

Chapter 2: The Founding and the Constitution

Multiple Choice

1. In *Federalist no. 55*, James Madison argues, "...had every Athenian citizen been a Socrates, every Athenian assembly would have been a mob." This statement illustrates
 - a. Madison's prejudice against Greeks.
 - b. Madison's fear and distrust of direct democracy.**
 - c. Madison's belief that representative government encouraged barbaric behavior.
 - d. Madison's belief that violence is a legitimate form of protest.
 - e. Madison's disgust with the Magna Carta.
2. Democracy first emerged in the
 - a. Greek city-state of Athens.**
 - b. early years of the Roman Emperor.
 - c. right after the emergence of the Bible.
 - d. colonists' attempt to bring freedom to the New World.
 - e. United States
3. Most of the New England colonies based their first governments on the idea of a(n)
 - a. monarchy.
 - b. aristocracy.
 - c. confederation.
 - d. republic.
 - e. compact.**
4. The social contract theory underlying our founding documents is
 - a. the people must always agree to create a government.
 - b. the government cannot act until the people have voted.
 - c. the government is created from popular sovereignty to act in the people's interest.**
 - d. the government is disbanded whenever the people disagree.
 - e. the people never have the right to revolt regardless of what government does.
5. One of the points on which Thomas Hobbes and John Locke agreed was
 - a. that an effective democracy needed an absolute sovereign.
 - b. that some individuals possessed a divine right to rule.
 - c. that people had the right to rid themselves of bad government.**
 - d. that every society needed a strong representative assembly.
 - e. that human nature is basically evil.
6. Which of the following are not social contract theorists?
 - a. Thomas Hobbes
 - b. John Locke
 - c. Charles de Montesquieu**

- d. All of them are social contract theorists.
 - e. None of them are social contact theorists.
7. Social contract theorist Thomas Hobbes is the author of which preeminent text:
- a. **Leviathan**
 - b. *Two Treatises on Government*
 - c. *Second Treatise*
 - d. *On Liberty*
 - e. *Mayflower Compact*
8. America's social contract is codified in the
- a. Declaration of Independence
 - b. National Archives
 - c. **Constitution**
 - d. Magna Carta
 - e. Bible
9. The Boston Tea Party
- a. was supported by the King of England.
 - b. had no effect.
 - c. **was an act of civil disobedience.**
 - d. was carried out by British soldiers.
 - e. led to the French and Indian War.
10. How many delegates attended the First Continental Congress?
- a. twenty-two
 - b. thirty-five
 - c. forty
 - d. **fifty-five**
 - e. sixty-two
11. The original purpose of the First Continental Congress was to
- a. open Boston harbors for the purpose of increasing British trade.
 - b. encourage the British to leave the Americas.
 - c. persuade the British to provide more personal freedom to the colonists.
 - d. persuade the colonists of their need for organized resistance.
 - e. **establish more cordial relations with the British.**
12. The Second Continental Congress
- a. was firm in their resolve to break with England.
 - b. **took on the role of coordinating the war effort.**
 - c. was poorly attended.
 - d. ratified the Articles of Confederation.
 - e. issued the Declaration of American Rights.
13. In *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine argued for

- a. the death of King George III.
 - b. a complete separation from England.**
 - c. the abolition of slavery.
 - d. a strong, national American government.
 - e. a resolution to oppose British acts.
14. The Declaration of Independence severed the relationship between the colonies and the British government, justified the revolution, and provided a philosophical basis for limited government based on popular consent. Therefore, it
- a. serves as a national constitution.
 - b. repudiated the idea of rule by divine right.**
 - c. stands as a testament to the natural superiority of property owners.
 - d. was a formal declaration of war by the Second Continental Congress.
 - e. transferred powers on selected issues to a central government.
15. The Articles of Confederation
- a. were never ratified.
 - b. reflected the distrust most Americans felt towards a strong central government.**
 - c. allowed all of the states to prosper financially.
 - d. allowed the central government to preserve public peace and order.
 - e. provided for the centralization of power in the federal government.
16. The Articles of Confederation made it clear that
- a. a confederation of states was not the type of political system America wanted.**
 - b. its authors wished to remain loyal to the British Crown.
 - c. outbreaks, such as Shays's Rebellion, were perfectly understandable as they were rooted in the spirit of revolution inspired by the document.
 - d. ultimate political authority rested with the people.
 - e. the central government reigned supreme.
17. The Shay's Rebellion of 1786 consisted of farmers who were seeking
- a. freedom of speech.
 - b. the right to assemble.
 - c. freedom of the press.
 - d. government office
 - e. economic independence.**
18. The Virginia Plan
- a. called for three branches of government.**
 - b. called for a federal system of government.
 - c. called for a unicameral legislature.
 - d. called for equal representation for all states.
 - e. called for the protection of the interests of small states.

