

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Circle the letter of the response that best answers the question or completes the statement.

1. The goal of the American Revolution was
 - a. equality.
 - b. stability.
 - c. fairness.
 - d. liberty.
 - e. fraternity.
2. The colonists believed that most politicians tended to be
 - a. aristocratic.
 - b. idealistic.
 - c. benevolent.
 - d. corrupt.
 - e. incompetent.
3. The colonists fought to protect liberties that they believed were
 - a. discoverable in nature and history.
 - b. based on a "higher law."
 - c. essential to human progress.
 - d. ordained by God.
 - e. all of the above.
4. When he wrote the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson replaced _____ with "the pursuit of happiness."
 - a. life
 - b. property
 - c. justice
 - d. liberty
 - e. equality
5. At the time of the American Revolution, most citizens were
 - a. self-employed.
 - b. indentured servants.
 - c. highly literate.
 - d. propertyless.
 - e. concerned with economic rather than political issues.
6. The essential complaints itemized in the Declaration of Independence are remarkable because
 - a. each had been primary features in other revolutions.
 - b. they were never actually mentioned to the King.
 - c. most of the colonists were unable to understand them.
 - d. none spoke of social or economic conditions in the colonies.
 - e. Jefferson got most of the material from Washington and Adams.
7. An "unalienable" right is
 - a. supported by a majority of any society.
 - b. created by legislators.
 - c. based in a written constitution.
 - d. without restriction.
 - e. based on nature and Providence.
8. The colonists new vision of government insisted that
 - a. the executive branch be superior to the legislative branch.
 - b. the judicial branch be superior to the legislative branch.
 - c. the branches of government be unified.
 - d. each branch of government be equal.
 - e. the legislative branch be superior to the executive branch.
9. One notable feature of colonial governments by 1776 was the presence of
 - a. weak governors.
 - b. authority in community groups and local organizations.
 - c. bicameral legislatures.
 - d. elected judges who could be removed from office by people.
 - e. written constitutions with detailed bills of rights.

10. The Articles of Confederation attempted to create
 - a. a league of friendship among the states.
 - b. a centralized government.
 - c. a strong state commitment to the national government.
 - d. weak state governments.
 - e. none of the above.
11. Under the Articles, Congress had the power to
 - a. make peace.
 - b. coin money.
 - c. appoint key army officers.
 - d. run the post office.
 - e. all of the above.
12. All of the following were true of the government under the Articles *except*
 - a. each state had one vote in Congress.
 - b. the national government could not regulate commerce.
 - c. the national government could not levy taxes.
 - d. there was no national judicial branch.
 - e. amendments required the support of nine of thirteen states.
13. The critical meeting that was scheduled by those who met at George Washington's house and later held at Annapolis, Maryland, focused on the topic of
 - a. the quartering of soldiers.
 - b. naval defense.
 - c. trade regulation.
 - d. qualifications for citizenship.
 - e. the official recognition of several new colonies.
14. The original purpose of the Constitutional Convention was to
 - a. draw up a bill of rights.
 - b. discuss regulations on intrastate commerce.
 - c. levy taxes.
 - d. build an army.
 - e. revise the Articles of Confederation.
15. What influential Founder concluded history — to that point in time — provided no truly desirable model of government?
 - a. John Adams
 - b. Alexander Hamilton
 - c. George Washington
 - d. James Madison
 - e. Patrick Henry
16. French political pundits and Thomas Paine praised the state constitution of Pennsylvania because it was radically
 - a. centralized.
 - b. democratic.
 - c. legalistic.
 - d. monarchical.
 - e. elitist.

