

# Principles of the Constitution video assignment

## Part One - The Preamble

1. T/F - Some of the Founding Fathers thought the Preamble wasn't necessary.      ☐ True      ☐ False
2. Preamble = \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Constitution was created in what year? \_\_\_\_\_
4. We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish  
\_\_\_\_\_, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common  
\_\_\_\_\_, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of  
\_\_\_\_\_ to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution  
for the United States of America

### We the people of the United States...

5. They wanted to show that it is the \_\_\_\_\_ who are establishing the government!

### ...In order to form a more perfect union...

6. The closest form of "perfect" government for an imperfect people is:  
☐ Democracy      ☐ Socialist Dictatorship      ☐ Empire  
☐ Limited Republic      ☐ Social Welfare State      ☐ Monarchy

### ...Establish justice...

7. They wanted to protect citizens from an \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ government.

### ...Insure domestic tranquility...

8. The Constitution was designed to help keep American a peaceful nation where Americans can make their own  
\_\_\_\_\_ and provide for \_\_\_\_\_ in a safe environment.

### ...Provide for the common defense...

9. Under the Constitution, the government must protect the country against \_\_\_\_\_

### ...Promote the general welfare...

10. This statement has been frequently misused as justification for passage of legislation to provide  
un\_\_\_\_\_ services and funding.

### ...And secure blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity...

11. It was written to be a solid document to protect the current and future generations from  
t\_\_\_\_\_ government.

### ...Do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

12. They wanted us to remember that the highest law in America is the \_\_\_\_\_  
and no one has the right to violate it or any of its citizens.
13. According to Dr. Smith, why did the framers prefer limited government?  
Because that would ensure a maximum amount of \_\_\_\_\_
14. The basic functions of government he listed:  
 1 – Self \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 – protection of \_\_\_\_\_ contracts

15. T/F - If government gets too strong, it can become a threat to the citizens that it is supposed to secure and protect.                      O True                      O False

*In Review.....*

1. The Preamble to the Constitution contains how many words?    O 32                      O 42                      O 52                      O 72
2. Why did some of the Founding Fathers feel a Preamble was not necessary?  
O Fear it would limit rights                      O Lack of important information  
O Didn't limit enough rights                      O Constitution long enough
3. The first line of the Preamble begins with:  
O When in the course of human events...                      O On this great day...  
O We the people...                      O Four score and seven years...
- ❖ XC: Can you name any of the other works from which those first lines came?
4. T/F - The Founding Fathers wrote the Preamble to clarify why they were writing the Constitution.  
O True                      O False
5. What does posterity mean?                      O Having good posture                      O All future generations  
O All children                      O A rare fish

Keep going to the next part....

**Part Two - Limited Government**

1. What kind of government does the United States have? (or supposed to have)  
O Democracy                      O Socialist                      O Republic                      O Monarchy
2. We have been consistently misinformed and told that the United States is a  
O Democracy                      O Socialist                      O Republic                      O Monarchy
3. Does the word "democracy" appear anywhere in the Constitution or in any of the states' constitutions?  
O Yes                      O No
4. In a socialist government, what does the government try to control?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. In America today, government regulates:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. "It has been observed that a pure democracy, if it were practicable, would be the most perfect government. Experience has proved that no position is more \_\_\_\_\_ than this. The ancient democracies, in which the people themselves deliberated, never possessed one good feature of government. Their very character was tyranny..." (Alexander Hamilton, speech urging ratification of the Constitution in New York June 21, 1788.)
7. Did Benjamin Franklin and the other founders believe that a Republic would be an easy form of government to keep?                      O yes                      O no
8. Who was the primary author of the Constitution (and 4<sup>th</sup> President)?  
O Thomas Jefferson                      O Ben Franklin                      O Alexander Hamilton                      O James Madison
9. What has been the reason and source of the freedom, prosperity, and success of the American people?  
O the power in the people over the government  
O the power of the government over the people?

