

# Unit 2 Test

Friday, March 11, 2016 9:25 AM

untitled

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The origins of checks and balances in the U.S. political system can be traced to the
  - A. French monarchy.
  - B. Roman Republic.
  - C. Greek aristocracy.
  - D. Aztec Empire.
  
2. In designing the legislative branch, the writers of the Constitution mainly based their ideas on the
  - A. French Estates General.
  - B. Congress of Vienna.
  - C. Council of Trent.
  - D. English Parliament.
  
3. The Declaration of Independence elaborates on the Enlightenment idea of
  - A. natural rights.
  - B. collective ownership.
  - C. religious freedom.
  - D. political equality.
  
4. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, prohibiting the federal government from making any law "respecting an establishment of religion," was one response to the
  - A. attempts by Maryland to make Catholicism the official state religion.
  - B. increasing number of Puritans arriving in the country.
  - C. religious persecution exhibited by the Church of England.
  - D. antireligious sentiments expressed during the Great Awakening.
  
5. Which action is an example of the right to petition?
  - A. Writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper about litter in the park
  - B. Asking a local civic group to pay for playground equipment
  - C. Meeting with the student council about rules for the playground
  - D. Getting signatures on a request to the mayor for a new city park



6. The following is an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence:

“That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness), it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it...”

How did the writers of the U.S. Constitution ensure that the government would not damage the rights stated in the Declaration of Independence? Support your answer with evidence.

7. One of the basic principles stated in the U.S. Constitution is the division of power between the federal and state governments. What is this principle called?
- A. judicial review
  - B. representative democracy
  - C. federalism
  - D. territorialism
8. Which document explained how the government of the United States was to be set up, and what the government could and could not do?
- A. the Declaration of Independence
  - B. the Constitution of the United States
  - C. the Gettysburg Address
  - D. the Emancipation Proclamation

9. Use the excerpt below to answer the following question.

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States...

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States ...

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water...

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions...

—excerpt from *Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution*

Which congressional power described above was *not* a power of Congress under the Articles of Confederation?

- A. the power to collect taxes
- B. the power to borrow money
- C. the power to declare war
- D. the power to repel invasions



10. Use the quote below to answer the following question.

What, sir, is the genius of democracy?—that government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community . . . and that whenever any government shall be found inadequate, or contrary to those purposes, a majority of the community hath an indubitable, unalienable, and indefeasible right to reform, alter, or abolish it. . . .

This, sir, is the language of democracy—that a majority of the community have a right to alter government when found to be oppressive. But how different is the genius of your new Constitution from this! How different from the sentiments of freemen, that a contemptible minority can prevent the good of the majority! . . . If, sir, amendments are left to the twentieth, or tenth part of the people of America, your liberty is gone forever. . . .

—Patrick Henry, Virginia  
Ratifying Convention, 1788

What concern about the new Constitution did Patrick Henry express in these remarks?

- A. that it gave an unfair advantage to the smaller states
- B. that it offered solutions to problems that were not important
- C. that it left the new nation at the mercy of foreign enemies
- D. that it gave government too much power over the people

11. The delegates at the Constitutional Convention faced the following two conflicting challenges:

- the need to strengthen the federal government
- the need to represent state interests in Congress

Which statement explains how the Great Compromise addressed these challenges?

- A. It called for a one-house legislative branch in which each state would be represented equally with one vote.
- B. It called for a two-house legislative branch in which states would be represented equally in one house and by the state's population in the other house.
- C. It called for a one-house legislative branch in which each state would be represented according to its population.
- D. It called for a two-house legislative branch in which seats in both houses would be determined by the state's population.

12. American democracy has its roots in political ideas borrowed from

- A. the Incas.
- B. the Vikings.
- C. the ancient Greeks.
- D. the ancient Egyptians.



13. The painting below shows New Yorkers in a coffee house reading and talking about the newly drafted U.S. Constitution. Much of the voting public worried about the Constitution's lack of protection of individual rights. They were promised a Bill of Rights to increase such protection.

**The Bill of Rights**



Howard Pyle, *New York Coffee House*, ca. 1890  
© The Granger Collection, New York

Which of the following best describes the United States Constitution?

- A. a history of a people
- B. a plan of government
- C. a set of religious laws
- D. a declaration of independence

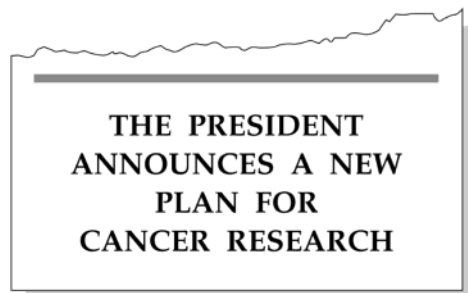
14. Read Article II from the Articles of Confederation presented below.

Each State Retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every Power, jurisdiction and right, which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled. (1781)

The United States Constitution and Article II above are similar because they both give states powers

- A. not specifically granted or limited to Congress
- B. that are exercised only within state borders
- C. that are needed to maintain independence
- D. not used or wanted by the national government

15. Read the newspaper headline below.



Which of these goals of the United States government is reflected in the President's announcement?

