

## Sample Test: Constitutional Period

1. Which group had the most influence on the ideas stated in the Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution?
  - A political leaders of Spain and France
  - B artists and writers of the Renaissance
  - C religious leaders of the medieval period
  - D philosophers of the Enlightenment
2. Many of the settlers of the original thirteen colonies had experienced religious discrimination in Europe. This situation influenced the authors of the United States Constitution to establish:
  - A separation of church and state
  - B the right to bear arms
  - C freedom to petition the government
  - D freedom from cruel and unusual punishment
3. Which of the following is the best definition of federalism?
  - A a democratic form of government in which officials are elected by the people
  - B a division of power between the national and state governments
  - C a belief in the idea of individual rights and freedoms for all
  - D a form of government ruled by a king or queen
4. Which document is characterized by these attributes?

- \* Congress could not levy and collect taxes
  - \* Congress could not regulate interstate or foreign trade
  - \* There was no national court system to settle disputes
  - \* The thirteen separate states lacked national unity

  - A Articles of Confederation
  - B Northwest Ordinance
  - C United States Constitution
  - D Articles of Confederation
5. Delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 wrote a new constitution because
  - A the Revolutionary War was over
  - B the Articles of Confederation were about to expire
  - C they wanted to increase the power of the states
  - D they believed that a stronger central government was necessary
6. A major weakness of government under the Articles of Confederation was that
  - A the large states received more votes in Congress than the small states did
  - B the national government could not enforce its laws
  - C too much power was given to the president
  - D state governments could not coin money

Use the following dialogue and your knowledge of Social Studies to answer questions 7 & 8.

### Debate over Ratification of the United States Constitution

*Speaker A:* "Our liberty depends on guaranteed individual rights. Citizens with these rights will be able to make decisions for the good of the whole nation."

*Speaker B:* "I admire your optimism; however, only a well-educated group of elected officials should be trusted to make decisions for the good of all."

*Speaker A:* "We must not allow the rule of a few privileged officials to overpower the will of average citizens."

*Speaker B:* "A strong central government, composed of elected officials, will be acting in the best interests of all citizens."

*Speaker A:* "I fear you are ignoring the needs of the people. There must be a guarantee that the freedoms of citizens will not be trampled over by a strong national government."

7. This debate most accurately represents the debates between
- A Loyalists and Patriots
  - B Constitutional Framers and State Governors
  - C Federalists and Anti-Federalists
  - D Supreme Court Justices and Legislators
8. In this debate between *Speaker A* and *Speaker B*, *Speaker A* would most likely agree that the leaders of the nation should
- A establish a monarchy
  - B add a bill of rights to the Constitution
  - C increase the power of the federal government
  - D limit the right to vote to property owners

Use the following excerpt and your knowledge of Social Studies to answer question 9.

“This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.”  
 Article VI, Paragraph 2

9. Why is this Article of the Constitution significant?
- A it establishes that the US Constitution is the highest form of law in America
  - B it sets forth a state’s right to change any law it does not agree with in the Constitution
  - C it establishes judicial independence
  - D it grants supreme power to the President of the US
10. During the Constitutional Convention of 1787, the Great Compromise resolved a conflict over
- A presidential power
  - B the issue of nullification
  - C representation in Congress
  - D taxes on imports
11. By which process can the US Constitution be changed?
- A veto
  - B amendment
  - C resolution
  - D civic participation
12. Which newspaper headline shows the operation of the system of checks and balances?
- A **“Senate Rejects President’s Choice of Supreme Court Justice”**
  - B **“North Carolina To Gain Two Seats in the United States House of Representatives”**
  - C **“North Carolina Receives \$4 Million from Congress for Transportation Development”**
  - D **“South Carolina Rejects Federal Regulations on Drug Testing”**
13. The Preamble of the United States Constitution says that the power to govern originates with the
- A states
  - B Supreme Court
  - C president
  - D people
14. One reason the United States Constitution is considered a flexible document is that it
- A can be rewritten every ten years
  - B allows for the creation of a multiparty political system
  - C gives the states the power to change federal laws
  - D includes the elastic clause

