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Constitutional Democracy

 Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Who was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence and

a champion of constitutional democracy?

a. Thomas Jefferson

b. George Washington

c. John Adams

d. John Locke

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** U.S. Government and Politics in Context (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Describe the importance of citizen participation in constitutional democracy.

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

2. Which of the following is a feature of constitutional democracy?

a. government is limited by a written document

b. voting is required by law

c. laws are voted on by the people

d. voting rights are tied to property ownership

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** Defining Democracy (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Describe democracy and the conditions conducive to its success.

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

3. How is democracy defined?

a. everyone is involved in politics and policy making

b. government by the people

c. the fragmentation of powers

d. government by the few

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** Defining Democracy (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Describe democracy and the conditions conducive to its success.

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

4. How does the Constitution guard against tyranny of the majority?

a. by protecting certain rights, such as freedom of speech

b. by giving states the power to nullify federal laws

c. by requiring courts to issue decisions supported by public opinion

d. by requiring free and fair elections

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** Defining Democracy (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Describe democracy and the conditions conducive to its success.

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

5. What is the idea that a just government must derive its powers from the people it governs called?

a. equality

b. popular consent

c. electoral politics

d. national supremacy

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** Defining Democracy (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Describe democracy and the conditions conducive to its success.

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

6. Governance according to the expressed preferences of the majority is known as which of the following?

a. tyranny of the majority

b. individual rights

c. majority rule

d. plurality principle

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** Defining Democracy (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Describe democracy and the conditions conducive to its success.

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

7. In which type of election is the winner always determined by who gets the most votes, even if it is not more than half?

a. a runoff election

b. a plurality

c. a recall election

d. a majority

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** Defining Democracy (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Describe democracy and the conditions conducive to its success.

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

8. Head Start, a program for disadvantaged preschool children, reflects the belief in ensuring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. balanced government

b. political equality

c. individualism

d. equal opportunity

**Answer:** d

**Topic:** Defining Democracy (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Describe democracy and the conditions conducive to its success.

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

9. Which of the following is a central feature of capitalism?

a. private property

b. separation of powers

c. government-controlled prices

d. equally distributed wealth

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** Defining Democracy (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Describe democracy and the conditions conducive to its success.

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

10. What is a favorable condition for democracy?

a. equality of wealth

b. ideological divisions

c. instability in society

d. an educated citizenry

**Answer:** d

**Topic:** Defining Democracy (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Describe democracy and the conditions conducive to its success.

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

11. What role did George Washington play in the Constitutional Convention?

a. He represented the views of the Anti-Federalists.

b. He was the chief negotiator of the three-fifths compromise.

c. He presided over the meeting but spoke little during deliberations.

d. He supported preserving the Articles of Confederation.

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The Constitutional Convention of 1787 (Action)

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Identify the issues resolved by compromise during the writing of the Constitution.

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

12. Under the Articles of Confederation, how were disputes between the states settled?

a. by the Supreme Court

b. by the president

c. by state courts

d. by state legislatures

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The Roots of the American Constitutional Experiment (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Identify pre-Revolutionary concepts central to the new government and the problems under the Articles of Confederation.

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

13. What was the initial purpose for the meeting of delegates in Philadelphia in May 1787?

a. to write the Declaration of Independence

b. to amend the Articles of Confederation

c. to abolish state laws

d. to create a national bank

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** The Roots of the American Constitutional Experiment (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Identify pre-Revolutionary concepts central to the new government and the problems under the Articles of Confederation.

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

14. Patrick Henry was initially opposed to the ratification of the Constitution. What change was made to address his concern?

a. James Madison promised a bill of rights would be added.

b. A promise was made to abolish slavery in the future.

c. A bicameral legislative structure was adopted.

d. George Washington promised to limit the power of Congress.

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** To Adopt or Not to Adopt? (Impact)

**Learning Objective:** 1.6 Evaluate the arguments for and against the ratification of the Constitution.

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

15. Which country has a centralized authority in charge of its political system?

a. Germany

b. the United States

c. China

d. Mexico

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** Defining Democracy (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Describe democracy and the conditions conducive to its success.

