

Chapter 1 - A Historical Overview

Multiple Choice

1. The Proclamation of 1763, signed by King George III, was significant to the colonies because:
- a. it ended the reign of King George III as ruler of Britain.
 - b. it ended westward expansion of the colonies and placed them under military rule.
 - c. it began westward expansion of the colonies, eventually leading to the demise of Native Americans.
 - d. it led to the appointment of George Washington to his first political post in the colonies.
- ANSWER: b**

2. Pluralism refers to:
- a. a society in which numerous distinct ethnic, religious, or cultural groups coexist within one nation, each contributing to the society as a whole.
 - b. the combination of constitutional, statutory, and common law.
 - c. a single act being classified as both a crime and a tort.
 - d. a society in which numerous distinct ethnic, religious, or cultural groups maintain their individual beliefs and form of government.
- ANSWER: a**

3. According to the text, pluralism challenged the colonists to:
- a. strive to maintain their original culture.
 - b. exercise tolerance and respect for the opinions, customs, traditions, and lifestyles of others.
 - c. band together in self-defense.
 - d. combine English and Roman common law with Native American customary law.
- ANSWER: b**

4. The Boston Tea Party was all of the following, except:
- a. a demonstration of the unwillingness of the colonists to pay taxes to Great Britain without representation.
 - b. an act of protest against British rule over the colonies.
 - c. the culmination of growing resentment towards Parliament for the passage of laws such as the Stamp and Quartering Acts.
 - d. a formal meeting between British and colonial officials to establish a trade agreement.
- ANSWER: d**

5. Those colonists who bought British goods against the boycott were branded:
- a. loyalists.
 - b. harbourers.
 - c. rebels.
 - d. patriots.
- ANSWER: a**

6. The Second Continental Congress resulted in all of the following, except:
- a. the naming of George Washington as Commander of the Continental Army.
 - b. the battles at Lexington and Concord.
 - c. the instruction to each colony to assume the powers of independent states.
 - d. the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

ANSWER: b

7. The first written agreement among the colonies to stand together in resistance to Great Britain was the result of:
- a. the First Continental Congress.
 - b. the Second Continental Congress.
 - c. The Federalist Papers.
 - d. the Mayflower Compact.

ANSWER: a

8. Formal ties between Great Britain and the United States were severed when:
- a. the American Declaration of Independence was signed.
 - b. the colonists boarded British ships and threw tea overboard.
 - c. the Magna Carta was drafted.
 - d. the colonists met at the First Continental Congress.

ANSWER: a

9. While the opening paragraph of the Declaration of Independence was issued to break political ties with Great Britain, the second paragraph declares that a government's right to rule is based on:
- a. the will of the King.
 - b. the elected officials of the colonies.
 - c. the permission of the people who are governed.
 - d. equal representation throughout the colonies.

ANSWER: c

10. How many of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence went on to become President of the United States?
- a. zero
 - b. one
 - c. two
 - d. three

ANSWER: c

11. The principle that government should have power distributed, and be limited by a system of laws that must be obeyed by those who rule, is known as:
- a. constitutionalism.
 - b. confederalism.

- c. capitalism.
- d. communism.

ANSWER: a

12. All of the following statements about constitutions are true, except:

- a. constitutions are a system of fundamental laws and principles that prescribe the nature, functions, and limits of a government or other body.
- b. constitutions are distinguished from ordinary acts of legislation, in that they are drafted by special assemblages and ratified by special conventions chosen by the people.
- c. constitutions are supreme law and, therefore, can be annulled only by legislation.
- d. constitutionalism is one of the most original, distinctive contributions of the American system of government.

ANSWER: c

13. A union of independent states, in which each state maintains sovereignty, is known as:

- a. an alliance
- b. a league
- c. a confederation
- d. an amalgamation

ANSWER: c

14. The Magna Carta was created:

- a. to ensure that states maintained power apart from the national government.
- b. to outline colonists' complaints against the British crown.
- c. in England, to guarantee that the king could not put himself above the law.
- d. by the British Parliament, in protest of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

ANSWER: c

15. The Great Compromise was important because it:

- a. allowed for a civil resolution to prisoner exchange after the Revolutionary War.
- b. gave each state an equal vote in the Senate and a proportionate vote in the House.
- c. settled the nearly 10-month debate on who would become the first President of the United States.
- d. was the first time "freedom" was discussed in a formal document of the United States pertaining to slavery.