17. Shays's Rebellion stirred the fears of some that state governments were
 - a. becoming too powerful.
 - b. about to collapse.
 - c. controlled by British interests.
 - d. opposed to liberty.
 - e. seeking independence.
18. Thomas Jefferson responded to the news of the Rebellion by noting
 - a. it was the logical result of the American Revolution.
 - b. no such problems were likely to occur again.
 - c. a little rebellion now and then is a good thing.
 - d. confederations are always plagued by such disturbances.
 - e. dissenters should be arrested and jailed as soon as possible.
19. The Philadelphia Convention attracted about ____ delegates from the states.
 - a. 12
 - b. 30
 - c. 39
 - d. 55
 - e. 74
20. About ____ of the delegates at the Convention participated regularly.
 - a. 12
 - b. 30
 - c. 39
 - d. 55
 - e. 74
21. The majority of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention were
 - a. veterans of the Continental Army.
 - b. lawyers.
 - c. governors.
 - d. doctors.
 - e. intellectuals.
22. The text suggests some names made famous by the Revolution were conspicuously absent from the Convention, including
 - a. Thomas Jefferson.
 - b. John Adams.
 - c. Patrick Henry.
 - d. Samuel Adams.
 - e. all of the above.
23. The various speeches given by the delegates at the Convention are known to us from
 - a. an official report provided to Congress.
 - b. newspaper reports and a series of leaks throughout the summer.
 - c. detailed notes kept by Madison.
 - d. a variety of speeches made by Alexander Hamilton.
 - e. the personal diaries of Benjamin Franklin.

24. The delegates to the Constitutional Convention shared a commitment to
 - a. democracy.
 - b. equality.
 - c. fraternity.
 - d. liberty.
 - e. competition.
25. When John Locke theorized about the “state of nature,” he was speculating about a period of time when
 - a. there was no private ownership of property.
 - b. governments had legislative powers, but no executive.
 - c. power was equally divided and there was no “instinct” for self-preservation.
 - d. the people freely consented to detailed restrictions of their natural rights.
 - e. there were societies, but no governments.
26. The philosophy of John Locke strongly supported the idea that
 - a. government ought to be limited.
 - b. property rights should be subordinated to human rights.
 - c. the state of nature was without flaw.
 - d. reason is an inadequate guide in establishing a political order.
 - e. equality of goods and income is necessary to political order.
27. The Pennsylvania experience led the Framers to be concerned about the tyranny of
 - a. lawyers.
 - b. the executive.
 - c. the judiciary.
 - d. the legislature.
 - e. the majority.
28. To many conservatives in the late eighteenth century, democracy meant
 - a. political equality.
 - b. mob rule.
 - c. stability.
 - d. liberty and justice.
 - e. quality representation through competitive elections.
29. In the *Federalist* papers, Madison quipped that government would not be “necessary” if
 - a. men were angels.
 - b. laws were memorized.
 - c. aristocrats labored in the field with commoners.
 - d. Americans were not so stubborn.
 - e. the King had no army.
30. The presiding officer at the Constitutional Convention was
 - a. James Madison.
 - b. Benjamin Franklin.
 - c. Patrick Henry.
 - d. George Washington.
 - e. Thomas Jefferson.

31. Supporters of a strong national government favored the
 - a. Virginia Plan.
 - b. New Jersey Plan.
 - c. Georgia Plan.
 - d. Rhode Island Plan.
 - e. Pennsylvania Plan.
32. All of the following were features of the Virginia Plan *except*
 - a. the government was divided into three major branches.
 - b. the national legislature was divided into two houses.
 - c. each state had one vote in the national legislature.
 - d. the executive was chosen by the national legislature.
 - e. one house of the legislature was elected directly by the people.
33. The high degree of contentiousness at the Convention was evident in the fact that Benjamin Franklin suggested beginning each meeting with
 - a. prayer.
 - b. hand shaking.
 - c. the sharing of positive experiences.
 - d. informal chat.
 - e. a formal pledge to be civil.
34. The Great Compromise
 - a. required Supreme Court justices to be confirmed by the Senate.
 - b. based House representation on population and Senate population on equality.
 - c. solved the conflict between those who wanted a powerful House and those who did not.
 - d. provided that the president be selected by the electoral college.
 - e. dealt with, without mentioning by name, "slavery."
35. The Constitution called for Senators to be
 - a. elected by the people.
 - b. selected by members of the House.
 - c. selected by the previous administration.
 - d. chosen by the electoral college.
 - e. selected by the state legislatures.
36. The Great Compromise was supported by the votes of delegates from _____ states.
 - a. 13
 - b. 12
 - c. 10
 - d. 5
 - e. 2
37. Before a committee created the electoral college, convention delegates suggested the president be
 - a. chosen by Congress.
 - b. chosen by the state legislatures.
 - c. selected by members of the Supreme Court.
 - d. elected directly by the people.
 - e. A and D.

