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MULTIPLE CHOICE

1 : The Constitution defines the structure of the national and state governments, as well as
A : restricts the power of county or parish governments.
B : outlines the nomination process for selecting the executive officer.
C : regulates the relationship between government and each individual citizen.
D : restricts the power of the individual citizen.
E : promotes the formation of a confederation of states.

Correct Answer : C

2 : Theoretically, the colonies were governed by England, but the colonists were able to exercise a large measure of self-government because the
A : British crown had little interest in any activities in the colonies.
B : distance between mother country and the colonies allowed more freedom.
C : British were more concerned with colonies elsewhere.
D : colonial representatives in Parliament had lobbied for more freedom.
E : British had not issued a charter to each of the colonies, thus allowing greater individual rights.

Correct Answer : B

3 : During the First Continental Congress, the delegates
A : approved an immediate declaration of war against England.
B : called for King George to step down from the throne.
C : passed a resolution which planned to send a petition expressing grievances.
D : called on the colonies to raise armies and begin a trade blockade.
E : called for individuals to return to England.

Correct Answer : C

4 : While a peaceful settlement with the British Parliament was still being discussed, the Second Continental Congress
A : established an army and named George Washington as commander in chief.
B : established a navy and named John Paul Jones supreme commander.
C : entered into an agreement with France to go to war with Great Britain.
D : declared war on Great Britain, France, and Spain.
E : drafted a treaty that was rejected by Great Britain.

Correct Answer : A

5 : Thomas Paines work, Common Sense, was important for both his ideas and his
A : continuing loyalty to aristocratic ideals.
B : ability to make the arguments in plain language for the readers.
C : ties to Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and George III.
D : orations included in the text.
E : new take on the arguments for independence.

Correct Answer : B

6 : The Declaration of Independence was necessary to
A : establish a framework for a new system of government that would allow representation

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without taxation.
B : establish the legitimacy of the new nation in the eyes of foreign governments and the colonists.
C : create for a delicate balance of federal and state power.
D : identify the reasons the British saw separation from the colonies as necessary.
E : demand a separation of church and state.

Correct Answer : B

7 : The concept of a social contract existing between people and the government first occurred in the United States
A : during the Civil Rights era.
B : in the Plymouth colony.
C : with the Declaration of Independence.
D : with the Articles of Confederation.
E : with the Constitution.

Correct Answer : B

8 : The Declaration of Independence reflects the philosophy of John Locke, who argued that
A : government must pledge its allegiance to God before it can claim legitimacy.
B : government must first put safety and security above all individual rights.
C : government must be divided into executive, legislative, and judicial branches in order to be effective.
D : all people possess certain natural rights and that it is the duty of the government to protect those rights.
E : people possess only those rights that government grants to them.

Correct Answer : D

9 : Another purpose of the final version of the Declaration of Independence was to
A : disband the army headed by George Washington.
B : condemn the burgeoning slave trade.
C : guarantee personal civil rights to all colonists.
D : support the idea of strong central government.
E : justify the colonists revolt against Britain.

Correct Answer : E

10 : A similarity that exists between the states of Pennsylvania and Georgia during the time of the American Revolution and the state of Nebraska today is that all three
A : instituted a nonvoluntary state militia.
B : imposed a state income tax.
C : established a plural executive.
D : rejected the idea of a Bill of Rights.
E : adopted a unicameral legislature.

Correct Answer : E

11 : The Article of Confederation established a voluntary association of independent states that
A : relied on the national government to resolve all regional conflicts.
B : paid a yearly levy to the national government to enforce state laws.
C : agreed to only limited restraint on their freedom of action.

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D : were represented on the basis of population in the Confederate Assembly.
E : did not collect tariffs on goods coming into the state.

Correct Answer : C

12 : The Articles of Confederation were drafted by
A : the legislators of Connecticut and Rhode Island.
B : Jefferson,, Hamilton and Madison.
C : the First Continental Congress.
D : the Second Continental Congress.
E : the Congress of the Confederation.

Correct Answer : D

13 : The United States first written constitution was the
A : Mayflower Compact.
B : Declaration of Independence.
C : League of States.
D : Articles of Confederation.
E : Constitution.

Correct Answer : D

14 : Under the Articles of Confederation, the Congress was headed by
A : no one.
B : a presiding officer chosen from among its members.
C : a popularly-elected president.
D : a president chosen by an Electoral College.
E : a three-person presiding cabinet.