ANSWER: b

16. According to the first three articles of the Constitution, what are the three branches of American government?

- a. legislative, judicial, and correctional
- b. judicial, executive, and formative
- c. legislative, judicial, and executive
- d. formative, correctional, and legislative

ANSWER: c

17. Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton are the only two Presidents of the United States to be:

- a. elected to a third term by executive order of Congress.
- b. impeached.
- c. the president, and then serve as a member of Congress years later.
- d. assassinated in office.

ANSWER: b

18. Who of the following did not sign the U.S. Constitution?

- a. George Mason
- b. John Jay
- c. Alexander Hamilton
- d. James Madison

ANSWER: a

19. According to Article 1 of the Constitution, which branch of government is authorized to declare war?"

- a. the executive branch.
- b. the legislative branch.
- c. the judicial branch.
- d. the military branch.

ANSWER: b

20. The famous Supremacy Clause, declaring the "Supreme Law of the Land," is contained in:

- a. the Declaration of Independence.
- b. the First Amendment to the Bill of Rights.
- c. the Constitution (Article 6).
- d. the Great Compromise.

ANSWER: c

21. All of the following are true of the legislative branch of the United States government, except:

- a. it passes laws but has no power to enforce them.
- b. it comprises the House and the Senate.
- c. it can enter into treaties with other nations.
- d. it regulates interstate and international commerce.

ANSWER: c

22. Which of the following permits the U. S. Supreme Court to become the ultimate decision-maker in whether the laws and actions of government circumvent the Constitution and, if so, whether to invalidate them?

- a. the Bill of Rights

- b. the Articles of Confederation
- c. the Supremacy Clause
- d. the Quartering Act

ANSWER: c

23. In regard to the U.S. Constitution, Delaware is most known for:

- a. being the first state to ratify the Constitution.
- b. being the only state to oppose the ratification of the Constitution.
- c. failing to send a delegate to represent the state.
- d. imposing the new “state rule,” where individual states maintain power with no federal authority to oversee their survival.

ANSWER: a

24. The Amendment that describes the requirements for a fair trial—including the rights of the accused to a speedy and public trial, to an impartial jury, to be advised of the charges against them, to confront witnesses against them, and to be represented by a lawyer—is the:

- a. Fifth Amendment.
- b. Eighth Amendment.
- c. Sixth Amendment.
- d. Fourth Amendment.

ANSWER: c

25. The Amendment that requires a grand jury indictment in felony cases, prohibits double jeopardy, and provides the right against self-incrimination is the:

- a. Fifth Amendment.
- b. Eighth Amendment.
- c. Sixth Amendment.
- d. Fourth Amendment.

ANSWER: a

26. The Amendment that guarantees the right against unreasonable searches and seizures is the:

- a. Fifth Amendment.
- b. Sixth Amendment.
- c. Fourth Amendment.
- d. Eighth Amendment.

ANSWER: c

27. The Amendment that contains the famous Due Process Clause, “nor shall any person be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law,” is the:

- a. Fifth Amendment.
- b. Sixth Amendment.
- c. Fourth Amendment.
- d. Eighth Amendment.

ANSWER: a

28. Opponents of the death penalty most frequently cite the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment in the:

- a. Fifth Amendment.
- b. Sixth Amendment.
- c. Fourth Amendment.
- d. Eighth Amendment.

ANSWER: d

29. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are housed at the:

- a. American History Museum.
- b. National Archives Building.
- c. White House.
- d. Supreme Court Building.

ANSWER: b

True / False

30. Laws are enforced through legal means.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

31. Constitutionalism is one of the most original, distinctive contributions of the American system of government.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

32. Cultural and ethnic diversity has always been an attribute of America.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

33. The Stamp Act, passed in 1765, required stamps to be purchased and placed on legal documents (such as marriage licenses and wills) in the colonies.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

34. As a result of the Boston Tea Party, the British Parliament restricted town meetings in American colonies to one a year and required British troops to be housed in private

homes.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

35. Thomas Jefferson was selected to coordinate writing a formal announcement, which would become known as the Declaration of Independence.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

36. The First Continental Congress met in Trenton, New Jersey, on December 19, 1771—one of the coldest winters on record.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