10. Thomas Jefferson instructed future generations to pay its own \_\_\_\_\_ as it goes.
11. Jefferson also predicted... "I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of \_\_\_\_\_."
- NOTE: This passage has often been mis-quoted, and the above is actually incorrect according to The Monticello House Website. The actual quote (meaning the very same thing) is as follows: "If we can but prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people, under the pretense of taking care of them, they must become happy." - Thomas Jefferson to Thomas Cooper, November 29, 1802

*In Review.....*

1. T/F - The 'Articles of Confederation' is used as the current framework for the organization of the United States Government.    ☐ True                      ☐ False
2. What form of government did the Founding Fathers select for the United States?  
☐ Socialist                      ☐ Monarchy                      ☐ Democracy                      ☐ Republic
3. How many times is the word "Democracy" mentioned in the US Constitution?  
☐ None                      ☐ 10 times                      ☐ 100 times                      ☐ Once per article
4. A republic form of government is when...  
☐ All leaders are required to be Republicans                      ☐ Government oversees all facets of a citizen's life  
☐ Elected officials represent the people                      ☐ An elected President has supreme power
5. Who was the primary author of the US Constitution? \_\_\_\_\_ -

**Part Three – Legislative Powers & Limitations**

1. Which branch of government did the Founders give the most authority?  
☐ Legislative                      ☐ Executive                      ☐ Judicial
2. The Legislative branch is also known as "\_\_\_\_\_."
3. Article One of the Constitution describes the powers of the Legislative branch.  
The making of \_\_\_\_\_  
To lay and collect \_\_\_\_\_  
Paying federal \_\_\_\_\_  
Providing for \_\_\_\_\_  
Borrowing \_\_\_\_\_  
Regulating \_\_\_\_\_ and immigration  
Declaring \_\_\_\_\_  
Overseeing the location of the federal government
4. The President is also known as the "E\_\_\_\_\_ Branch."
5. Is it the President's job to make laws?                      ☐ Yes    ☐ No
6. The Supreme Court is also known as the "J\_\_\_\_\_ Branch."
7. The courts primary responsibility is to judge the \_\_\_\_\_ of laws based on the Constitution.
8. To spread out the power even more, the Legislative Branch was divided into two houses:  
1 - \_\_\_\_\_  
2 - \_\_\_\_\_

9. The Representatives to the House are elected by the \_\_\_\_\_ for terms of \_\_\_\_\_ (how many?) years.
10. The Senate are intended to be elected by ... [ ☐ the people    OR   ☐ State Legislatures ] .....for terms of \_\_\_\_\_ (how many?) years.
11. What amendment changed entirely the way senators are elected? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What set of documents are used to properly interpret the Constitution today?  
☐ The Gettysburg Address      ☐ The Federalist Papers      ☐ The Declaration of Liberty and Responsibility

*In Review....*

1. Which branch did the Founders give most authority? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What responsibility was Congress NOT given?  
☐ Pay Federal Debts      ☐ Interpret Laws      ☐ Declare War      ☐ Make Laws
3. T/F – The President of the US has full control over Congress.      ☐ True      ☐ False
4. How many years does a US Senator serve in one term? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution did what?  
☐ Removed states from checking federal power      ☐ Encouraged more input from state governments  
☐ Made the Constitution three pounds heavier      ☐ Created the two house of Congress

**Part Four – Executive Branch**

1. T/F - The President has the power to create or change existing laws.      ☐ True      ☐ False
2. Article \_\_\_\_\_ (which number?) of the Constitution describes the duties of the Executive Branch.
3. Which President was the only one elected to more than two terms? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which amendment (from 1951) limited the president to two terms in office? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Qualifications for President – You must be:  
Natural born US \_\_\_\_\_  
At least \_\_\_\_\_ years old  
US Resident for \_\_\_\_\_ years
6. The E\_\_\_\_\_ College ensures the less populated states have a more equal voice in the elections for President.
7. If a President is impeached, who assumes the presidency? \_\_\_\_\_
8. If a President is impeached, who assumes the vice-presidency? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Which two presidents have been tried for impeachment?  
1 – \_\_\_\_\_      2 – \_\_\_\_\_
10. Duties and Powers of the Executive include:  
1 - Commander in \_\_\_\_\_  
Can the President declare war?      ☐ Yes      ☐ No  
2 – Granting \_\_\_\_\_  
3 – Reporting to Congress on the condition of the country ( a report called the S\_\_\_\_\_ of the U\_\_\_\_\_)  
4 – Making sure that \_\_\_\_\_ are faithfully executed (Execute Laws)