- A. establishing justice
- B. ensuring domestic tranquility
- C. promoting the general welfare
- D. providing for the common defense





16. Which of these was an opinion held by opponents to the Constitution in 1787?

- A. The Constitution gave the state governments too much power.
- B. A bill of rights should be added to the Constitution.
- C. The Articles of Confederation had too many weaknesses.
- D. A strong central government was needed for protection.

17. Which of these quotes from the Constitutional Convention *best* represents the principle of separation of powers?

- A. "The preservation of the States ...is indispensable."
- B. "The purse and sword must not be in the same hands."
- C. "The people can not know or judge the characters of Candidates."
- D. "Look to the votes in Congress, and most of them stand divided by the geography of the country..."

18. Which of these principles of government is demonstrated when the Maryland Court of Appeals declares a Maryland state law unconstitutional?

- A. federalism
- B. popular sovereignty
- C. checks and balances
- D. representative democracy

19. The process of amending the Constitution is an example of federalism because it requires

- A. approval of two-thirds of the Supreme Court
- B. unanimous approval of both the President and Congress
- C. unanimous approval of both state and local governments
- D. approval of two-thirds of Congress and three-fourths of the states



20. Read the quotation below.

“...in all that people can individually do for themselves, government ought not to interfere.”

*Abraham Lincoln*

Which of these constitutional principles *best* applies to this quote?

- A. rule of law
- B. due process
- C. limited government
- D. separation of powers

21. Read the scenario below.

The Maryland government is expanding a major highway to reduce traffic congestion. The state will take the private property it needs and compensate the owners for their land.

Which of these allows the government action described above?

- A. judicial review
- B. eminent domain
- C. affirmative action
- D. popular sovereignty

22. Which of these principles of government is demonstrated when the governor of Maryland vetoes a bill?

- A. federalism
- B. popular sovereignty
- C. checks and balances
- D. representative democracy

23. The right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure is an example of

- A. delegated power
- B. judicial review
- C. general welfare
- D. limited government



24. Read the excerpts below. Then answer the following question(s).

Article 1

“That all government of right originates from the people;...they have...the right to alter, reform, or abolish their form of Government...”

Article 24

“That no man ought to be taken or imprisoned...but by the judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land.”

—*Maryland Declaration of Rights*

Which of these constitutional principles is described in Article 1 of the *Maryland Declaration of Rights*?

- A. The people should have equal protection under the law.
- B. State governments and the federal government share powers.
- C. The people in a democratic society give their consent to be governed.
- D. Each branch of the government has powers over the other branches.

25. Read the paragraph below.

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution thereof, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people thereof.”

—*Article 3, Declaration of Rights, Constitution of Maryland*

What principle of government is *best* reflected in the article above?

- A. federalism
- B. majority rule
- C. judicial review
- D. checks and balances

26. Read the quotation below.

**“Our citizens have wisely formed themselves into one nation as to others and several States as among themselves. . .”**

—*Thomas Jefferson, 1801*

The quotation refers to the principle of

- A. federalism
- B. rule of law
- C. majority rule
- D. separation of powers



27. Read the excerpt below.

“After [dividing] the several classes of power, as they may in their nature be legislative, executive, or judiciary, the next and most difficult task is to provide some practical security for each, against the invasion of the others.”

—*The Federalist, No. 48*

Which of these principles of government is described in the excerpt?

- A. due process
- B. popular sovereignty
- C. checks and balances
- D. representative democracy

28. Which of these is a characteristic of the United States system of government?

- A. State governments may choose to ignore national laws.
- B. The executive and legislative powers of government are combined into one branch.
- C. The executive branch of government can choose to dissolve the judicial branch.
- D. The powers of government are divided between the national and state governments.

29. Read the excerpt below.

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution ... are reserved to the States ... or to the people. ...”

— *Article 3, Maryland Declaration of Rights*

Which of these principles of government is described in the excerpt?

- A. Citizens elect representatives in government to make laws.
- B. Each branch of government has different responsibilities.
- C. State governments exist at the will of the federal government.
- D. Powers are divided among different levels of government.

30. Which of these excerpts from the United States Constitution *best* reflects the principle of checks and balances?

- A. “This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States ... shall be the supreme Law of the Land. ...”
- B. “All persons born or naturalized in the United States ... are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”
- C. “Every Bill which shall have passed [Congress] shall, before it becomes a Law, be presented to the President of the United States.”
- D. “The [listing] in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be [interpreted] to deny ... others retained by the people.”





31. Read the quotation below.

“The Government of [the United States], then, is . . . truly a government of the people. . . . Its powers are granted by them, and are to be exercised directly on them for their benefit.”

—John Marshall, 1810

Which of these constitutional principles *best* applies to Marshall’s quotation?

- A. judicial review
- B. checks and balances
- C. separation of powers
- D. representative democracy

32. Read the excerpt below.

“In [creating] a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: You must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place, [make it] control itself.”