19. The delegates attending the constitutional convention in 1787 would best be described as
- a. political philosophers.
 - b. representing a good cross section of contemporary American society.
 - c. farmers and laborers.
 - d. revolutionaries.
 - e. **skilled politicians.**
20. According to the text, there were two philosophical camps at the Convention:
- a. the urbanites and the suburbanites.
 - b. **the Federalists and the Antifederalists.**
 - c. the loyalists and the revolutionaries.
 - d. the expansionists and isolationists
 - e. the democrats and the republicans.
21. The “Great Compromise” was also called the
- a. Three-Fifths Compromise.
 - b. Massachusetts Compromise.
 - c. Virginia Compromise.
 - d. **Connecticut Compromise.**
 - e. Washington Compromise.
22. The purpose of checks and balances is to ensure that
- a. the government remains solvent.
 - b. national laws always supercede conflicting state laws.
 - c. **no branch of government becomes too powerful.**
 - d. large states never dominate small states.
 - e. the executive branch dominates over the other branches.
23. The New Jersey Plan
- a. **was designed to refine and strengthen the Articles of Confederation.**
 - b. suggested a Council of Revision.
 - c. was very popular.
 - d. suggested a bicameral legislature.
 - e. would allow states to tax imports.
24. Which institution of our modern government can be traced back to the New Jersey Plan?
- a. The unitary executive.
 - b. The Supreme Court.
 - c. The bicameral legislature.
 - d. **The equal state membership in the Senate.**
 - e. The equal state membership in the House.

25. Which of the following illustrates the framers' unwillingness to deal with the issue of slavery?
- a. Slaves count as three-fifths for census-taking purposes.
 - b. Runaway slaves must be returned to the slave states.
 - c. **New states will vote whether to allow slavery.**
 - d. The slave trade would not end until 1808.
 - e. The issue of slavery was not dealt with in the new Constitution.
26. The legislative branch of the United States government is a (n)
- a. unicameral legislature.
 - b. **bicameral legislature.**
 - c. confederation.
 - d. aristocracy.
 - e. oligarchy.
27. Which of the following statements best summarizes the effect of the Connecticut Compromise?
- a. Five slaves would equal three free people for purposes of representation.
 - b. The Senate became the dominant house in Congress.
 - c. Money bills could only be introduced by the executive.
 - d. Provided life long tenure to the Supreme Court justices.
 - e. **It upheld the large-state position for the House of Representatives.**
28. The three-fifths compromise
- a. gave slave states the 50 percent of the seats in the House of Representatives they were hoping for.
 - b. dismantled the institution of slavery in the South.
 - c. **assured the ratification of the new constitution.**
 - d. assured that the new constitution would not be ratified.
 - e. provided a final resolution for the issue of slavery.
29. What did the Declaration of Independence say about the institution of slavery?
- a. **Nothing.**
 - b. All slaves were to be freed immediately.
 - c. George III was responsible for the slave trade.
 - d. The writers of the document were freeing their slaves.
 - e. All slaves would have input into the government.
30. The electoral college system assures that
- a. only the wealthiest Americans have a chance to be elected president.
 - b. only college graduates have an opportunity to be elected president.
 - c. more than one person can serve as president.
 - d. **a presidential candidate would need support from large and small states around the country.**
 - e. voters would directly elect the president.