11. Since 1945, what power has the president assumed? \_\_\_\_\_
12. The president is supposed to ...  
☐ rule over the United States                      ☐ serve as a public servant enforcing constitutional laws
13. According to Dr. Smith - When are executive orders NOT constitutional?  
☐ when they are made on a Sunday  
☐ when they usurp Congressional power  
☐ when they contradict parts of Constitution
14. Can Congress make an executive order null and void?    ☐ Yes                      ☐ No

*In Review...*

1. The Executive Branch is led by  
☐ Congress                      ☐ Supreme Court                      ☐ Speaker of the House                      ☐ President
2. The Founders' original intent for the Executive Branch was to ...  
☐ enforce laws                      ☐ create laws  
☐ control the people                      ☐ rule from the White House
3. Who is the only president to serve more than two terms in office?  
☐ George Washington                      ☐ Theodore Roosevelt                      ☐ Franklin Roosevelt                      ☐ Thomas Jefferson
4. Which is NOT a qualification to run for president?  
☐ Must be an American citizen                      ☐ US resident for 14 years  
☐ At least 35 years old                      ☐ One parent must be an American citizen
5. How many presidents have been tried for impeachment?                      ☐ None                      ☐ One                      ☐ Two                      ☐ Three

**Part Five – Judicial Powers & Limitations**

1. T/F – No ruling by the Supreme Court can be overturned by another court.                      ☐ True                      ☐ False
2. The highest court in the court system is the \_\_\_\_\_ Court.
3. The duties of the Judicial Branch are:  
1 – to review cases and laws in light of the \_\_\_\_\_  
2 – to judge cases not solved by a \_\_\_\_\_ court  
3 – to judge cases not in a state's jurisdiction  
4 – to judge cases involving \_\_\_\_\_  
5 – to ensure all courts operate under guidelines of the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Of the three branches, which has the least amount of political power?  
☐ Legislative                      ☐ Executive                      ☐ Judicial
5. Two radical ideas that made our Judicial System different than others:  
1 – Trial by jury of \_\_\_\_\_  
2 – No Judicial \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who decides if someone is guilty or not guilty?                      ☐ The Judge                      ☐ a Jury
7. Is the Judicial Branch supposed to make laws?                      ☐ Yes                      ☐ No
8. T/F – The Supreme Court defines the limits of its own power.                      ☐ True                      ☐ False
- ❖ XC - How can Congress limit judicial power?  
Congress can \_\_\_\_\_ a law that the Supreme Court has mis-interpreted.  
Congress can redefine appellate jurisdiction.  
Congress can pass an a \_\_\_\_\_ that makes a court ruling null and void

9. The Supreme Court in our time consists of:

1 – The \_\_\_\_\_ Justice

2 – Eight \_\_\_\_\_ Justices

10. How long do judges serve on the Supreme Court? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Out of ten thousands requests for ruling, how many are actually considered? \_\_\_\_\_

*In Review...*

1. Which is NOT a responsibility of the Judicial Branch?

☐ Review cases and laws in light of the Constitution

☐ Judge cases not solved by lower courts

☐ Judge cases not in states' jurisdiction

☐ Try officials in cases of impeachment

2. T/F – The Supreme Court has the power to review the actions of the President and Congress in matters relating to the Constitution. ☐ True ☐ False