37. The Articles of Confederation established a Congress to conduct the necessary tasks of a central government.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

38. The Constitution was signed in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

39. Article XI of the Articles of Confederation mentions allowing Canada to join and receive all of the same benefits as each state, if it agreed to the confederation.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

40. Contrary to popular belief, the Declaration of Independence neither proclaimed independence nor listed actions the new United States of America could take as a country.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

41. The men who signed the Declaration of Independence were the elite of their colonies, men of wealth and social standing.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

42. The original Declaration of Independence had 76 signees, which did not include George Washington or Thomas Jefferson.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

43. The purpose of the Constitution was to establish a central government authorized to deal directly with individuals rather than states.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

44. The balance of power was established by creating three separate branches of government, all of which work completely independently of each other.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

45. The Federalists, who favored a strong central government, were challenged by the Anti-Federalists, who advocated against the creation of any type of central government.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

46. Laws of the United States may only originate in the House of Representatives.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

Completion

47. The _____ was an event orchestrated by colonists, who boarded British ships and threw the cargo into the harbour, because of an unwillingness to pay taxes without representation.

ANSWER: Boston Tea Party

48. The term refers to the interaction and assimilation that occurred over time among the colonists.

ANSWER: melting pot

49. Colonists who supported the boycott of British goods in the colonies were known as _____, because they vowed allegiance to America rather than to the British monarchy.

ANSWER: patriots

50. A belief in a government in which power is distributed and limited by a system of laws that must be obeyed by those who rule is known as _____.

ANSWER: Constitutionalism

51. The agreement reached in drafting the U.S. Constitution, which gave each state an equal vote in the Senate and a proportionate vote in the House, was known as the _____.

ANSWER: Great Compromise

52. The Supreme Court addressed the Necessary and Proper Clause in the case of _____ in 1819.

ANSWER: McCulloch v. Maryland

53. The president nominates Supreme Court Justices, but the _____ branch confirms or denies the nomination.

ANSWER: legislative

54. The issue of _____ was omitted during the Constitutional debates, because the framers knew the document would not be ratified by the Southern states if they dealt with the slavery issue.

ANSWER: slavery

55. The was established vertically, through the separation of power between the federal government and the states, and laterally, through the three branches of government.

ANSWER: balance of power

56. Attempting to persuade individuals to ratify the Constitution, political leaders such as Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay wrote powerful collection of essays called _____.

ANSWER: The Federalist Papers

57. The Amendment states: "The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people," thus answering the objections of those who thought that naming some rights, but not all, might result in the government claiming more power than was intended.

ANSWER: Ninth

58. In the Supremacy Clause, the declared itself to be the supreme law of the land.

ANSWER: Constitution

59. England's historic , a precedent for democratic government and individual rights, played an important role in the framing of the United States Constitution.

ANSWER: Magna Carta

60. The Amendment prohibits excessive bail, excessive fines, and cruel and unusual punishment.

ANSWER: Eighth

61. The Amendment prohibits the government from housing soldiers in private homes in peacetime without the owners' consent.

ANSWER: Third

62. The Amendment concerns the right to privacy and security, and it forbids the government or its agents from searching individuals, their homes, or their personal possessions, or from seizing them, unless the government has "probable cause" to believe that a crime has been committed.

ANSWER: Fourth

63. The right of the people to "keep and bear arms" is contained in the Amendment.

ANSWER: Second

64. Freedom of religion, speech, and the press is contained in the Amendment.

ANSWER: First

65. The Constitution established the U.S. government as a(n) _____, not a democracy.

ANSWER: republic

Essay

66. Describe the purposes and accomplishments of the two Continental Congresses.

ANSWER: The First Continental Congress (September 5 to October 26, 1774) met to discuss mounting complaints against, and potential responses to, England's Intolerable Acts. The Second Continental Congress (May 10, 1775 to March 1, 1781) established the Continental Army, declared independence from British rule, fought the Revolutionary War, and governed the new country until the adoption of the Articles of Confederation.

67. Explain the role of the Magna Carta in framing the U.S. Constitution.

ANSWER: The Magna Carta established the supremacy of law over total rule by any single individual, guaranteed both individual rights and due process of law, and was a precedent for democratic government.