31. Before they revised their decision and chose four-year terms for the president, with reelection possible, the Constitutional Convention narrowly voted for
- a. two-year terms.
 - b. a single seven-year term.**
 - c. a limit of three six-year terms.
 - d. a limit of four three-year terms.
 - e. a limit of three four-year terms.
32. Which article set forth the powers of the legislative branch?
- a. Article I.**
 - b. Article II.
 - c. Article III.
 - d. Article IV.
 - e. Article V.
33. Vertical powers refer to the relationship between the centralized national government and the state governments. This arrangement is commonly referred to as
- a. an associational system.
 - b. a federal system.**
 - c. a unitary system.
 - d. national supremacy.
 - e. police powers.
34. The powers belonging to the national government are called
- a. reserved powers.
 - b. police powers.
 - c. national powers.
 - d. federal powers.
 - e. delegated powers.**
35. The powers belonging to the state governments are called
- a. reserved powers.**
 - b. delegated powers.
 - c. regional powers.
 - d. national powers.
 - e. federal powers.
36. Powers not expressly granted or enumerated in the Constitution and limited in nature are referred to as
- a. reserved powers.
 - b. war powers.
 - c. proper powers.
 - d. implied powers.**
 - e. police powers.

37. Reducing the size and authority of the federal government by returning programs to the states is referred to as
- a. **devolution.**
 - b. centralization.
 - c. mandating orders.
 - d. political reversals.
 - e. delegated powers.
38. Police powers
- a. **are reserved to the states.**
 - b. do not relate to morality.
 - c. can only be used against lawbreakers.
 - d. are provided by the Fifth Amendment.
 - e. are reserved to the federal government.
39. Empowering police forces and other government officials to check U.S. citizenship credentials is an example of
- a. delegated powers.
 - b. enumerated powers.
 - c. **police powers.**
 - d. reserved powers.
 - e. legislative powers.
40. Which of the three major branches does not have an “elastic clause” expanding its power within the Article creating that power?
- a. **The judiciary.**
 - b. The executive.
 - c. the Senate
 - d. the House
 - e. They all have “elastic clauses.”
41. The _____ gave itself the power to interpret and update the Constitution using judicial review.
- a. Constitutional founders
 - b. American people
 - c. Senate
 - d. House of Representative
 - e. **Supreme Court**
42. Article I of the Constitution gives Congress which of the following powers?
- a. the power to declare martial law
 - b. the power to interpret the Constitution
 - c. **the power to declare war**
 - d. the power to regulate intrastate commerce
 - e. the power of the executive.

43. The text notes that, for the framers, Article I of the Constitution was the most important because they intended that the new Congress have more legislative authority than the one which existed under the Articles of Confederation. This is evidenced by
- a. the necessary and proper clause.**
 - b. the delegated powers of Congress.
 - c. the fact that there are two houses.
 - d. the power of Congress to collect taxes.
 - e. the power to declare war.
44. The text states that the first line in Article II, which reads, "The executive Power shall be vested in a president of the United States of America,"
- a. broadens the power of the executive.**
 - b. limits the power of the executive.
 - c. permits the president to declare war.
 - d. makes the president a superlegislator.
 - e. provides more room for Congress to make decisions.
45. Federal judges
- a. are elected.
 - b. only serve for six years.
 - c. are appointed by Congress.
 - d. serve for life as long as they maintain good behavior.**
 - e. cannot be impeached.
46. *The Federalist Papers* were written under the pen name of
- a. Delgado.
 - b. Rufus.
 - c. Cypress.
 - d. Publius.**
 - e. Hamilton
47. Article III gives Congress
- a. nothing.
 - b. the power to abolish the Supreme Court.
 - c. the power to establish inferior federal courts.**
 - d. the power of judicial review.
 - e. the power to impeach the president.
48. What do many scholars consider to be the most important work of political theory in U.S. history?
- a. Letters of Brutus
 - b. Genuine Information
 - c. Observations on the New Constitution
 - d. the Federalist Papers**
 - e. the Declaration of Independence

49. Article IV contains which of the following provisions?
- a. **Full Faith and Credit**
 - b. Powers Denied to the States
 - c. Powers and Duties of the President
 - d. Judicial Power, Courts, Judges
 - e. Amending the Constitution
50. *The Federalist Papers* were comprised of how many essays?
- a. 19
 - b. 116
 - c. 54
 - d. **85**
 - e. 116
51. Which of the following statements best describes the philosophy of the Federalists?
- a. They believed in a direct democracy.
 - b. They were opposed to the electoral college.
 - c. They were opposed to national supremacy.
 - d. They strongly advocated states' rights.
 - e. **They believed in a strong central government.**
52. Which of the following statements best describes the philosophy of the Antifederalists?
- a. They were opposed to national supremacy.
 - b. **They supported strong state governments.**
 - c. They believed in direct democracy.
 - d. They were opposed to the electoral college.
 - e. They held a nationalist ideology.
53. In *Federalist no. 10*, Madison's cure for the "mischiefs of factions" was
- a. to deny aggressive individuals the right to vote.
 - b. to confiscate private property.
 - c. **to increase the size of the political unit.**
 - d. to limit state powers.
 - e. to allow states to resolve the issue.
54. According to *Federalist no. 10*, what is the source of factions?
- a. the difference in philosophical attitudes between elites and masses
 - b. **the difference in property classifications**
 - c. political parties
 - d. the lack of liberty
 - e. unequal distribution of power between the national and state governments
55. The first ten amendments to the Constitution are referred to as
- a. **the Bill of Rights.**
 - b. Special Topics.
 - c. Relevant Opinions.