15. The authors of the United States Constitution included a system of checks and balances to
- A prevent any one branch of government from controlling the other branches
  - B protect states against the power of the national government
  - C guarantee respect for the freedoms listed in the Bill of Rights
  - D safeguard the United States against foreign attacks
16. Who can prevent the president of the United States from controlling the Supreme Court by blocking appointments to the bench?
- A state legislatures
  - B the Joint Chiefs of Staff
  - C governors
  - D the Senate
17. The United States Constitution requires that a national census be taken every ten years to
- A provide the government with information about voter registration
  - B establish a standard for setting income tax rates
  - C determine the number of members each state has in the House of Representatives
  - D decide who can vote in presidential elections
18. According to the United States Constitution, the president has the power to
- A nominate federal judges
  - B suspend or remove legislators that he/she disagrees with
  - C grant titles of nobility
  - D reverse Supreme Court decisions
19. Which term describes the approval or rejection of a proposed constitutional amendment in some states by the popular vote?
- A recall
  - B initiative
  - C referendum
  - D censure
20. *Marbury v. Madison* is characterized as a landmark decision by the Supreme Court for which of the following reasons?
- A It established judicial review
  - B It showed the failure of our government's system of separation of powers
  - C It suspended habeas corpus
  - D It declared that Supreme Court judges should be elected.
21. The separate but equal principle established by the decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) led to the
- A start of the Civil War
  - B end of the Reconstruction period
  - C spread of racially segregated public facilities
  - D integration of white and African-American military regiments
22. Supreme Court decisions based on the First Amendment usually involve
- A rights of individuals
  - B tax issues
  - C corruption of political officials
  - D criminal crimes

Use the following excerpt and your knowledge of Social Studies to answer question 23.

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

-14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Section 1, US Constitution

23. The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment established
- A Every US citizen born or naturalized in the US is granted equal protection under the laws
  - B Suffrage for African Americans
  - C Suffrage for women
  - D Freedom to all enslaved persons living in America

Use the following excerpt and your knowledge of Social Studies to answer question 24.

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude...”

— 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Section 1, US Constitution

24. Which actions did Southern States take to keep African Americans from exercising the rights guaranteed in this amendment?
- A suspending habeas corpus and denying women the right to vote
  - B collecting poll taxes and requiring literacy tests
  - C establishing religious and property-holding requirements for voting
  - D passing Black Codes and establishing segregated schools
25. Which of the following would be a primary source for studying influences of the US Constitution?
- A the Federalist Papers
  - B a news article regarding how the Constitution provides for a system of checks and balances
  - C a book about the Framers who wrote the Constitution
  - D a letter from George Bush explaining his interpretation of the Articles of Confederation and how they influenced the US Constitution
26. Which of the following Supreme Court cases is correctly matched with the issue it addressed?
- A Marbury v. Madison: upheld freedom of the press
  - B Gibbons v. Ogden: established judicial review
  - C Korematsu v. US: declared poll taxes unconstitutional
  - D Brown v. Board of Education: outlawed racial segregation in public education
27. Which political idea would John & Beth Tinker (Tinker v. Des Moines) most likely support?
- A segregation in public schools is Constitutional
  - B citizens should not speak ill of their government during times of war
  - C protesting a war by wearing an arm band is a First Amendment right
  - D writing an article against a government official, as long as the facts are true, is lawful under freedom of the press
28. One effect of the 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center was the
- A reinforcement of a citizen's right to bear arms
  - B Cheney War Act
  - C deportation of all Iraqi's living in America
  - D Patriot Act

## Answer Key

1. D
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. D
6. B
7. C
8. B
9. A
10. C
11. B
12. A
13. D
14. D
15. A
16. D
17. C
18. A
19. C
20. A
21. C
22. A
23. A
24. B
25. A
26. D
27. C
28. D