

# Chapter 1 Origins Of American Government Test Answer Key

Chapter 1 Origins Of American Government Test Answer Key Chapter 1 Origins of American Government Test Answer Key | Multiple Choice 1 point each 1 Which of the following is NOT a core principle of American democracy a Popular sovereignty The power of the government comes from the people b Limited government The governments powers are restricted c Individual rights Citizens have fundamental rights protected by the government d Monarchy Rule by a single hereditary leader Answer d 2 The concept of natural rights which greatly influenced the Founding Fathers was developed by a John Locke Philosopher who argued for natural rights to life liberty and property b Thomas Hobbes Philosopher who advocated for a powerful sovereign to maintain order c Aristotle Greek philosopher who developed ideas on political science and government d JeanJacques Rousseau Philosopher who emphasized the social contract and popular sovereignty Answer a 3 What was the primary purpose of the Declaration of Independence a To establish a new form of government It declared independence from Great Britain but didnt outline a specific government structure b To outline the structure of the new government The Declaration of Independence focused on declaring independence not government structure c To list the grievances against the British government It detailed the colonists complaints against British rule d To create a constitution for the United States The Constitution came later establishing the framework for the government Answer c 4 The s of Confederation the first government of the United States was characterized by a A strong central government It actually created a weak central government b A powerful executive branch The s lacked a strong executive branch c A system of checks and balances The s lacked a system of checks and balances d A weak national government The s were designed to limit the power of the national government Answer d 5 The major weakness of the s of Confederation that led to its failure was a Lack of a strong national government This made it unable to effectively enforce laws regulate trade or address national issues b A powerful executive branch The s lacked a strong executive branch altogether c A system of checks and balances The s lacked a system of checks and balances d A strong national currency The s lacked a national currency Answer a 6 The Constitutional Convention of 1787 was convened to a Draft a new constitution to replace the s of Confederation The primary purpose was to revise the s but ultimately led to the creation of a new Constitution b Declare independence from Great

Britain This had already been accomplished with the Declaration of Independence c Establish a national bank This was a later issue addressed by Alexander Hamilton d Elect the first president of the United States The Constitution outlined the process for electing the president but the first election came later Answer a 7 The principle of separation of powers refers to a Dividing government power among three branches Legislative executive and judicial branches each have distinct responsibilities b Giving the president more power than Congress The principle emphasizes balance not dominance of any one branch c Allowing states to govern themselves independently This refers to federalism not separation of powers d Creating a national court system to interpret the law This is part of the judicial branch within the separation of powers system 3 Answer a 8 The system of checks and balances is intended to a Prevent any one branch of government from becoming too powerful Each branch can limit the powers of the other two b Allow states to veto federal laws States have their own powers but this refers to the federal system not checks and balances c Give Congress the ultimate power in government Checks and balances aim for a balance of power not dominance by any branch d Ensure that the president can always override a Congressional decision The president can veto laws but Congress can override the veto Answer a 9 The Bill of Rights added to the Constitution in 1791 was primarily intended to a Protect individual liberties from government infringement It enshrined individual rights against government overreach b Outline the structure of the federal government This was addressed in the main body of the Constitution c Establish a system of federal courts This was also outlined in the main body of the Constitution d Define the powers of the states The 10th Amendment addresses states rights but the Bill of Rights focuses on individual liberties Answer a 10 Which of the following is NOT a right guaranteed by the First Amendment a Freedom of speech A core protection of the First Amendment b Freedom of the press Another core protection of the First Amendment c Freedom of religion Also a core protection of the First Amendment d Right to bear arms This is protected by the Second Amendment not the First Answer d II True or False 1 point each 1 The American government is based on the principle of direct democracy Answer False American government is based on a representative democracy 2 The Declaration of Independence declared the colonies independence from France 4 Answer False It declared independence from Great Britain 3 The s of Confederation created a strong national government Answer False It created a weak national government with limited powers 4 The Constitutional Convention was held in Philadelphia Pennsylvania Answer True 5 The Bill of Rights is the first 10 amendments to the Constitution Answer True III Short Answer 2 points each 1 Explain the difference between a democracy and a republic Answer A democracy is a form of government where the people hold power directly typically through voting In a republic the people elect representatives to make decisions on their

behalf The United States is a republic not a direct democracy 2 What was the significance of the Great Compromise at the Constitutional Convention Answer The Great Compromise resolved the conflict between large and small states over representation in Congress It created a bicameral legislature with the House of Representatives based on population and the Senate with equal representation for each state 3 Identify two key weaknesses of the s of Confederation Answer Weak national government It lacked the power to effectively enforce laws regulate trade or collect taxes Lack of a national currency This hindered interstate commerce and economic stability 4 What is the purpose of the principle of separation of powers Answer Separation of powers divides government power among three branches legislative executive judicial to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful Each branch has distinct responsibilities and powers 5 What is the significance of the Bill of Rights Answer The Bill of Rights protects individual liberties against government infringement It guarantees fundamental rights like freedom of speech religion press assembly and the 5 right to bear arms IV Essay 5 points Explain the role of the Constitution in shaping the American government Include a discussion of the principles of popular sovereignty limited government individual rights and the system of checks and balances Answer The Constitution of the United States serves as the foundational document of the American government establishing its framework and defining the balance of power within the federal system Its creation was a significant milestone in American history replacing the s of Confederation and establishing a more stable and effective system of governance The Constitution embodies several core principles that continue to shape American governance today Popular Sovereignty The Constitution establishes the principle of popular sovereignty meaning that the governments power derives from the consent of the governed This is evident in the process of electing representatives where the people choose those who will make decisions on their behalf Limited Government The Constitution embraces the concept of limited government restricting the powers of the government and safeguarding individual liberties It outlines specific powers granted to the federal government while reserving other powers for the states and the people Individual Rights The Bill of Rights which was added to the Constitution in 1791 enshrines individual rights that are protected against government encroachment These rights include freedom of speech religion the press and assembly as well as the right to bear arms and protection against unreasonable searches and seizures Checks and Balances The Constitution establishes a system of checks and balances among the three branches of government the legislative executive and judicial Each branch has specific powers and can limit the power of the other branches ensuring that no single branch becomes too dominant This system prevents tyranny and promotes a more balanced and accountable government In conclusion the Constitution of the United States has played a critical role in shaping the

American government establishing a framework based on democratic principles individual liberties and a system of checks and balances It has served as the cornerstone of American governance for over two centuries guiding the nation through periods of change and ensuring the preservation of fundamental values

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