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Chapter 2
The Founding and the Constitution: Creating a Nation

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The Framers of the Constitution
   a. had to reconcile the interests of small farmers, shopkeepers, and laborers with those of rich merchants and planters, of big states with small states, and northern and southern concerns.
   b. had to write a document that would be flexible and could adapt to the changing times.
   c. wanted to prevent the government from becoming an instrument of the majority.
   d. all of the above
   Answer: d

2. America was first established as a series of colonies with most settlers coming from
   a. Spain.
   b. France.
   c. England.
   d. Norway.
   Answer: c

3. People came to the colonies to
   a. escape religious persecution.
   b. expand political power.
   c. expand private wealth.
   d. all of the above
   Answer: d

4. The people in the American colonies
   a. were by today's standards a relatively homogenous society.
   b. were a diverse society, much like today.
   c. were evenly distributed along the eastern seaboard.
   d. mostly lived in urban areas.
   Answer: a

5. Participation in colonial governments gave the colonists
   a. critical experience with politics and administration.
   b. ideas about the rights of people, social contracts, and representative democracy.
   c. critical experience in writing constitutions for their states.
   d. all of the above
   Answer: d

6. The Framers of the Constitution
   a. were statesmen who put country over their personal interests.
   b. were geniuses who knew exactly how to engineer a constitution.

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c. were like politicians today working to produce solutions to pubic problems but also driven by private objectives.
d. all of the above

Answer: c

7. The Sugar Act mostly affected
   a. New England merchants and southern planters.
   b. shopkeepers.
   c. small farmers.
   d. laborers.

   Answer: a

8. In 1773, in an act of protest, colonists in Boston
   a. stormed the fort on Bunker Hill.
   b. dumped tea into the harbor.
   c. armed themselves before confronting British troops in what became known as the Boston Massacre.
   d. signed petitions in what became known as the Boston Request.

   Answer: b

9. The First Continental Congress passed a resolution advising the colonies to
   a. continue the boycott.
   b. form "committees of observation" to ensure the success of the boycott.
   c. arm and prepare to defend themselves.
   d. all of the above

   Answer: d

10. The First Continental Congress
    a. marked the moment that the colonies started working together.
    b. created an organizational structure for unified action.
    c. directly threatened British sovereignty.
    d. all of the above

    Answer: d

11. Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense*
    a. popularized the idea that ordinary people can understand and participate in government.
    b. won popular support for the idea of independence.
    c. spread the idea that ordinary people could be elected leaders.
    d. all of the above

    Answer: d

12. The Declaration of Independence
    a. included a list grievances against King George III.
    b. asserted a right of revolution.

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c. contains the words “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 Happiness.”
d. all of the above

Answer: d

13. After signing the Declaration of Independence, the thirteen colonies, now states, adopted a constitution called
    a. the Articles of Confederation.
    b. the Constitution of the Confederate States of America.
    c. the Confederation of America.
    d. the Bill of Confederation.

    Answer: a

14. In 1786, angry farmers led by former revolutionary war captain Daniel Shays
    a. released certain British loyalists from captivity.
    b. opened western territories for expansion.
    c. seized county courthouses and disrupted debtors’ trials.
    d. led protests for full military pensions for service in the Revolutionary War.

    Answer: c

15. The Constitutional Convention called to rewrite the Articles of Confederation
    a. were young well-educated men from the middle classes.
    b. was an elite, male-only assembly – no common laborers, skilled craftspeople, small farmers, women, or racial minorities were present.
    c. were mostly from the wealthy classes but there were some skilled craftspeople, shopkeepers and small farmers.
    d. was an assembly of wealthy, non-slave owning individuals.

    Answer: b

16. In order to protect the secrecy of the Constitutional Convention,
    a. the windows and doors of Convention Hall were sealed despite the heat and humidity of the Philadelphia summer.
    b. no members of the press were allowed.
    c. no one could take notes.
    d. recording devices were banned.

    Answer: a

17. The delegates to the Constitutional Convention agreed to create a system in which
    a. powers would be shared between a national government and state governments.
    b. the states would retain power over the national government.
    c. the national government would have power over the state governments.
    d. the national government would be subordinate to the states.