3. Who was the first Supreme Court Justice?

☐ George Washington

☐ James Wilson

☐ Thomas Jefferson

☐ Alexander Hamilton

4. The Supreme Court consists of one Chief Justice and how many associate justices?

☐ Eight

☐ Six

☐ Ten

☐ Each President decides

5. Which branch of government has the least power according to the Constitution?

☐ Legislative

☐ Executive

☐ Judicial

☐ All equal

**Part Six – Bill of Rights (Amendments 1-5)**

1. According to Thomas Jefferson, "A Bill of Rights is what the people are entitled to against every

\_\_\_\_\_, what no just government should \_\_\_\_\_ or rest on inference."

2. T/F – The Bill of Rights was designed to give more power to the federal government. ☐ True ☐ False

3. The Bill of Rights ...

☐ creates rights for citizens our nation

☐ recognizes God-given rights and prevents government from infringing on them

4. T/F - The Government recognizes and respects our rights by limiting its actions in areas where we have rights.

☐ True

☐ False

5. Do governments grant people their rights?

☐ Yes

☐ No

6. Who introduced the Bill of Rights? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What year was the Bill of Rights approved by the states? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Alexander Hamilton feared that by listing specific rights, any rights that were not listed could be \_\_\_\_\_.

9. Originally 12 Articles were proposed but only \_\_\_\_\_ Articles were ratified.

\*NOTE: The Bill of Rights is the First Ten Amendments to the Constitution!

10. The **First Amendment** establishes ...

Free \_\_\_\_\_,

Free \_\_\_\_\_, and

Free \_\_\_\_\_.

11. Reading the amendment itself, we see it also establishes the Freedom of R\_\_\_\_\_.

12. The founders ensured that citizens are free to critique the \_\_\_\_\_ without risking punishment.

13. The **Second Amendment** has to do with the militia and the Right to Keep and Bear \_\_\_\_\_.

- ### *In Review...*

- ## Part Seven – Bill of Rights (Amendments 6-10)

- NOTE: To write the Bill of Rights, Madison borrowed ideas from...
- 1-The Virginia Declaration of Rights
  - 2-The English Bill of Rights
  - 3-The Enlightenment

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10. The Ninth Amendment covers the Protection of Rights not Listed in the Constitution. Just because a certain right is not listed in the Constitution does not mean that the government can \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_!!

11. The Tenth Amendment has to do with the powers of States and people. If the Constitution does not specifically assign a power, that power is retained by the \_\_\_\_\_ or by the \_\_\_\_\_.

## A Summary of the Bill of Rights!

- 1 – Freedom of Religion, Press, Expression, Assembly, and Petition
- 2 – Right to Bear Arms
- 3 - Quartering of Soldiers
- 4 – Search and Seizure
- 5 – Trial and Punishment, Compensation for Takings
- 6 – Right to Speedy trial, Confrontations of Witnesses
- 7 – Trial by Jury in Civil Case
- 8 – Cruel and Unusual Punishment
- 9 – Protects Rights Not Listed
- 10 – Rights of the States & the People

12. How many additions / amendments have been made to the Constitution in all?

- 0 10                      0 12                      0 22                      0 27

*In Review...*

1. The Bill of Rights was created to...

- ☐ Protect Rights      ☐ Create Rights      ☐ Limit Rights      ☐ Destroy Rights

2. T/F – The Sixth Amendment deals with cruel and unusual punishment.

- ☐ True ☐ False

3. The Eighth Amendment deals with the ..

- O Right to Bear Arms      O Cruel & Unusual Punishment  
O Right to Legal Counsel      O Search and Seizure

4. How many handwritten copies did George Washington have made of the Bill of Rights?

- ☐ One      ☐ Thirteen      ☐ Fourteen      ☐ Fifteen

5. How many amendments were made to the Constitution in all?

- O Ten                      O Twelve                      O Twenty Seven                      O Seventy two

## Part Eight – Amendments 11-18

## Part Nine – Amendments 19-27

Feel free to view the rest if you have time!!