Correct Answer : B

15 : The two major accomplishments that occurred under the Articles of Confederation were
A : passage of the Northwest Ordinance, and ending the French and Indian War.
B : ending the French and Indian War, and passage of the Bill of Rights.
C : passage of the Bill of Rights, and settlement of states claims to western lands,
D : settlement of states claims to western lands, and passage of the Northwest Ordinance.
E : establishment of the Supreme Court, and payment of damages that occurred during the Revolutionary War.

Correct Answer : D

16 : Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress had the power to
A : establish and control armed forces.
B : compel states to meet military quotas.
C : collect taxes directly from the people.
D : regulate interstate and foreign commerce.
E : compel states to pay their share of government costs.

Correct Answer : A

17 : A major deficiency of the government under the Articles of Confederation was that
A : the state legislatures had to approve every act of Congress.

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B : Congress could regulate coinage.
C : the costs of the military became a major expenditure.
D : Congress could regulate the militia of each state.
E : each state retained its own sovereignty.

Correct Answer : E

18 : The most fundamental weakness of the Articles of Confederation was a lack of
A : a bicameral legislature.
B : a national system of courts.
C : power to raise funds for the militia.
D : power to tax exports.
E : state-supported currencies.

Correct Answer : C

19 : Shays Rebellion plays an important role in American history because
A : it represents the first major battle to occur in a southern colony during the American Revolution.
B : it anticipated the states rights battle.
C : it was the last major battle of the Revolutionary War.
D : it made obvious the weaknesses of the government under the Articles of Confederation.
E : it enabled the colonists to reorganize and gain the upper hand against the British in the Revolutionary War.

Correct Answer : D

20 : A crucial weakness in the Articles of Confederation that forced the political leaders to meet in 1786 was
A : the need for policies for economic stability.
B : the states were unable to raise taxes.
C : Georgia was considering forming an alliance with Spain.
D : former militia members had occupied land in Pennsylvania.
E : the lack of a central currency.

Correct Answer : A

21 : The publicly stated purpose of the convention to be held in 1787 was to
A : develop and write a new Constitution.
B : revisit the principles established in the Declaration of Independence.
C : revise the Articles of Confederation.
D : expand the rights of individuals who did not own property.
E : create a system of government that would abolish the institution of slavery.

Correct Answer : C

22 : James Madison played a vital role at the convention because he
A : maintained a personal journal that detailed discussions and votes.
B : served as president of the convention and led the meetings.
C : secured the room where meetings were held, ensuring discussion would remain private.
D : served as a reporter relaying each days events to people waiting outside.
E : maintained order during discussion and debates by serving as parliamentarian.

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Correct Answer : A

23 : Why did delegates Gouverneur Morris of Pennsylvania and John Rutledge of South Carolina favor a strong central government?
A : They felt any change would be for the better.
B : They preferred the British monarchical model of government.
C : They hoped for financial gain for their respective states.
D : They were hoping to be appointed as president and vice president.
E : They believed the common people incapable of self-government.

Correct Answer : E

24 : The Virginia Plan was favored by
A : southern states, since is emphasized the importance of population.
B : small states, since it treated all states equally.
C : large states, since it emphasized the importance of population and wealth.
D : northern states, since it emphasized the location of government.
E : slave states, since it allowed slaves to be counted toward the population of the states.

Correct Answer : C

25 : Edmund Randolphs Virginia plan was a proposal of 15 resolutions that
A : called for all states to be represented equally in the national legislature.
B : called for a unicameral legislative body.
C : were basically a minor variation on the Articles of Confederation.
D : called for a national executive who would be elected by the legislative body.
E : included no provision for a president because of the distrust of so much concentrated power.

Correct Answer : D

26 : The New Jersey plan did little to change the Articles of Confederation with the exception of
A : allowing for the election of a national executive by the legislature.
B : creating a national judiciary that would be appointed by the legislature.
C : permitting the executive office to void any state laws.
D : asserting national law over state law in the form of a supremacy doctrine.
E : shifting the ability to regulate trade and impose taxes to each individual state.

Correct Answer : D

27 : The Great Compromise resolved the impasse between the
A : large and small states regarding the executive branch.
B : large and small states regarding representation.
C : northern and southern states regarding representation.
D : northern and southern states regarding slavery.
E : Federalists and Anti-Federalists regarding the executive branch.

Correct Answer : B

28 : The Great Compromise created a(n)
A : Electoral College to select the chief executive.
B : bicameral legislative body, one with representation based on population and the second with equal state representation.
C : unicameral legislative body, with representation based on wealth and property.