    Answer: a

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18. The proposal that provided for a lower legislative house that would be elected directly by the people in proportion to each state's population became known as the
    a. New Jersey Plan.
    b. Virginia Plan.
    c. Connecticut Plan.
    d. Massachusetts Plan.
    Answer: b

19. The proposal which called for a single legislative chamber with one vote per state regardless of population, became known as the
    a. Massachusetts Plan.
    b. Virginia Plan.
    c. Connecticut Plan.
    d. New Jersey Plan.
    Answer: d

20. The Connecticut Plan, or Great Compromise
    a. proposed a legislature that would be divided into a House of Representatives based on population size and a Senate composed of two members per state.
    b. proposed a legislature that would be divided into a House of Representatives whose members would then elect the Senate.
    c. proposed a Senate that would be elected directly by the people.
    d. proposed a unicameral legislature that would be elected by the people.
    Answer: a

21. The president is chosen by the Electoral College and given veto power to
    a. represent the power of the people.
    b. prevent spending by Congress.
    c. prevent excesses of democracy.
    d. elect members of the House of Representatives.
    Answer: c

22. Under the original Constitution, senators were selected by
    a. state legislatures.
    b. the people in their states.
    c. the Electoral College.
    d. the members of the House of Representatives.
    Answer: a

23. The question of counting slaves for purposes of representation was ultimately resolved by counting
    a. each slave as four-fifths of a person, otherwise known as the Four-Fifths Compromise.
    b. each slave as three-fifths of a person, otherwise known as the Three-Fifths Compromise.
    c. each slave as half of a person, otherwise known as the Half-Person Compromise.

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d. no slaves, as they were not allowed to vote.
Answer: b

24. The delegates to the Constitutional Convention wanted the president to be indirectly elected by the Electoral College
    a. in the event of a tie in the House of Representatives.
    b. to prevent the president from engaging in economic activities.
    c. to reflect the preferences of the state governments.
    d. to insulate the president from democratic pressures.
    Answer: d

25. Despite the reassurances provided by the Federalists, the Anti-Federalists refused to ratify the Constitution without
    a. a bill of rights.
    b. a guarantee of border protection.
    c. a guarantee that slaves who had escaped to the North would be returned to their owners.
    d. a guarantee that the importation of slaves could continue until 1808.
    Answer: a

Short Answer Questions

26. In what ways are the Framers like today's politicians?
    Answer explanation: They are public officials working to produce solutions to public problems but also driven by private objectives such as their careers, personal fortunes, and those of their peers.

27. In what ways were the Framers' conception of the common good influenced by the dominant culture and prejudices of the time?
    Answer explanation: They owned slaves and thought some people were inferior, including women.

28. In what ways does the Constitution reflect compromises needed to reach agreement?
    Answer explanation: The Great compromise, Three-Fifths Compromise, and the Bill of Rights.

29. What is eighteenth century mercantilism?
    Answer explanation: Under mercantilism, empires built their economic power by monopolizing sources of raw materials from their colonies. England protected its domestic industries through taxation and legislation that prohibited the manufacture of items such as hats, shoes, and other finished goods in the colonies to keep them dependent on British goods.

30. How did the American colonies represent an extension of the British government?

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Answer explanation: Courts enforced English common law and royal Governors were appointed in each province who worked with a body of senior advisers called the Governor's Council or Governor's Court.

31. How did participation in colonial governments give the colonists critical experience with politics and administration?
    Answer explanation: There was a legislative or law-making body in each colony that was elected by colonists who could vote (by 1750, most free white men could vote if they owned property).

32. How did the Framers deal with concerns about representation from small versus large states?
    Answer explanation: The Connecticut Plan, or Great Compromise, proposed a legislature that would be divided into a House of Representatives that would be based on population size and would be elected directly by the people; it also proposed a Senate that would be composed of two members per state who would be elected by state legislatures.
    With its plan for two legislative houses, the Great Compromise reconciled the interests of large and small states.

33. How did the Framers account for slaves when determining a state's population size?
    Answer explanation: The Three-Fifths Compromise was presented to resolve the conflict: each slave would count as three-fifths of a person (or every five slaves would count as three people) in determining representation in Congress.

34. How did the Framers deal with electing the president?
    Answer explanation: They rejected the idea of a direct election by the people because this would be "too much upon the democratic order." They thus developed the idea of the Electoral College in which the president would be selected by special electors according to votes from each state equal to its total number of representatives and senators in Congress.

35. What do the authors of *This Land is Your Land* mean when they say that the Framers of the Constitution created a republic instead of a democracy?
    Answer explanation: The Framers created a republic, a government based on the principles of popular sovereignty, representative democracy, and limits on the power of government.

36. According to the authors of *This Land is Your Land*, why are *Federalist* No. 10 and No. 51 considered two of the most important essays in *The Federalist Papers*?
    Answer explanation: In *Federalist* No. 10, Madison argued that personal liberty is safest in large (extended) republics. In No. 51, Madison contends that the institutions proposed in the Constitution would not lead to corruption or tyranny because the system of checks and balances would prevent any one unit of government from becoming too powerful and overtaking the others.

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