

American Democracy Now Chapter 2: The Constitution

Multiple-Choice Questions:

1. Which of these countries employs an unwritten constitution?

- a. the United States
- b. Great Britain
- c. Venezuela
- d. Kenya
- e. Germany

Answer: b

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 3

Text Answer Hint: What Is a Constitution?

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

2. Which of these features are contained within written constitutions?

- a. mission statements
- b. descriptions of foundational structures
- c. identification of core bodies
- d. details of essential operating procedures
- e. All these answers are correct.

Answer: e

Critical Thinking: Understand

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: What Is a Constitution?

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

3. How many foundational government bodies are described by the U.S. Constitution?

- a. one
- b. two
- c. three
- d. four
- e. six

Answer: c

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 1

Text Answer Hint: What Is a Constitution?

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4. According to the Constitution,
- a. the legislature enforces the law.
 - b. the executive makes the law.
 - c. the Supreme Court interprets the law.
 - d. the bureaucrats make the law.
 - e. interest groups shape the law.

Answer: c

Critical Thinking: Understand

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: What Is a Constitution?

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5. Which of these dates marked the War for Independence?

- a. 1756–1763
- b. 1765–1775
- c. 1770–1780
- d. 1775–1783
- e. 1776–1785

Answer: d

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 1

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

6. Which of the following statements best describes the eighteenth-century colonists' desire for government *by the people*?

- a. popular sovereignty
- b. representational democracy
- c. universal suffrage
- d. government established to protect the people's liberties
- e. a two-tiered system of government, with power split between Britain and the colonies

Answer: a

Critical Thinking: Understand

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

7. *Indentured servants* were those who worked for a number of years
- for a master in America, then returned to Europe.
 - for a master in America who had paid for their passage.
 - for a master in America after being transported against their will.
 - in America, then gained access to land and other property.
 - for a master in America, then left for the Caribbean and Mexico.

Answer: b

Critical Thinking: Understand

Difficulty: 23

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

8. In the two-tiered system of colonial government in the early eighteenth century, which group had authority over day-to-day matters?
- local officials and assemblies
 - Parliament
 - governors appointed by royal authority
 - the king
 - the British Cabinet

Answer: a

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

9. In the two-tiered system of colonial government in the early eighteenth century, which group had authority to enact laws that applied both to colonists and to people in Great Britain?
- local officials and assemblies
 - Parliament
 - governors appointed by royal authority
 - the king
 - the British Cabinet

Answer: b

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 3

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

10. The Seven Years' War was fought between

- a. Britain and Holland.
- b. Britain and Russia.
- c. Britain and France.
- d. Britain and Spain.
- e. Britain and Portugal.

Answer: c

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

11. The Sugar Act (1764) imposed tax increases on which of these commodities?

- a. sugar
- b. molasses
- c. coffee
- d. textiles
- e. All these answers are correct.

Answer: e

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 1

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

12. Which of the following chronologies is correct?

- a. Stamp Act, Sugar Act, Declaratory Act, Townshend Duties Act
- b. Sugar Act, Stamp Act, Declaratory Act, Townshend Duties Act
- c. Declaratory Act, Sugar Act, Stamp Act, Townshend Duties Act
- d. Sugar Act, Declaratory Act, Stamp Act, Townshend Duties Act
- e. Stamp Act, Declaratory Act, Sugar Act, Townshend Duties Act

Answer: b

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 3

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

13. In 1768, the _____ colonial legislature petitioned King George III to repeal the Townshend Act.

- a. New Hampshire
- b. Virginia
- c. Maryland
- d. Massachusetts
- e. Rhode Island

Answer: d

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 3

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

14. In 1770, how many British soldiers were quartered among the 16,000 civilians living in Boston?

- a. 400
- b. 2,400
- c. 4,000
- d. 14,000
- e. 20,000

Answer: c

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 3

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

15. Who formed the Massachusetts Committee of Correspondence in 1772?

- a. John Hancock
- b. Paul Revere
- c. Patrick Henry
- d. Samuel Adams
- e. Benjamin Franklin

Answer: d

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

16. Which group gained a monopoly over the tea trade after the passage of the Tea Act (1773)?

- a. a shipping cartel led by John Hancock
- b. the East India Tea Company
- c. business interests connected to King George III
- d. French and Dutch traders
- e. Mohawk Indians

Answer: b

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 1

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

17. What repercussions followed the Boston Tea Party of December 16, 1773?

- a. passage of the Coercive Acts
- b. closure of the port of Boston
- c. imposition of martial law
- d. prohibition of the colonial assembly and town meetings
- e. All these answers are correct.