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D : confederation of states.
E : supreme national government, with limited states rights.

Correct Answer : B

29 : The Great Compromise allowed small states to have political power disproportionate to their size in the
A : Senate.
B : House of Representatives.
C : Electoral College.
D : White House Cabinet.
E : Supreme Court.

Correct Answer : A

30 : The Connecticut Compromise is called the Great Compromise because it
A : established a single national currency.
B : ended the dispute over slavery.
C : resolved debate related to taxation without representation.
D : solved the problem of representation by creating a bicameral legislature.
E : established that three-fifths of the slaves in southern states would receive voting rights.

Correct Answer : D

31 : The Three-Fifths Compromise, which was crafted to address the impasse on slavery,
A : avoided the use of the word slave, instead referring to all other persons.
B : did not abolish slavery, but did bring an immediate end to the importation of slaves into this country.
C : illustrated the power of the Northern states at the convention.
D : brought an immediate end to the institution of slavery.
E : enhanced the influence that Northern states would have in a newly created Congress.

Correct Answer : A

32 : The Three-Fifths Compromise gets its name from the resolution that
A : slaves would be counted as three-fifths of a person, in determining representation in the House of Representatives.
B : slave owners would be credited at three-fifths for each slave that they owned on their taxes.
C : northern states that did not count slaves as part of their population would receive three additional seats in the Senate and five extra seats in the House of Representatives.
D : southern states that did not count slaves as part of their population would receive three additional seats in the Senate and five extra seats in the House of Representatives.
E : after three years the importation of slaves would be prohibited and after five years slavery would be abolished.

Correct Answer : A

33 : At the Constitutional Convention, the South insisted that
A : export taxes not be imposed.
B : incomes taxes never be imposed.
C : lower federal courts be created as well as a Supreme Court.
D : slavery be abolished.
E : the power to regulate interstate commerce belong to Congress.

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Correct Answer : A

34 : Because the delegates wanted to prevent the imposition of tyranny, by either the majority or the minority, the government they proposed had
A : a guaranteed right to privacy.
B : an electoral college.
C : a separation of powers.
D : a supremacy doctrine.
E : a unicameral legislature.

Correct Answer : C

35 : James Madison argued in Federalist Paper No. 51 that the great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same department was the
A : selection by the voters of men of good character and conscience who would resist the temptation to extend their power.
B : granting of the means and the motive to each branch of government to resist encroachment of others into their areas of authority.
C : establishment of a Bill of Rights that limited governmental power.
D : identification in the Constitution of each specific power that the branches of government would possess.
E : establishment of a single branch of government that would be clearly superior to the other branches, thus ensuring consistency and regularity.

Correct Answer : B

36 : One of the underlying themes that the delegates to the Constitutional Convention incorporated into the final document was
A : creating three branches of government that were all democratically elected.
B : allowing changes to the Constitution to occur at limited access points.
C : promoting cooperation among branches of government.
D : recognizing the mistrust of other countries.
E : creating a government that would operate efficiently.

Correct Answer : C

37 : The creation of the electoral college ensured
A : congressional control over the presidency.
B : direct popular control over the presidency.
C : election of the best qualified candidate for president.
D : independence of the presidency from politics.
E : independence of the president from the Congress.

Correct Answer : E

38 : The electoral college created a system in which
A : political parties became less important than alliances between leaders.
B : the president was insulated from direct popular control.
C : the president relied on intermediaries to a strike a deal with political leaders in each state.
D : interest groups became important in the election of the president.
E : smaller, less populous states held more power in the election process than did larger, more populous states.

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Correct Answer : B

39 : The Constitution created a
A : confederal system of government that grants fewer powers to the national government than the Articles of Confederation.
B : federal system of government that grants fewer powers to the national government than the Articles of Confederation.
C : confederal system of government that divides powers between the states and the national government.
D : federal system of government that divides powers between the states and the national government.
E : unitary system of government that divides powers between the states and the national government.

Correct Answer : D

40 : During the Constitutional deliberations, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay wrote 85 essays, known as _____, to sway public opinion.
A : the Antifederalist Papers
B : Common Sense
C : the Federalist Papers
D : the Mayflower Compact
E : the Pluralist Papers

Correct Answer : C

41 : Special conventions in each state were used to ratify the Constitution because
A : conventions were more democratic than legislatures.
B : conventions could meet more quickly than legislatures.
C : most legislatures were unlikely to approve the document.
D : legislatures were likely to take far too long to approve the document.
E : legislatures were far more likely to attempt to amend the document.