68. Explain the primary purpose of the Constitution, and how that purpose is achieved.

ANSWER: The purpose of the Constitution was to establish a central government with limited powers delegated to it by the people. The balance of power is achieved through vertical separation of powers between the federal and state governments, and lateral separation of powers between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

69. How do you think the omission of slavery from the United States Constitution impacted the history of the United States?

ANSWER: The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution left the slavery issue up to each state. Arguably, the failure to include the issue of slavery in the Constitution led to the Civil War. If the framers wanted the Constitution ratified by the Southern states, they knew they could not include abolition of slavery in the document. The Northern states supported abolition. When Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin after the American Revolution, the demand for slaves greatly increased, and the Southern states were even more economically dependent upon slave labor. The Northern states, one by one, had abolished slavery. However, the agrarian South, on the eve of the Civil War, had four million slaves—slavery was interwoven into their economy. When the Northern states pressed for the abolition of slavery, the Southern states asserted state's rights and secession, leading to the Civil War. If slavery had been abolished in the 18th century, many of the underlying reasons for the Civil War would never have occurred.

70. Explain the problem of dual sovereignty of the federal and state governments, and the way the problem was resolved.

ANSWER: Potential existed for conflicts to arise from future laws established by either the federal government or the various state governments. In the Supremacy Clause, the Constitution declared itself the supreme law of the land. Thus, in all matters over which the Constitution grants the federal government authority, the states must concede.

71. The Constitution established a balance of power between the federal government and the states, as well as between the three branches of government (legislative, judicial, and executive). Which is more important, the balance between federal and state authority, or the balance between the three branches of government? Explain your answer.

ANSWER: The student can pick either of the two balances of power to describe. What is important is that the student demonstrates an understanding that powers not specifically delegated to the federal government were reserved for the states and the people. This balance of power has led to some controversies over issues such as segregation, education, transportation, and environmental concerns. With respect to the checks and balances between the three branches of government, the president has veto power, but Congress can override with a two-thirds majority vote. The president nominates Supreme Court Justices, but the legislative branch confirms or denies nomination. The president is commander-in-chief, but the legislative branch declares war and pays for it. Acts of the

executive and the legislature are reviewable by the judiciary in the form of the Supreme Court. If the student examines these issues thoroughly to justify choosing either of the two balances of power, vertical or horizontal, the answer should receive full credit.

72. Discuss the reluctance by some states to accept the Constitution, and the way this issue was remedied.

ANSWER: Federalists and Anti-Federalists disputed how weak or strong a central government should be. They also disagreed on the way to balance government power against the rights of states and individuals. Resolution came via adoption of the Bill of Rights to ensure the individual rights of all citizens.

73. If the United States Supreme Court did not have the authority to rule acts of the President of the United States or of the United States Congress that were inconsistent with the Constitution, do you think the government would run more smoothly? Do you think the government would run more fairly? Explain your answers to both questions.

ANSWER: If the executive and legislative branches were not subject to judicial scrutiny, one might argue that both of these branches would push the boundaries of their power, which could result in greater conflict as each tried to achieve dominance over the other. Additionally, the executive and judicial branches could further reduce the power of the court system, without worrying about their actions being ruled unconstitutional. The executive branch potentially could become the more powerful and dominant among the three branches. This could lead to stability, but increased power might also lead to an over-centralization of power, to the detriment of individual rights. The student should wrestle with the implications of a lost balance of power, and should demonstrate an awareness of the possible impacts of this type of government on the efficiency and fairness of the system.

74. In 1791, the first 10 Amendments to the United States Constitution were passed to guarantee individual rights. Which of these Amendments do you feel is most important? Which of these Amendments is least important? Justify your answers.

ANSWER: Arguably, each of the amendments can be seen as the most or the least important. What is most relevant in grading this answer is that the student demonstrates an understanding of just what the chosen best and worst amendments actually say, and that the student justifies the choices in a coherent, well-structured short answer.

75. There have been 27 Amendments to the United States Constitution. If you could draft the Twenty-Eighth Amendment, what would it be? Why do you think this Amendment is necessary? Does it conflict with any other Amendments? Defend your answer.

ANSWER: This question will differ from student to student, but each student should adequately justify the choice and recognize how it may or may not be inconsistent with any of the prior 27 amendments to the Constitution.