

CHAPTER 2

The Constitution

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. This famous Revolutionary leader was not at the Constitutional Convention held in Philadelphia in 1787.
 - a. James Madison
 - b. Alexander Hamilton
 - c. George Washington
 - d. Patrick Henry
 - e. Benjamin Franklin

ANS: D

REF: 24

NOT: F

OBJ: LO1

2. The principal goal of the American Revolution was
 - a. equality.
 - b. financial betterment.
 - c. political efficacy.
 - d. fraternity.
 - e. liberty.

ANS: E

REF: 24

NOT: F

OBJ: LO1

3. Equality was a goal of
 - a. the French Revolution.
 - b. the American Revolution.
 - c. both the French and the American revolutions.
 - d. neither the French Revolution nor the American Revolution.
 - e. the French, American, and Russian revolutions.

ANS: A

REF: 24

NOT: F

OBJ: LO1

4. One of the basic liberties sought by the colonists through independence from Great Britain was
 - a. freedom from taxation without representation.
 - b. the right to bear arms and to defend life and property.
 - c. freedom to assemble in public and to engage in public debate.
 - d. the right to own and trade slaves.
 - e. the right to travel.

ANS: A

REF: 24

NOT: C

OBJ: LO1

5. In 1776, one important reason that colonists regarded independence as a desirable alternative was that they
- no longer had confidence that the British government would protect their liberties.
 - could no longer afford the price of British exports.
 - had come to reject the philosophy of John Locke.
 - had come to reject British ideas of individual rights.
 - were struggling economically.

ANS: A

REF: 24

NOT: C

OBJ: LO1

6. Under the Articles of Confederation, amendments had to
- be written in secret.
 - be submitted to the national judiciary for approval.
 - have the approval of half of the state governors.
 - be supported by all thirteen states.
 - All of the above are true.

ANS: D

REF: 24

NOT: F

OBJ: LO3

7. The author of the Declaration of Independence was
- Thomas Jefferson.
 - Thomas Paine.
 - George Washington.
 - Alexander Hamilton.
 - James Madison.

ANS: A

REF: 25

NOT: F

OBJ: LO1

8. The Declaration of Independence explicitly stated that governments were instituted among men to
- improve human nature.
 - create equality.
 - protect borders.
 - secure rights.
 - punish criminals.

ANS: D

REF: 25

NOT: F

OBJ: LO1

9. Which of the following statements about the Declaration of Independence is *correct*?
- It was written primarily by George Washington and James Madison.
 - It primarily focused on concerns over economic inequality.
 - It was a rejection of the philosophy of John Locke.
 - It drew on the works of Thomas Hobbes.
 - It was essentially a lawyer's brief justifying a revolution.

ANS: E

REF: 25

NOT: F

OBJ: LO5

10. The list of the essential rights demanded by the colonists included life, liberty, and
- trading rights.
 - property rights.
 - the right to own slaves.
 - the pursuit of truth.
 - fraternity.

ANS: B REF: 25 NOT: F OBJ: LO6

11. The American Revolution is described by the text as a war of
- attrition.
 - ideology.
 - economic viewpoints.
 - political elites.
 - contending social systems.

ANS: B REF: 25 NOT: F OBJ: LO6

12. An unalienable right is one that is based on
- nature and Providence.
 - the Constitution and primary documents.
 - custom and tradition.
 - legal precedent.
 - executive proclamations.

ANS: A REF: 25 NOT: C OBJ: LO6

13. By 1776, eight states
- had strong executive leaders.
 - had written constitutions.
 - had expanded voting rights considerably.
 - continued to rely on colonial charters.
 - had abolished elective offices.

ANS: B REF: 26 NOT: F OBJ: LO1

14. One primary feature of *most* early state constitutions was
- a detailed bill of rights.
 - a planning for land use.
 - a strong executive branch.
 - disregard for individual rights.
 - economic regulation.

ANS: A REF: 26 NOT: F OBJ: LO1

15. Which statement *most* accurately summarizes the aftermath of the American Revolution?
- a. Many cities were in ruins, many farmers owned large debts, and the British were still a powerful presence.
 - b. The economy was gaining in strength and the British military had left North America.
 - c. Cities had strong economies, and the currency was strong.
 - d. Taxes were low, and the currency was sound.
 - e. Spain and Britain were no longer relevant on the North American continent.