38. With regard to the power of judicial review, the text suggests
- few scholars have ever doubted the widespread support for this power at the Convention.
 - it is not clear whether the Framers intended the Supreme Court to have such a power.
 - only state courts can exercise the power in relation to federal laws.
 - the Constitution explicitly grants this power to the federal courts alone.
 - the Constitution explicitly granted this power to local courts alone.
39. All of the following statements regarding the amendment process are correct *except*
- amendments can only be proposed by the Senate.
 - Congress can call a National Convention at the request of two-thirds of the states.
 - amendments must be ratified by three-fourths of the states.
 - states may ratify amendments through their legislatures or special ratifying conventions.
 - almost all amendments to date have been proposed by Congress and ratified by state legislatures.
40. The American version of representative democracy was based on two major principles:
- self-interest and institutionalism.
 - separation of powers and federalism.
 - commerce and competition.
 - liberty and equality.
 - unification and centralism.
41. The power to print money would be an example of a(n) “_____ power.”
- enumerated
 - reserved
 - concurrent
 - dispositive
 - partitioned
42. Powers that are exclusively given the states are referred to as “_____ powers.”
- enumerated
 - reserved
 - concurrent
 - dispositive
 - partitioned
43. The power to collect taxes would be an example of a(n) “_____ power.”
- enumerated
 - reserved
 - concurrent
 - dispositive
 - partitioned
44. The Antifederalists are best described as
- nationalists.
 - radicals.
 - neo-institutionalists.
 - Framers.
 - states’ righters.

45. The *Federalist* papers were written
- at the suggestion of Benjamin Franklin.
 - to explain democracy to European governments.
 - to help win ratification of the Constitution in New York.
 - principally by Madison and Jefferson.
 - principally by John Jay.
46. Which of the following liberties was included in the Constitution before the Bill of Rights was added?
- Habeas corpus*.
 - Freedom of speech.
 - Right to petition the government for redress of grievances.
 - Right to bear arms.
 - Protection from double jeopardy.
47. In the Constitution, slavery was
- not specifically mentioned.
 - recognized as a necessary institution.
 - outlawed after twenty years.
 - denounced as inhuman.
 - expressly permitted in the South.
48. Sophisticated statistical analysis of the voting behavior of the Framers of the Constitution suggests
- they generally pursued the interests of wealthy land owners and businessmen.
 - they generally acted in a manner to protect the interests of the poor.
 - they consciously ignored the interests of the commercial classes.
 - they generally represented the interests of their respective states.
 - they consciously ignored the interests of the slaveowners.
49. Those who favor reforming the Constitution by lessening the separation of powers between the branches often draw their inspiration from the model of
- Germany.
 - the Articles of Confederation.
 - Great Britain.
 - France.
 - the United Nations.
50. Women are specifically mentioned in the original Constitution
- in the “privileges and immunities” clause [Art. IV].
 - under qualifications for office [Art. I].
 - in language regarding treason [Art. III].
 - in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.
 - nowhere.
51. No women voted in state elections in the United States until
- 1838, in Kentucky school board elections.
 - 1869, in territorial elections in Wyoming.
 - the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment in 1875.
 - The Great Panic of 1872.
 - the ratification of the Twentieth Amendment in 1920.