Answer: e

Critical Thinking: Understand

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

18. In September 1774, all colonies sent delegates to the First Continental Congress EXCEPT

- a. Delaware.
- b. Georgia.
- c. Rhode Island.
- d. New York.
- e. New Hampshire.

Answer: b

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 2

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

19. The assembled delegates at the Second Continental Congress
- called for a truce in the hostilities with the British.
 - demand participation in Parliament's policy-making processes.
 - empowered Congress to function as an independent government.
 - appointed Samuel Adams to command the Continental Army.
 - adopted the Declaration of Rights and Grievances.

Answer: c

Critical Thinking: Understand

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

20. According to Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, _____ was the only option that would ensure American liberty and religious freedom.
- diplomacy
 - civil disobedience
 - parliamentary representation
 - popular protest
 - war

Answer: e

Critical Thinking: Understand

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

21. At the Second Continental Congress, who argued that "these united Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent States"?
- Richard Henry Lee
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - James Madison
 - Samuel Adams
 - John Hancock

Answer: a

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 3

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

22. Which of the following thinkers influenced the creation of the Declaration of Independence?

- a. Thomas Paine
- b. Thomas Hobbes
- c. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- d. John Locke and Thomas Paine
- e. Jean-Jacques Rousseau and John Locke

Answer: e

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 3

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

23. Which of the following is a central principle of the Declaration of Independence?

- a. all men are equal
- b. natural rights are derived from the consent of the governed
- c. freedom is derived from the right to vote
- d. all men must relinquish their inalienable rights to the authority of the sovereign
- e. all men deserve the right to vote and gain parliamentary representation based on population numbers

Answer: a

Critical Thinking: Analyze

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

24. Which of these states enacted state constitutions in 1777?

- a. New York, Georgia, and Vermont
- b. Georgia, Massachusetts, and Vermont
- c. New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island
- d. Connecticut, Georgia, and Rhode Island
- e. Vermont, Georgia, and Massachusetts

Answer: a

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

25. Why were the new state constitutions revolutionary?

- a. They were unwritten but strictly followed, unlike the English constitution.
- b. They were the accumulation of laws written over time and based on customs and traditions.
- c. They were adopted at a specific moment in time.
- d. They established independence, yet still submitted to the rule of a king.
- e. They lacked the specified principles and structures of previous constitutions.

Answer: c

Critical Thinking: Analyze

Difficulty: 3

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

26. Which state, the only one to do so, saw citizen voters ratify their state constitution?

- a. Georgia
- b. Vermont
- c. Rhode Island
- d. Connecticut
- e. Massachusetts

Answer: e

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 3

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

27. Bicameral legislatures contain two separate parts, known as

- a. departments.
- b. chambers.
- c. houses.
- d. parliaments.
- e. bodies.

Answer: b

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

28. How many governing bodies were created for the United States within the Articles of Confederation?

- a. one
- b. two
- c. three
- d. four
- e. six

Answer: a

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 2

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

29. Which of the following statements reflect the constitutional structure within the Articles of Confederation (1781–1789)?

- a. Approval of policies and treaty ratification required nine affirmative votes.
- b. State courts retained jurisdiction over most legal matters, except in cases of inter-state conflict.
- c. State governments would implement and pay for congressionally-approved policies.
- d. Any constitutional amendments required unanimous approval of all 13 states.
- e. All these answers are correct.

Answer: e

Critical Thinking: Understand

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

30. Which of the following chronological sequences of events is correct?

- a. Boston Tea Party; First Continental Congress; Declaration of Independence
- b. Shays's Rebellion; Annapolis Convention; Declaration of Independence
- c. Declaration of Independence; Stamp Act; Philadelphia Convention
- d. Articles of Confederation; Declaration of Independence; Annapolis Convention
- e. First Continental Congress; Stamp Act; Articles of Confederation

Answer: a

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 3

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

31. Shays's Rebellion

- a. was a successful revolt.
- b. convinced many political leaders that the national government was too powerful.
- c. convinced many political leaders that the national government was not powerful enough.
- d. reinforced public support for the Articles of Confederation.
- e. occurred after the Philadelphia Convention of 1787.

Answer: c

Critical Thinking: Understand

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: The Creation of the United States of America

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

32. Which state was the only one of the following that did NOT send delegates to the Constitutional Convention on 1787?

- a. New England
- b. Rhode Island
- c. New York
- d. New Jersey
- e. Maryland

Answer: b

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 3

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

33. Whose work, entitled *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748), provided the concept of separation of powers later adopted by the framers of the Constitution?