ANS: A REF: 27 NOT: C OBJ: LO2

16. The Articles of Confederation created a
- a. strong central government.
 - b. strong military.
 - c. unitary system.
 - d. league of friendship.
 - e. federal system.

ANS: D REF: 27 NOT: F OBJ: LO2

17. All of the following were true of the government under the Articles of Confederation EXCEPT
- a. larger states had more votes in the national legislature.
 - b. there was no national judicial branch.
 - c. the national government could not levy taxes.
 - d. the national government could not regulate commerce.
 - e. amendment required the support of all thirteen states.

ANS: A REF: 27 NOT: F OBJ: LO2

18. Under the Articles of Confederation, delegates to the national legislature were
- a. elected by the people.
 - b. selected by state governors.
 - c. appointed by state committees.
 - d. chosen by the state legislatures.
 - e. None of the above is true.

ANS: D REF: 27 NOT: F OBJ: LO2

19. The purpose of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 was to
- a. prepare a new constitution.
 - b. consider revisions to the Articles of Confederation.
 - c. draft a declaration of independence.
 - d. adopt a common state constitution.
 - e. prepare for a second revolution.

ANS: B REF: 27 NOT: C OBJ: LO2

22 Chapter 2: The Constitution

20. Under the Articles of Confederation, the national government could
- run the post office.
 - levy taxes.
 - regulate interstate commerce.
 - establish a national judicial system.
 - establish a national bank.

ANS: A REF: 27 NOT: F OBJ: L03

21. Pennsylvania's government was considered "radically democratic" because it featured no
- constitution.
 - written laws.
 - elected officials.
 - legislature.
 - governor.

ANS: E REF: 28 NOT: F OBJ: LO2

22. The state of affairs in Pennsylvania seemed to suggest that
- state constitutions were generally successful.
 - the rights and liberties of citizens were secure in a confederation.
 - unitary systems were more liberal than confederations.
 - democracy and tyranny might not be all that far apart from one another.
 - it is not a good thing to create a separate, independent executive.

ANS: D REF: 28 NOT: F OBJ: LO2

23. This rebellion occurred in January 1787 when a group of ex-Revolutionary War soldiers, fearful of losing their property to creditors and tax collectors, forcibly prevented the courts in western Massachusetts from sitting.
- Shays's Rebellion
 - Bacon's Rebellion
 - Whiskey Rebellion
 - Clarke's Rebellion
 - None of the above is true.

ANS: A REF: 28 NOT: F OBJ: LO2

24. To put down Shays's Rebellion, the governor of Massachusetts
- personally lead Continental Army soldiers.
 - turned to the state militia.
 - hired a volunteer army with private funds.
 - lobbied the Continental Congress to forgive the debts owned by the rebels.
 - asked Great Britain to help.

ANS: C REF: 28 NOT: F OBJ: LO2

25. The effect of Shays's Rebellion on attendance by delegates at the planned Constitutional Convention of 1787 was to
- encourage attendance by delegates fearing the collapse of state governments.
 - encourage attendance by delegates fearing intervention by the British.
 - discourage attendance by delegates fearing a public outcry against any strengthening of the Articles of Confederation.
 - discourage attendance by delegates fearing intervention by the British.
 - discourage attendance by delegates who fought in the Revolutionary War.

ANS: A

REF: 28

NOT: C

OBJ: LO2

26. The Constitutional Convention attracted _____ delegates.
- 74
 - 55
 - 39
 - 30
 - 12

ANS: B

REF: 28

NOT: F

OBJ: LO3

27. Which state refused to send a delegate to the Constitutional Convention?
- New York
 - Pennsylvania
 - Massachusetts
 - Virginia
 - Rhode Island

ANS: E

REF: 28

NOT: F

OBJ: LO3

28. The "state of nature" refers to
- society without government.
 - government without society.
 - formation of government along the lines of natural law.
 - the clash between government and society.
 - the very highest form of government.

ANS: A

REF: 29

NOT: F

OBJ: LO2

29. Who was the youngest delegate at the Constitutional Convention at the age of thirty?
- Washington
 - Franklin
 - Madison
 - Hamilton
 - Adams

ANS: D

REF: 29

NOT: F

OBJ: LO3

30. The Constitutional Convention delegates' defense of liberty as a natural right was derived from the writings of the philosopher
- John Locke.
 - Montesquieu.
 - Rousseau.
 - Thomas Hobbes.
 - Kant.

ANS: A REF: 29 NOT: F OBJ: LO5

31. Madison dramatized his perspective in a *Federalist* paper by observing that "if men were _____, no government would be necessary."
- Federalists
 - Anti-Federalists
 - angels
 - aristocrats
 - Puritans

ANS: C REF: 30 NOT: F OBJ: LO2

32. The central issue in the framing of the U.S. Constitution was that of
- how strong to make the national government.
 - how best to divide powers among the branches of government.
 - how best to break with Great Britain.
 - how to adopt liberty but still allow slaveholding.
 - how to create a truly independent judiciary.

ANS: A REF: 30 NOT: C OBJ: LO3

33. This plan presented at the Constitutional Convention called for a bicameral legislative body with states' representation in each house based on population.
- Connecticut Plan
 - New Jersey Plan
 - Maryland Plan
 - Virginia Plan
 - Great Compromise

ANS: D REF: 30 NOT: F OBJ: LO3

34. The New Jersey Plan was a reaction by some states primarily to the fear that
- the legislative veto power called for by the Virginia Plan would seriously undermine individual states' rights.
 - the weak central government devised by the Virginia Plan would grant too much power to rural states.
 - the strong central government devised by the Virginia Plan would grant too much power to small states.
 - the Virginia Plan gave too much power to populous states.
 - Hamilton's suggestions about the executive branch would be accepted by the convention.

ANS: D REF: 30 NOT: C OBJ: LO3

35. Each state would have had an equal number of votes in the legislature under the
- Connecticut Plan.
 - New Jersey Plan.
 - Maryland Plan.
 - Virginia Plan.
 - Georgia Plan.

ANS: B REF: 31 NOT: F OBJ: LO3

36. The Great Compromise finally allocated representation on the basis of
- population, in both houses.
 - equality, in both houses.
 - population in the House and statehood equality in the Senate.
 - equality in the House and population in the Senate.
 - None of the above is true.

ANS: C REF: 31 NOT: F OBJ: LO3

37. The importance of the Great Compromise was that it
- created a legislature similar in structure to that under the Articles of Confederation.
 - established a single, "one-state, one-vote" formula under which all states would benefit.
 - strengthened the power of larger states at the expense of smaller states.
 - granted equal power to the three branches of the new central government.
 - ensured support for a strong national government from small as well as large states.

ANS: E REF: 31 NOT: F OBJ: LO3

38. This delegate at the Constitutional Convention suggested that the president be elected directly by the people.
- James Madison
 - Alexander Hamilton
 - George Washington
 - Aaron Burr
 - James Wilson

ANS: E REF: 32 NOT: F OBJ: LO3

39. The final report of the Constitutional Convention was approved on September 17, 1787 by
- all twelve states in attendance.
 - eleven of the twelve states attending.
 - every state and delegate attending.
 - every state in the Confederation.
 - None of the above is true.

ANS: A REF: 32 NOT: F OBJ: LO3

40. This delegate to the Constitutional Convention presented the Virginia Plan but refused to sign the final document approved on September 17, 1787.
- James Madison
 - Alexander Hamilton
 - Roger Sherman
 - Edmund Randolph
 - William Patterson

ANS: D REF: 32 NOT: F OBJ: LO3

41. The goal of the Framers of the U.S. Constitution was to create a(n)
- political system in which majority rule was supreme.
 - pure democracy modeled after the New England town meeting.
 - pluralist democracy ruled by political elite.
 - autonomous collective.
 - republic based on a system of representation.

ANS: E REF: 32 NOT: C OBJ: LO3

42. Relative to the notion of democratic government, the Supreme Court's power of judicial review
- places limits on majority rule.
 - is limited to state issues.
 - generally favors the executive.
 - is sometimes democratic, sometimes not.
 - is applied frequently.

