, of constitutional change.

ANS:

Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1

REF: 38

TOP: Informal Methods of Constitutional Change

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