Correct Answer : C

42 : The Federalists had an advantage over the Anti-Federalists during the ratification process for the Constitution because
A : the Federalists stood for the status quo.
B : wide public support for the Constitution had already been obtained through the publication of press updates.
C : the Federalists were men of little power and property, and the public found that appealing.
D : the Federalists had been part of the deliberations surrounding the Constitution and understood the plan for the new government better than the Anti-Federalists.
E : the Federalists were supported by King George III.

Correct Answer : D

43 : The Anti-Federalists can be described as
A : those favoring ratification of the Constitution.
B : a radical fringe whose position on the Constitution constituted a very small minority.
C : those believing the Constitution created an overly powerful central government.
D : the wealthiest bankers, lawyers, and plantation owners.

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E : those arguing in favor of changing the status quo.

Correct Answer : C

44 : Charles Beard argued that the framers of the Constitution were
A : flawed, but well-meaning, human beings who did their best under extraordinary circumstances.
B : the best and the brightest of their time who wanted a strong government so that they could expand the rights of all people.
C : inspired by God and wanted a strong government so that good works could be performed.
D : incompetents who ascended to power only through their familys wealth and influence.
E : wealthy property owners who wanted a powerful government that could protect their property interests.

Correct Answer : E

45 : Which of the following statements is true about the ratification of the Constitution?
A : Ratification was a speedy and uncontroversial process.
B : The Federalists opposed ratification of the Constitution by publishing essays in newspapers.
C : The addition of the first ten amendments was unimportant in the Constitution ultimately being ratified.
D : The Constitution was easily ratified in each of the state legislatures.
E : The struggle for ratification included thirteen separate campaigns conducted in each state.

Correct Answer : E

46 : The Constitution would not have been ratified in several important states if the Federalists had not assured the states that
A : a ban on the importation of slaves would be a focus of the first Congress.
B : amendments to the Constitution would be passed to protect individual liberties against incursions by the national government.
C : amendments to the Constitution would be passed to protect the rights of states against incursions by the national government.
D : an amendment to prohibit the manufacture, sale, and consumption of liquor would be passed.
E : slaves that had escaped to free states would not have to be returned to their owners in slave states.

Correct Answer : B

47 : Some opponents of the Bill of Rights argued that
A : carefully articulating certain rights might encourage the national government to abuse any rights that were not specifically defined.
B : most people opposed the idea of strong individual rights.
C : most people opposed the principle of strong national government.
D : the Federalists outnumbered the Anti-Federalists.
E : specifying particular rights might lead state governments to abuse rights that were not carefully defined.

Correct Answer : A

48 : Ex post facto lawmaking involves
A : finding fault with an individual when an act was committed by a group.

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B : passing laws that make one liable for an act that has already occurred.
C : allowing the states to supersede federal law.
D : passing judgment on someone without legal process.
E : using the parliamentary system in civil cases.

Correct Answer : B

49 : _____ best explains the underlying reason for the Bill of Rights.
A : Checks and balances
B : Limited government
C : Rule by government
D : Security and order
E : Separation of powers

Correct Answer : B

50 : The Bill of Rights limits the power of
A : the government over the rights and liberties of individuals.
B : the national government over the rights of the states.
C : state governments over the inherent powers of the national government.
D : national and state governments to tax individuals.
E : state governments to tax the national government.

Correct Answer : A

51 : As originally written, the Bill of Rights imposed no restrictions on
A : the national government over the rights of individuals.
B : state government over the rights and liberties of individuals.
C : ex post facto lawmaking.
D : bills of attainder.
E : the national government over the liberties of individuals.

Correct Answer : B

52 : The purpose of the first ten amendments of the Constitution was to
A : provide additional power to the national government.
B : provide clear limitations on the power of the national government.
C : provide clear limitations on the power of the state governments.
D : limit both the power of the national and state governments.
E : resolve errors in the original Constitution.

Correct Answer : B

53 : Constitutional amendments can be proposed by a
A : majority vote in both houses of Congress.
B : majority vote in either house of Congress.
C : unanimous vote in both houses of Congress.
D : two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress.
E : two-thirds vote of either house of Congress.

Correct Answer : D

54 : According to the Constitution, a national constitutional convention can be called by

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_____ to propose an amendment.
A : a majority of the states
B : a majority vote in both houses of Congress
C : a two-thirds vote of either the House or the Senate
D : Congress at the request of two-thirds of state legislatures
E : three-fourths of the states

Correct Answer : D

55 : Constitutional amendments can be ratified by a positive vote by
A : a majority of both houses of Congress.
B : two-thirds of state legislatures.
C : two-thirds of state conventions.
D : two-thirds of both houses of Congress.
E : three-fourths of state legislatures.