ANS: A REF: 33 NOT: C OBJ: LO4

43. The nature of the amendment process has probably kept the amendments added to the U.S. Constitution
- relatively simple in nature.
 - legally complex in nature.
 - relatively few in number.
 - extremely controversial.
 - somewhat redundant.

ANS: C REF: 33 NOT: C OBJ: LO4

44. The American version of representative democracy is based on two major principles: _____ and _____.
- separation of powers; federalism
 - unicameralism; federalism
 - judicial review; federalism
 - party government; federalism
 - None of the above is true.

ANS: A REF: 33 NOT: F OBJ: LO4

45. Madison's confidence in the usefulness of separation of powers rested on the assumption that
- the strongest would survive.
 - human nature was basically good.
 - no one would purposely seek power.
 - ambitions would counteract each other.
 - government would create virtuous citizens.

ANS: D

REF: 35

NOT: F

OBJ: LO3

46. The text suggests the Federalists might more accurately have been called the
- nationalists.
 - states' righters.
 - monarchists.
 - loyalists.
 - anarchists.

ANS: A

REF: 35

NOT: F

OBJ: LO3

47. The text suggests that the Antifederalists might have been more accurately called the
- nationalists.
 - states' rights advocates.
 - monarchists.
 - loyalists.
 - anarchists.

ANS: B

REF: 35

NOT: F

OBJ: LO3

48. The U.S. Constitution was ratified by
- the Congress elected under the Articles of Confederation.
 - state legislatures.
 - special state conventions elected by the people.
 - unanimous acclaim by all thirteen states.
 - popular vote in state elections.

ANS: C

REF: 35

NOT: F

OBJ: LO3

49. Dividing power between the states and the national government is referred to as
- sovereignty.
 - dual legitimacy.
 - egalitarianism.
 - plutocracy.
 - federalism.

ANS: E

REF: 35

NOT: C

OBJ: LO4

50. Ancient political philosophers, such as Aristotle, held that the first task of any government was to
- cultivate virtue among the governed.
 - represent the will of the people.
 - exalt those who were wise above all others.
 - protect and enlarge the aristocracy.
 - build and maintain a conquering army.

ANS: A

REF: 35

NOT: F

OBJ: LO4

51. Generally, the Antifederalists felt that the government created by the U.S. Constitution was
- an insufficient check on the power of the states.
 - too strong and too centralized.
 - too liberal.
 - barely strong enough to be effective.
 - overprotective of individual rights.

ANS: B REF: 36 NOT: F OBJ: LO3

52. The *Federalist* papers were
- written at the Constitutional Convention as a way to explain the work that was done there.
 - composed by Hamilton and Washington just before the meeting at Annapolis.
 - articles written by Hamilton, Madison, and Jay to gain support for the Constitution.
 - adopted by the Constitutional Convention as a substitute for the Bill of Rights.
 - rejected by the Federalists as Antifederalist propaganda.

ANS: C REF: 36 NOT: F OBJ: LO3

53. James Madison's main argument in favor of a federalist position, stated in *Federalist* No. 10 and No. 51, was in defense of
- large republics.
 - small democracies governed by direct democracy.
 - a bill of rights.
 - large legislatures with small districts and frequent turnover.
 - centralized judiciaries.

ANS: A REF: 36 NOT: F OBJ: LO3

54. In *Federalist* No. 10 and No. 51, Madison argued in favor of a large republic, which went against the ideas of this political philosopher.
- John Locke
 - Thomas Hobbes
 - Plato
 - Montesquieu
 - None of the above is correct.

ANS: D REF: 36 NOT: F OBJ: LO5

55. It quickly became clear that the Constitution would *not* be ratified without at least the promise of
- the abolition of slavery.
 - female suffrage.
 - an elaborate federal court system.
 - a bill of rights.
 - a two-party system.

ANS: D REF: 36 NOT: F OBJ: LO6

56. The First Amendment addressed the issue of
- double jeopardy.
 - trial by jury.
 - cruel and unusual punishment.
 - unreasonable searches and seizure.
 - freedom of speech.