- a. John Locke
- b. Thomas Hobbes
- c. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- d. Baron de Montesquieu
- e. François-Marie Arouet

Answer: d

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

34. At Philadelphia, who proposed the Virginia Plan, which included a three-branch government?

- a. James Madison
- b. William Paterson
- c. Benjamin Franklin
- d. George Washington
- e. John Hancock

Answer: a

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

35. The Connecticut Compromise (or Great Compromise) produced

- a. checks and balances.
- b. the abolition of slavery.
- c. a bicameral Congress.
- d. separation of powers.
- e. federalism.

Answer: c

Critical Thinking: Understand

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

36. What issue led to the Three-Fifths Compromise?

- a. states rights
- b. individual liberty versus federal power
- c. slavery
- d. foreign treaties
- e. disagreement over separation of powers

Answer: c

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 1

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

37. The writers of the Constitution devised the Electoral College as the method of choosing presidents because
- a. direct election was impractical, due to the poor systems of communication and transportation that existed in the late 1700s.
 - b. the method would shield executive power from popular majorities and Congress.
 - c. the method guaranteed a majority winner.
 - d. the method would give weight to the preferences of ordinary people.
 - e. the framers had a great deal of faith in the wisdom of the masses.

Answer: b

Critical Thinking: Analyze

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

38. Under the original Constitution, Congress could not ban the slave trade until _____.
- a. 1808
 - b. 1818
 - c. 1828
 - d. 1857
 - e. 1865

Answer: a

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 1

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

39. According to Article I of the Constitution, a proposed piece of legislation requires a _____ in both the House and Senate to become law.
- a. simple majority of votes
 - b. three-fifths majority vote
 - c. two-thirds majority vote
 - d. three-quarters majority vote
 - e. unanimous vote

Answer: a

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 1

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

40. According to Article II of the Constitution, which body of government checks the legislative authority of Congress?
- a. the judiciary
 - b. the executive
 - c. the president of the Senate
 - d. the Electoral College
 - e. None of these answers is correct.

Answer: b

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 1

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

41. Article III of the Constitution describes the powers and structure of which of the following?
- a. legislative branch
 - b. executive branch
 - c. judicial branch
 - d. state-to-state relations
 - e. the amendment process

Answer: c

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 1

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

42. *Marbury v. Madison* is a landmark Supreme Court decision because it
- a. established national supremacy.
 - b. set the precedent for judicial review.
 - c. defined the scope of state powers under the Tenth Amendment.
 - d. affirmed the necessary and proper clause.
 - e. helped to end Thomas Jefferson's political career.

Answer: b

Critical Thinking: Understand

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

43. Article _____ of the Constitution details the process of constitutional amendment.

- a. IV
- b. V
- c. VI
- d. VII
- e. VIII

Answer: b

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

44. Which article of the Constitution describes the process of constitutional ratification?

- a. Article IV
- b. Article V
- c. Article VI
- d. Article VII
- e. Article VIII

Answer: d

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 2

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

45. *The Federalist Papers* were written by

- a. Washington, Adams, and Jefferson.
- b. Madison, Hamilton, and Jay.
- c. Marshall, Jefferson, and Madison.
- d. Jefferson, Washington, and Madison.
- e. Marshall, Jay, and Jefferson.

Answer: b

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 3

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

46. Who among the following was considered, along with Thomas Jefferson, to be one of the most influential of the Anti-Federalists?

- a. George Washington
- b. Alexander Hamilton
- c. Mercy Otis Warren
- d. John Jay
- e. James Madison

Answer: c

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 1

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

47. What year saw the passage of the Bill of Rights?

- a. 1787
- b. 1789
- c. 1791
- d. 1793
- e. 1795

Answer: c

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 1

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

48. Which constitutional amendment indicated that the list of already-included civil liberties in previous amendments was not exhaustive?