- d. constitutional dogmas.
- e. the Federalists Papers.

56. Identify the only man to sign all three of this nation's founding documents.

- a. James Tyler
- b. Roger Sherman**
- c. Thomas Rhodes
- d. Alfred Gould
- e. George Washington

57. The last state to ratify the new constitution was

- a. New York.
- b. Virginia.
- c. Connecticut.
- d. Florida.
- e. Rhode Island.**

58. The Ninth and Tenth Amendments could best be described as

- a. limitations on the power of the national government.**
- b. rights guaranteed to the national government.
- c. rights guaranteed to the states and property owners, respectively.
- d. rights guaranteed to property owners and the states, respectively.
- e. rights guaranteed to the central government and states, respectively.

59. The Bill of Rights was ratified in

- a. 1776.
- b. 1791.**
- c. 1801.
- d. 1881.
- e. 1901

60. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution requires a

- a. simple majority of Congress.
- b. plurality of Congress.
- c. supermajority of Congress.**
- d. decree by the president.
- e. decree by the Supreme Court.

61. The Seventeenth Amendment, which relates to the direct election of senators, was ratified in

- a. 1941.
- b. 1913.**
- c. 1847.
- d. 1801.
- e. 1776.

62. In 1911, what did thirty-one states call for a convention to consider?
- the direct election of the Senate**
 - the removal of the vice president
 - a new Supreme Court justice
 - a congressional investigation to investigate the president
 - a the impeachment of a Supreme Court justice
63. What was the name of the chief justice who ruled in the case of *Marbury v. Madison*?
- John Marshall**
 - John White
 - Adam Smith
 - Alfred Mayer
 - William Rehnquist
64. How many times has the Constitution been amended?
- twenty-seven times**
 - thirty-three times
 - forty-two times
 - fifty-one times
 - sixty-four times
65. The Supreme Court's decision in the case of *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) was important because it
- gave the Court the power of judicial review.**
 - was so long.
 - resolved the question of original intent.
 - divided the Court for the first time.
 - allowed the president to be impeached.
66. Which of the following is the typical route for a constitutional amendment?
- proposal by two-thirds of both houses of Congress, and ratification by three-fourths of the state legislatures**
 - proposal by two-thirds of both houses of Congress, and ratification by three-fourths of the state legislatures in special convention
 - proposal by Congress in a national convention called at the request of two-thirds of the states, and ratification by three-fourths of the state legislatures
 - proposal by Congress in a national convention called at the request of two-thirds of the states, and ratification by three-fourths of the state legislatures in special convention
 - proposal by Congress that is then put forward to the public through a referendum
67. What is guaranteed by the Second Amendment?
- the right to assemble peaceably
 - absolute freedom of religion
 - the right to a fair and speedy trial
 - the right to keep and bear arms**

- e. the right to sue a state in federal court

68. Which of the following constitutional amendments was nullified by another?

- a. the Tenth Amendment
- b. the Eighteenth Amendment**
- c. the Twenty-first Amendment
- d. the Seventeenth Amendment
- e. the Twenty-first Amendment

69. The most remarkable feature of the Constitution is

- a. its reluctance to change.
- b. its noncontroversial nature.
- c. its low cost of implementation.
- d. how it has adapted to the times.**
- e. that it has served us for 400 years.

70. What feature of our government today cannot be found in the Constitution?

- a. A judicial review power.**
- b. A bicameral legislature.
- c. A unitary executive.
- d. The power of Congress to create a lower federal judiciary.
- e. An amendment process.