ANS: E

REF: 38

NOT: F

OBJ: LO1

57. Who introduced a set of twelve proposals to the First Congress from which the eventual Bill of Rights would be ratified?
- Hamilton
 - Jefferson
 - Washington
 - Adams
 - Madison

ANS: E

REF: 38, 39

NOT: F

OBJ: LO1

58. Three-fifths of the slaves were counted for purposes of
- electing state legislatures.
 - apportioning delegates to presidential conventions.
 - allotting seats in the House of Representatives.
 - assigning delegates to state conventions.
 - allotting seats in the Senate.

ANS: C

REF: 39

NOT: F

OBJ: LO6

59. Which of the following statements *most accurately* characterizes the motives behind the support that different Framers gave to the U.S. Constitution?
- Most Framers acted out of a mixture of motives, with economic interests playing only a modest role.
 - Those Framers who did not hold government debt but who did own slaves tended to support the U.S. Constitution.
 - Those Framers who held debt but who did not own slaves tended to oppose the U.S. Constitution.
 - The support that different Framers gave to the U.S. Constitution tended to divide along class lines.
 - The Framers acted in a manner that reflected the religious convictions of their respective states.

ANS: A

REF: 40

NOT: C

OBJ: LO6

60. A major argument in favor of reducing the separation of powers called for in the U.S. Constitution is that it would
- allow prompt, decisive leadership in times of crisis.
 - weaken the presidency and give greater protection against executive dictatorship.
 - disperse credit or blame equally among the three branches of government.
 - apportion responsibility for implementing government programs among members of Congress.
 - create a truly independent judiciary.

ANS: A

REF: 42

NOT: C

OBJ: LO3

TRUE/FALSE

1. The delegates to the Constitutional Convention were popularly elected.
ANS: F REF: 24 OBJ: LO2
2. The British constitution was a single written document that was a model for the colonists.
ANS: F REF: 24 OBJ: LO3
3. The colonists saw “higher law” as something that was discoverable in nature.
ANS: T REF: 24 OBJ: LO3
4. There was general agreement that the essential rights included life, liberty, and property long before Thomas Jefferson wrote them into the Declaration of Independence.
ANS: T REF: 25 OBJ: LO3
5. Ironically, the slave trade was mentioned four times in the Declaration of Independence.
ANS: F REF: 25 OBJ: LO6
6. In 1776, most state constitutions had detailed bills of rights.
ANS: T REF: 26 OBJ: LO1
7. Alexander Hamilton was a strong supporter of the government set up by the Articles of Confederation.
ANS: F REF: 27 OBJ: LO2
8. The Articles of Confederation created a strong central government.
ANS: F REF: 27 OBJ: LO3
9. Under the Articles of Confederation, each state had one vote in a national legislative body with only one house.
ANS: T REF: 27 OBJ: LO3
10. George Washington believed the country could survive only with a strong national government.
ANS: T REF: 27 OBJ: LO3
11. The Articles of Confederation empowered the national government with the ability to regulate interstate commerce leading to an era of prosperity.
ANS: F REF: 27 OBJ: LO3
12. Shays’s Rebellion was put down by privately hired army.
ANS: T REF: 28 OBJ: LO2

13. Rhode Island refused to send delegates to the Constitutional Convention.
ANS: T REF: 28 OBJ: LO3
14. James Madison was convinced that ancient Greece provided the perfect model for American government.
ANS: F REF: 28 OBJ: LO4
15. The Framers' view of natural rights was heavily influenced by the writings of John Locke.
ANS: T REF: 29 OBJ: LO5
16. The Virginia Plan called for a strong national government.
ANS: T REF: 30 OBJ: LO3
17. The Great Compromise reconciled the interests of the small and large states over representation.
ANS: T REF: 31 OBJ: LO3
18. A republic is a government in which a system of representation operates.
ANS: T REF: 32 OBJ: LO4
19. During the ratification debate, the supporters of the U.S. Constitution called themselves Federalists.
ANS: T REF: 35 OBJ: LO3
20. The *Federalist Papers* were written in order to mobilize support for the Constitution.
ANS: T REF: 35 OBJ: LO3

ESSAY

1. Describe some of the principles that caused the colonists to fight the Revolutionary War.

ANS:

- Legitimate government required the consent of the government.
- Power should be granted in a written document, constitution.
- Government should respect human liberty.
- The legislative branch should be superior to the executive branch.