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

16. Historian Charles Beard argued that the primary motive of the Framers of the Constitution was which of the following?

a. protection from foreign threats

b. the enshrinement of the majority rule principle

c. protection of their own economic self-interests

d. westward expansion of the country

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The Roots of the American Constitutional Experiment (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Identify pre-Revolutionary concepts central to the new government and the problems under the Articles of Confederation.

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

17. What was Shays’ Rebellion?

a. the initial uprising by the Americans against the British

b. a demonstration of the need for every state to form an army

c. a revolt by enslaved persons that led to the three-fifths compromise

d. an uprising in western Massachusetts protesting mortgage foreclosures

**Answer:** d

**Topic:** The Roots of the American Constitutional Experiment (Structure)

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Identify pre-Revolutionary concepts central to the new government and the problems under the Articles of Confederation.

**Skill Level:** Recall the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

18. Which of the following best supports the idea that the United States has a balanced government?

a. No single interest dominates the national government.

b. The president and legislature have no shared powers.

c. State governments can veto laws of the national government.

d. The people must approve constitutional amendments by popular vote.

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** The Constitutional Convention of 1787 (Action)

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Identify the issues resolved by compromise during the writing of the Constitution.

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

19. Which of the following people would most likely have been an Anti-Federalist?

a. a banker from New York

b. a lawyer from Pennsylvania

c. a farmer from Georgia

d. a business owner from North Carolina

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** To Adopt or Not to Adopt? (Impact)

**Learning Objective:** 1.6 Evaluate the arguments for and against the ratification of the Constitution.

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

20. Most delegates to the Constitutional Convention accepted the idea of

a. state supremacy.

b. a direct democracy.

c. a republican government.

d. a strong executive.

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The Constitutional Convention of 1787 (Action)

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Identify the issues resolved by compromise during the writing of the Constitution.

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

21. The three-fifths compromise was a compromise between which of the following?

a. Whigs and Democratic Republicans

b. northern and southern states

c. Federalists and Anti-Federalists

d. large and small states

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** The Constitutional Convention of 1787 (Action)

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Identify the issues resolved by compromise during the writing of the Constitution.

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

22. Why were the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention kept secret?

a. to make it difficult for delegates to change their minds after debate and discussion

b. to encourage delegates to speak freely

c. so there would be fewer disagreements during the convention

d. so that foreign leaders would not sabotage the convention

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** The Constitutional Convention of 1787 (Action)

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Identify the issues resolved by compromise during the writing of the Constitution.

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

23. A delegate from a small state at the Constitutional Convention would have most likely supported which of the following as the basis for representation in the legislature?

a. the Virginia Plan

b. the concept of bicameralism

c. the supremacy clause

d. the New Jersey Plan

**Answer:** d

**Topic:** The Constitutional Convention of 1787 (Action)

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Identify the issues resolved by compromise during the writing of the Constitution.

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

24. What did the Federalists favor?

a. strong state governments, relative to the central government

b. an all-powerful central government

c. a stronger national government, relative to the state governments

d. strong economic ties to foreign powers

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** To Adopt or Not to Adopt? (Impact)

**Learning Objective:** 1.6 Evaluate the arguments for and against the ratification of the Constitution.

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

25. Why did the Federalists argue against inclusion of a bill of rights in the Constitution?

a. The explicit guarantee of some rights might imply the denial of other rights.

b. All rights were already covered by the Declaration of Independence.

c. Trying to agree on which rights to include would tear the new country apart.

d. All states currently had their own bills of rights.

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** To Adopt or Not to Adopt? (Impact)

**Learning Objective:** 1.6 Evaluate the arguments for and against the ratification of the Constitution.

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

26. What regions of the country tended to oppose ratification of the new Constitution?

a. urban areas

b. seaboard regions

c. backcountry regions

d. southern states

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** To Adopt or Not to Adopt? (Impact)

**Learning Objective:** 1.6 Evaluate the arguments for and against the ratification of the Constitution.

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

27. What was *The Federalist*?

a. a book written by George Washington justifying the revolution

b. a book written by Thomas Jefferson while he was the U.S. ambassador to France

c. a series of essays to encourage opposition to the Annapolis Convention

d. a series of essays written to encourage ratification of the proposed Constitution

**Answer:** d

**Topic:** To Adopt or Not to Adopt? (Impact)

**Learning Objective:** 1.6 Evaluate the arguments for and against the ratification of the Constitution.

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate