

Constitution Quiz

True/False

Indicate whether the statement is true or false.

- _____ 1. Alexander Hamilton presided over the Constitutional Convention.
- _____ 2. Delegates to the Constitutional Convention sharply debated whether to establish a monarchy or a republic.
- _____ 3. The New Jersey Plan proposed to keep a unicameral legislature with equal representation for each state.
- _____ 4. Under the Constitution, each slave would count as one person for purposes of representation, but as only half a person for taxation.
- _____ 5. The Constitution mentioned the word “slave” (or “slavery”) eighteen times.
- _____ 6. The Constitution immediately outlawed the foreign slave trade.
- _____ 7. The Constitution established a Supreme Court with nine justices.
- _____ 8. Federalists favored a decentralized federal system of government.

Multiple Choice

Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- _____ 1. The Constitutional Convention met in:
 - a. New York
 - b. Washington, D.C.
 - c. Philadelphia
 - d. Boston
 - e. Albany
- _____ 2. The convention, which assembled in May 1787, was supposed to:
 - a. write a new constitution
 - b. address the country’s financial crisis
 - c. revise the Articles of Confederation
 - d. nominate someone for president
 - e. discuss better trade relations with Britain
- _____ 3. The delegates who met:
 - a. included John Adams and Thomas Jefferson
 - b. tended to be elderly
 - c. wanted a weaker central government
 - d. included many participants in the Revolution
 - e. arrived knowing what they wanted

- _____ 4. At the outset of the Constitutional Convention, whom did the delegates unanimously elect as president of the convention?
- Alexander Hamilton
 - James Madison
 - George Washington
 - Benjamin Franklin
 - Thomas Jefferson
- _____ 5. The convention's most gifted political philosopher and man who emerged as its central figure was:
- Alexander Hamilton
 - George Washington
 - Ben Franklin
 - Patrick Henry
 - James Madison
- _____ 6. Madison's Virginia Plan:
- would create a president for life
 - would create a two-house Congress
 - was most favored by the small states
 - would simply amend the Articles of Confederation
 - would abolish the state governments
- _____ 7. The Great Compromise:
- was negotiated by Ben Franklin
 - showed the South's determination to protect slavery
 - listed the explicit powers of Congress
 - created a four-year term for president
 - settled the question of congressional representation
- _____ 8. The Constitution addressed slavery by:
- referring numerous times to "slaves" or "slavery"
 - stating that the African slave trade could not be banned before 1808
 - requiring that all slaves count toward a state's congressional representation
 - making it legal in every state
 - requiring that slaves have full legal protections
- _____ 9. On the question of women's rights, the proposed Constitution:
- denied the vote to females
 - was surprisingly progressive for its time
 - defined women as the property of their husbands
 - accepted the advice of prominent women
 - said nothing
- _____ 10. In regard to citizenship, the Constitution:
- gave citizenship to Indians
 - gave citizenship to free blacks
 - limited future numbers of immigrants
 - gave Congress authority over naturalization
 - allowed noncitizens to serve in Congress

- _____ 11. The great majority of the Founding Fathers rejected:
- a. federal taxation
 - b. religion
 - c. property requirements for voting
 - d. division of federal and state authority
 - e. rule by the people
- _____ 12. The Founding Fathers viewed the most “democratic” branch of the government as the:
- a. presidency
 - b. Senate
 - c. Supreme Court
 - d. cabinet
 - e. House of Representatives
- _____ 13. Under the proposed constitution, members of the Senate would:
- a. serve two-year terms
 - b. be chosen by state legislatures
 - c. be appointed by state governors
 - d. be chosen by popular vote
 - e. be men of substantial wealth
- _____ 14. According to the Constitution, the president has the authority to do all the following EXCEPT:
- a. veto acts of Congress
 - b. resign and choose his successor
 - c. recommend legislation to Congress
 - d. act as commander-in-chief of the armed forces
 - e. appoint diplomats and judges
- _____ 15. The president’s powers were limited by all of the following EXCEPT:
- a. he would be chosen by popular vote
 - b. he could not declare war
 - c. Congress could override his vetoes
 - d. he could be impeached
 - e. he could be convicted and removed from office
- _____ 16. Amendments to the Constitution:
- a. would be made by the Supreme Court
 - b. would be proposed by a two-thirds vote of Congress
 - c. would require approval of every state
 - d. could be vetoed by the president
 - e. would ultimately be approved by popular vote
- _____ 17. The Constitution was to be considered ratified as soon as it had been approved by:
- a. the Constitutional Convention
 - b. the Continental Congress
 - c. all thirteen states
 - d. nine of the states
 - e. a majority popular vote

- _____ 18. Charles Beard's study of the Constitution:
- a. emphasized the political genius of the Founding Fathers
 - b. marveled at how democratic a document it is
 - c. remains the accepted interpretation today
 - d. was biased by patriotism and hero worship
 - e. described the selfish economic interests of the men who wrote it
- _____ 19. Charles Beard's writings on the Constitution at least caution us against:
- a. hero worship
 - b. excessive democracy
 - c. intervening in the affairs of other countries
 - d. states' rights
 - e. separation of church and state
- _____ 20. Most of the *Federalist* essays were written by:
- a. James Madison
 - b. John Jay
 - c. Patrick Henry
 - d. Alexander Hamilton
 - e. Sam Adams
- _____ 21. *Federalist* Number 10 explains how a republic can:
- a. defend itself
 - b. become a democracy
 - c. create a just society
 - d. pay its debts
 - e. be successful in a large, diverse society
- _____ 22. *The Federalist* argued that:
- a. the size and diversity of the large new country would make it impossible for any one faction to control the government
 - b. the Constitution was necessary to prevent one faction from taking control of the nation
 - c. a republican form of government could not work in a nation as large as the United States, and therefore the Constitution was necessary
 - d. the Constitution would promote control of the government by one faction, which would be good for the nation
 - e. if the Constitution failed, the country could always go back to the Articles of Confederation
- _____ 23. Who among the following was an anti-Federalist?
- a. Alexander Hamilton
 - b. John Jay
 - c. Patrick Henry
 - d. James Madison
 - e. George Washington

Name: _____

ID: A

- _____ 24. Anti-Federalist leaders:
- a. often were better organized and prepared than their Federalist opponents
 - b. tended to be younger than their Federalist counterparts
 - c. had been the chief proponents of a stronger central government at the Constitutional Convention
 - d. wanted a Bill of Rights to protect individuals from the new government
 - e. tended to be wealthier than their Federalist opponents
- _____ 25. The first of these states to ratify the Constitution was:
- a. Delaware
 - b. New York
 - c. Rhode Island
 - d. Virginia
 - e. Massachusetts
- _____ 26. The Constitution was ratified:
- a. in a national referendum
 - b. without serious opposition
 - c. despite a close vote in Massachusetts
 - d. despite its rejection in Virginia
 - e. due to the support of the anti-Federalists
- _____ 27. As the new Constitution went into effect, Founding Fathers like Franklin and Washington viewed its future with feelings of:
- a. supreme confidence
 - b. fear and loathing
 - c. God's approval
 - d. uncertainty
 - e. regret, since the Articles of Confederation were clearly better

Essay

1. Describe the system of checks and balances in the Constitution.
2. Discuss the conflict between Federalists and anti-Federalists in the writing and ratification of the Constitution.
3. What major compromises were made at the Constitutional Convention, and what issues did they settle? What issues remained unsettled?
4. Describe details of both the Virginia and New Jersey Plans as they were presented to the Constitutional Convention.

Name: _____

ID: A

Matching

Match each description with the item below.

- a. was the oldest member of the Constitutional Convention
- b. proposed Great Compromise at Constitutional Convention
- c. drafted land ordinance of 1784
- d. was the Confederation superintendent of finance
- e. briefly represented New York at the Constitutional Convention
- f. claimed to “smell a rat” at Constitutional Convention
- g. believed Constitution would last no more than twenty years
- h. wrote *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution*
- i. was a destitute and disgruntled Massachusetts farmer
- j. is known as the “Father of the Constitution”

- _____ 1. Charles A. Beard
- _____ 2. Benjamin Franklin
- _____ 3. Alexander Hamilton
- _____ 4. Patrick Henry
- _____ 5. Thomas Jefferson
- _____ 6. James Madison
- _____ 7. Robert Morris
- _____ 8. Daniel Shays
- _____ 9. Roger Sherman
- _____ 10. George Washington