REF: 25, 26 OBJ: LO2

2. Describe the 11 years that elapsed between the Declaration of Independence and the signing of the Constitution in 1787.

ANS:

Much of the nation was in shambles. There was no strong national government. Currency was virtually worthless. Supply and financing of the army was difficult; soldiers came home to debt. Spain still made claims and occupied areas, and there was still a powerful British presence.

REF: 26, 27 OBJ: LO2

3. Discuss at least *five* specific features about the government under the Articles of Confederation.

ANS:

- The national government could not tax.
- Each state had one vote in a single house Congress, regardless of size.
- There was no national judiciary.
- Amendments required the support of all 13 states.
- The army was small and dependent upon state militias.
- The office of president was meaningless.
- Congress could coin money, but there was little to coin.

REF: 27 OBJ: LO3

4. Explain Shays's Rebellion and its significance.

ANS:

Former Revolutionary War soldiers were in considerable debt and fearful of losing their property to creditors and tax collectors. The rebellion forcibly prevented the courts in Western Massachusetts from operating. The Governor's attempt to obtain help from the national government and state militia met with failure. Through the use of private funds, a volunteer army was hired to quell the rebellion. The event may have encouraged delegates to attend the Philadelphia Convention who may not have attended otherwise.

REF: 28 OBJ: LO2

5. Discuss John Locke's view of liberty and compare it to the views of Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence.

ANS:

- Some rights are discoverable in nature by reason.
- In the "state of nature" (society before government), the strong can threaten the liberty of the weak.
- The instinct for self-preservation leads people to want government.
- The power of the government must be limited by the consent of the governed.

REF: 29 OBJ: LO5

6. Discuss the differences of opinion between Thomas Hobbes and John Locke regarding the nature of democracy.

ANS:

In *Leviathan*, Hobbes argued that people live in a “war of all against all” and so an absolute, supreme ruler was essential to prevent civil war. Locke disagreed and argued that people can get along with one another if they have a decent government based on the consent of the governed and be managed by majority rule.

REF: 29, 33

OBJ: LO5

7. Identify the primary features of the Virginia Plan, discuss the stalemate between the small states and the large states, and how the Great Compromise helped give us the Congress that we have today.

ANS:

- The plan called for a strong national union.
- It provided for a separation of powers.
- It suggested a bicameral legislature.
- It proposed one branch of the legislature to be directly elected and the second to be chosen by state legislatures.
- Executive and members of the national judiciary were to be chosen by the national legislature.
- A council of revision could veto legislation (which could be overridden).
- There would be a bicameral national legislature.
- The House of Representatives would be directly elected by the people and membership would be based on population (larger states would have more members). The Senate would be selected by state legislatures and members would be based on equality (each state would have two Senators).

REF: 30, 31

OBJ: LO3

8. Explain the Framers’ view of democracy and the role of the “will of the people” in a government with “representative democracy.”

ANS:

- The “will of the people” and the “public good” or “common interest” were not synonymous.
- Government should mediate, not mirror, public views.
- Representatives should represent, not register, majority sentiment.
- Representative democracy may move slow and prevent sweeping change, but it minimizes the potential abuse of power by self-serving officeholders or tyrannical majorities.

REF: 32

OBJ: LO2

34 Chapter 2: The Constitution

9. Discuss James Madison's view of liberty and the size of a republic.

ANS:

Liberty is most secure in a large (or "extended") republic because in a small republic, a dominant view can suffocate minority viewpoints. In a large republic, however, opinions and interests will multiply. As a result, it is much harder for a tyrannical majority to develop in a large republic. The coalitions necessary to form in order to gain power are likely to be more moderate in a large republic. Moreover, liberty is more likely to be respected, secure.

REF: 36, 37 OBJ: LO4

10. Identify the three parts of the original Constitution that deal with slavery.

ANS:

- The Three-Fifths Compromise
- Agreement to allow no prohibitions on slavery until at least 1808
- Guarantee that escaped slaves would be returned to their owners.

REF: 39, 40 OBJ: LO6