Correct Answer : E

56 : Congress has considered more than 11,000 amendments to the Constitution but has approved very few. Many amendments lack support because they
A : address highly specific problems, such as burning or defacing the American flag.
B : infringe on religious freedoms.
C : are too broad in principle.
D : infringe on the rights of individuals.
E : are worded poorly and are difficult to understand.

Correct Answer : A

57 : Which of the following statements regarding Constitutional Conventions is true?
A : Although there has not been a national Constitutional Convention held since 1787, more than 430 state Constitutional Conventions have been held.
B : Although there has not been a national Constitutional Convention held since 1787, 32 amendments have been added to the Constitution.
C : Convening a body that could conceivably create a new form of government causes concern to national political and judicial leaders.
D : Each state has filed an application for a national convention at least twice, but only ten have been held.
E : Congress considered convening a national convention in 2012 to mark the 225th anniversary of the 1787 convention.

Correct Answer : C

58 : The Constitution has remained largely intact for more than 200 years because the principles set forth in the Constitution
A : are flexible enough to meet new events and concerns.
B : are impracticable to amend.
C : can only be changed in certain parts.
D : are unchallenged principles of the founding fathers.
E : are mandated to remain unchanged by the original drafters.

Correct Answer : A

59 : Informal methods of changing the U.S. Constitution include

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A : decisions of state courts, judicial activism, and presidential action.
B : congressional legislation, judicial review, and presidential action.
C : acts of international legislatures, stare decisis, and presidential action.
D : stare decisis, referendums, and judicial review.
E : ad hoc juries, judicial review, and bureaucratic action.

Correct Answer : B

60 : Which of the following statements represents an informal method used to adapt the Constitution?
A : The Supreme Court creates a specialized court to review requests for wiretapping suspected terrorists.
B : The Supreme Court makes recess appointments to lower federal courts when the president delays confirmation of appointees.
C : The president delegates to a federal agency the power to write regulations.
D : Congress suspends civil liberties in a time of war.
E : Congress passes a law that regulates business conducted between different states because of the commerce clause.

Correct Answer : E

61 : The Supreme Court adapts the Constitution to modern situations through
A : formal amendment methods.
B : stare decisis.
C : natural law.
D : judicial review.
E : bills of attainder.

Correct Answer : D

62 : Which of the following represents informal constitutional change specifically through interpretation, custom and usage?
A : nominations, campaigns, and electoral processes for presidential elections
B : legislation defining terms and application of the commerce clause
C : the legal interpretation of separate but equal
D : passage of the amendment enabling women to vote
E : creation of the DREAM Act

Correct Answer : A

ESSAY

63 : What form of government was used at the Jamestown settlement? What form was used at the Plymouth colony? How did these governments foreshadow later colonial events?

Correct Answer : Students’ answers will vary.

64 : Describe the relationship between unalienable rights and the social contract.

Correct Answer : Students’ answers will vary.

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65 : We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of HappinessThat to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government.Identify the excerpt above and analyze the meaning of each clause in relation to the historical background and the authors intent.

Correct Answer : Students' answers will vary.

66 : Discuss accomplishments under the Articles of Confederation and how the weaknesses of the Articles made it necessary to develop a new system of government.

Correct Answer : Students' answers will vary.

67 : Examine the major conflicts at the Constitutional Convention and how they were ultimately resolved.

Correct Answer : Students' answers will vary.

68 : Describe the Virginia plan and the New Jersey plan. Discuss which parts of each plan were incorporated into the Constitution.

Correct Answer : Students' answers will vary.

69 : Explain the Madisonian Model idea of checks and balances and relate this concept to government today.

Correct Answer : Students' answers will vary.

70 : What role did the Federalist Papers play in the ratification process?

Correct Answer : Students' answers will vary.

71 : Discuss the need that some states and their citizens saw for a Bill of Rights to be incorporated into the Constitution. Provide examples of events that may have prompted their desire to have individual liberties protected.

Correct Answer : Students' answer will vary.?

72 : Discuss why the process of constitutional amendment has been successful only 27 times. Include reference to the two formal methods of amending the Constitution.

Correct Answer : Students' answers will vary.

73 : Discuss three major constitutional changes that were achieved by amending of the Constitution.

Correct Answer : Students' answers will vary.

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