- a. Sixth Amendment
- b. Seventh Amendment
- c. Eighth Amendment
- d. Ninth Amendment
- e. Tenth Amendment

Answer: d

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 1

Text Answer Hint: Crafting the Constitution: Compromise, Ratification, and Quick Amendment

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

49. How many proposed constitutional amendments have been introduced in Congress since 1789?

- a. over 100
- b. over 500
- c. over 1,000
- d. over 5,000
- e. over 10,000

Answer: e

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 1

Text Answer Hint: The Constitution as a Living, Evolving Document

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

50. How many amendments have actually been ratified by the states since 1789?

- a. 23
- b. 27
- c. 29
- d. 33
- e. 35

Answer: b

Critical Thinking: Remember

Difficulty: 1

Text Answer Hint: The Constitution as a Living, Evolving Document

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Teaching Emphasis: The Constitution

Essay Questions:

51. Define what a constitution is, and compare and contrast the structures of written and unwritten constitutions.

Answer: A constitution presents the fundamental principles of a government and establishes the basic structures and procedures by which the government operates to fulfill those principles. Constitutions may be written or unwritten. An unwritten constitution, such as that of Great Britain, is a collection of written laws approved by a legislative body and unwritten common laws established by judges based on custom, culture, habit, and previous judicial decision. In contrast, a written constitution, such as the Constitution of the United States, is one specific document supplemented by judicial interpretations that clarify its meaning.

52. Outline the factors that led to increased friction between Britain and its North American colonial subjects during the eighteenth century.

Answer: Unlike British subjects living in England in the period before the War for Independence, the colonists, who also regarded themselves as British, were largely excluded from participating in the political process. This exclusion alienated the American colonists, who since early colonization had become used to managing most of their local affairs. This changed after the Seven Years' War, as Britain attempted to shift the costs of colonial governance onto the colonies themselves. A series of British laws such as the Stamp, Quartering, and Declaratory Acts were seen by the colonists as unreasonable and onerous.

53. Identify the factors that encouraged the formation of the Continental Congress.

Answer: The Continental Congress emerged as a response to several issues: anger over the British government's passage of laws that, in the eyes of opponents such as Samuel Adams, fundamentally infringed on colonial liberties; sympathy for Massachusetts, which after the "Boston Massacre" and the Tea Party, chafed under martial law; and finally, a realization of the growing shared consciousness of the colonials and their understanding of the need for collective action.

54. Discuss the intellectual origins of the Declaration of Independence.

Answer: Created by Thomas Jefferson and unanimously endorsed by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence drew upon the work of John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Locke argued that all people are born free and equal, and enjoy inalienable rights, such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Governments exist to protect and preserve these rights. Rousseau expanded this argument by stating that people create their governments, and therefore governments derive their authority from the people.

55. Outline the important features of the federal structure created by the Articles of Confederation.

Answer: The Articles of Confederation were ratified by 13 states in 1781. The Articles created a unicameral legislature, the Congress. Each state had from two to seven delegates, but only one vote. The Articles did not create any other governing bodies, and the Congress had limited authority, with most matters remaining in the hands of the states.

56. Explain and discuss the important features of the system of dual sovereignty.

Answer: The framers of the Constitution created an innovative system of government with dual sovereignty—a system of government in which governing authority is divided between two levels of government, a central government and regional governments, with each level having ultimate authority over different policy matters.

57. Discuss the formation of *electors* and the Electoral College, and discuss the role they play in the election of the president and vice president.

Answer: In order to limit the threat of tyranny by the majority, the framers of the Constitution devised a system of electing the president and vice president. The Constitution delegates to states the authority to appoint individuals, known as electors, to elect the president and vice president. Today, in nearly every state, popular votes determine which political party's slate of electors will participate on popular behalf in the Electoral College, the name given to the body of electors that selects the president and vice president.

58. Identify and explain the features of executive power that the Constitution grants as checks on legislative power.

Answer: Executive power checks the legislative authority of Congress in two important ways. First, through the power of veto, the president can send bills back to Congress for amendment, with his objections noted. Second, the president, through his power to nominate—although not ratify—federal judges, can influence and shape the interpretation of federal law.

59. Discuss the chief issues of debate between Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

Answer: Immediately after the publication of the 1787 Constitution, both supporters and opponents began to debate the merits of the stronger national government it had created. The Federalists, such as James Madison and Alexander Hamilton, supported the Constitution on the grounds that it provided the greatest likelihood of preserving individual liberties by preventing external encroachment. The Anti-Federalists, led by Thomas Jefferson, argued that the Constitution placed too much power with the federal government at the expense of the states and individual freedoms.

60. Identify the factors that have allowed for the continuous re-interpretation of the Constitution since its creation.

Answer: Several factors have enabled the Constitution to remain relevant as society has changed. First, the role of judicial review, which grants courts the power to re-interpret constitutional law, has enabled considerable flexibility. Second, technological change has driven constitutional reinterpretation, as new technologies such as computers and the Internet encouraged the revision and re-interpretation of the Fourth Amendment.