71. The ____ Amendment is the only amendment that was ratified in special state convention.

- a. Tenth
- b. Nineteenth
- c. Twentieth
- d. Twenty-first.**
- e. Twenty-second

True or False

72. It is clear that the framers of the American Constitution were more influenced by Roman republicanism than Athenian democracy.

True

73. Most of the New England colonies based their first governments on the idea of personal individualism.

False

74. Social contract theory provides the philosophical foundation for the obligations individuals and states have toward each other. If the state violates the contract, the citizen is still morally obligated to obey its laws.

False

75. In the book *Second Treatise of Government*, Locke argues for a government based upon popular sovereignty, with limited powers.

True

76. The theories of John Locke stressed the concept of limited government.

True

77. A confederation is a league of sovereign states.

True

78. The Albany Plan was constructed by Benjamin Franklin.

True

79. The Declaration of Independence was drafted at the First Continental Congress by John Jay and Patrick Henry.

False

80. In *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine argues for a complete separation from England.

True

81. On July 12, 1777, after six drafts, the Articles of Confederation were presented to the Continental Congress.

True

82. Under the Articles, the states had very little authority.

False

83. The major problem with the Articles of Confederation was the executive was too strong.

False

84. Daniel Shays was a farmer in western Pennsylvania.

True

85. The government created by the Articles of Confederation was weak and ineffective.

True

86. Shays's activities had no impact on the Constitution.

False

87. Daniel Shay emerged as a leader at the Confederation Congress in 1787.

False

88. The First Continental Congress declared independence and composed the Declaration of Independence in 1774.

False

89. Proportional representation is a system in which the powers of government are divided among three branches.

False

90. The problems governing under the Articles of Confederation made it clear that a stronger central government was needed.

True

91. Few wealthy men were present at the Constitutional Convention.

False

92. African Americans, Native Americans, and women were not present at the Constitutional Convention.

True

93. Only two women were formally involved in the drafting of the Declaration of Independence.

False

94. The “council of revision” was the forerunner of judicial review possessing an absolute veto over state laws.

True

95. Roger Sherman’s “Great Compromise” in the Constitutional Convention allowed delegates from the convention to have individual votes.

False

96. The American Revolution was fought on the twin principles of liberty and equality, but slavery became the practice of the land.

True

97. The major difference between the Constitution and Articles of Confederation is that the government was now governed by the states rather than by the people.

False

98. In *Federalist no. 10*, Madison states, “If men were angels, the church would be the fourth branch of government.”

False

99. All three branches of government possess the power of judicial review.

False

100. Judicial review is the power to confirm the nomination of federal justices.

False

101. It is clearly stated in Article III of the Constitution that the Supreme Court shall have the sole power to interpret the Constitution.

False

102. The idea that the president should be consulted before all policy making is an example of an inherent power of the president.

False

103. The elastic clause can be found in Article II, Section 1.

False

104. *The Federalist Papers* were written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay.

True

105. The Antifederalists were strongly in favor of ratifying the new constitution.

False

106. Interest groups are not accounted for in the Constitution.

True

107. The Virginia Plan was presented by Governor Randolph.

True

108. As of yet, no constitutional amendment has ever been approved by constitutional convention.

True

Essay Questions

109. What led to rebellion in the colonies, rebellion that eventually led to revolution? Discuss the years leading up to the American Revolution.

110. Discuss the influence of John Locke upon the political philosophy of the framers.

111. Discuss the role of the First Continental Congress and its influence on the creation of American government.

112. What were the major arguments Jefferson made in the Declaration of Independence concerning why the colonists felt the need to break with England?

113. Discuss the difficulties the central government faced under the Articles of Confederation. How did the new constitution correct these problems?

114. Discuss Shays's Rebellion. What were the concerns of Daniel Shays and the men he led? What was the outcome of their rebellion?
115. What were the major points of difference between the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan?
116. Discuss the Great Compromise and the result of it.
117. What was the purpose of the three-fifths compromise?
118. Define and discuss the electoral college.
119. How is democracy safeguarded both at the national and state levels?
120. Discuss the significance of *The Federalist Papers*.
121. Describe the amendment process. How is it possible to change the meaning of the Constitution without a formal amendment?
122. The text states that gaps were specifically left in the constitution to allow for expansion and evolution as needed. What changes have been made over US history, and what additional changes do you believe are necessary?