*The Federalist No. 51*

Which of these principles is *best* reflected in the excerpt?

- A. majority rule
- B. popular sovereignty
- C. limited government
- D. representative democracy

33. Read the headline below.



**House of Representatives proposes amendment to ban flag burning**



Which principle of government would be affected by the proposed amendment?



- A. individual rights
- B. popular sovereignty
- C. separation of powers
- D. checks and balances





34. Which of these excerpts from the Constitution describes federalism?

A.  The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases . . . arising under this Constitution. . . . 

B.  The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution . . . are reserved to the States. . . . 

C.  The right of citizens . . . who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied . . . on account of age. 

D.  The right of the people to be secure in their persons . . . against unreasonable searches . . . shall not be violated. . . . 

35. Read the excerpt below.

“The right of citizens . . . to vote shall not be denied . . . on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.”

—*U.S. Constitution, Amendment 15*

Which of these principles of government is reflected in this amendment?

- A. judicial review
- B. federalism
- C. separation of powers
- D. popular sovereignty

36. The U.S. Constitution corrected a weakness of the Articles of Confederation by

- A. establishing a national legislature
- B. allowing state governments to have power
- C. requiring that amendments be approved by the states
- D. giving the national government the power to collect taxes



37. According to the U.S. Constitution, which of these actions is a power of the states?

- A. coining money
- B. establishing post offices
- C. conducting elections
- D. raising an army

38. Read the excerpt below.

“That all Government of right originates from the People . . . and they have, at all times, the inalienable right to alter, reform or abolish their Form of Government. . . .”

—Article 1, Declaration of Rights, Constitution of Maryland

Which of these principles of government is stated in the excerpt?

- A. equal protection
- B. rule of law
- C. separation of powers
- D. consent of the governed

39. Read the excerpt below.

“No freeman [person] shall be taken or imprisoned, . . . unless by the lawful judgment of his peers. . . .”

—Magna Carta, 1215

Which of these constitutional principles is described in the excerpt?

- A. Government leaders are chosen by the people.
- B. Citizens will receive a fair price for land taken for public use.
- C. Citizens accused of crimes will be heard by an impartial jury.

40. Chris challenged the law in his home state that allowed the chief of police to identify him as “a dangerous driver” based on observation. This classification denied him the right to renew his driver’s license. Chris successfully argued that he was entitled to a hearing before the state could post his name on the dangerous driver list.

Which constitutional principle does the scenario represent?

- A. judicial review
- B. due process of law
- C. popular sovereignty
- D. checks and balances



41. “It is equally evident, that the members of each department should be as little dependent as possible on those of the others. . . . Were the executive magistrate, or the judges, not independent of the legislature in this particular, their independence in every other would be merely nominal.”  
—*Federalist No. 51*

Which constitutional principle is described in the quotation?

- A. federalism
- B. due process
- C. judicial review
- D. separation of powers

42. If the public safety be provided, liberty . . . secured, justice administered . . . the true interest of the nation advanced . . .  
Algernon Sidney, 1698

Which concept does this quote express?

- A. democracy
- B. common good
- C. taxation
- D. isolationism

43. Popular sovereignty is the political principle that all political authority within a society is derived from the will or consent of its people. Which idea is expressed in the concept of popular sovereignty?

- A. The most popular candidates represent the people.
- B. The federal government has supreme authority over the states.
- C. The power of the government comes from its citizens.
- D. The educated are uniquely qualified to control the political system.

44. The Council of the Mohawk shall be divided into three parties . . . The third party is to listen only to the discussion of the first and second parties, and if an error is made or the proceeding is irregular they are to call attention to it, and when the case is right and properly decided by the two parties they shall confirm the decision of the two parties and refer the case to the Seneca Lords for their decision.

*The Constitution of the Iroquois Nations*

Which principle of government found in the Iroquois Constitution influenced the framing of the U.S. Constitution?

- A. popular sovereignty
- B. unicameralism
- C. separation of powers
- D. federalism





45. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

The Declaration of Independence

According to this excerpt, what condition is sufficient cause for people to form a new government?

- A. Citizens become disappointed with election results.
- B. Government becomes the major employer.
- C. Citizens become apathetic to the laws.
- D. Government becomes oppressive to its citizens.

46. How does the U.S. Constitution conform to John Locke's social contract theory?

- A. The government operates on a system of law that is based on contracts and statutes.
- B. Citizens transfer some rights to government in exchange for social order.
- C. States retain sovereign powers and are joined by confederation.
- D. People agree to a social system guided by conscience.

47. A section of the United States Constitution is shown.

We, the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ...and secure the Blessings of liberty ...do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

—Preamble to the United States Constitution

This quotation refers to which principle of the United States government?

- A. People are guaranteed a decent standard of living.
- B. People are the true source of political power.
- C. People have a right to a just trial by jury.
- D. People have the freedom to assemble.

48. Use the excerpt to answer the following question.

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

—Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

The Tenth Amendment was added to the Constitution to resolve which of the following topics of debate surrounding the development of the Constitution?

- A. division of powers among branches of government
- B. the annexation of new lands into the country
- C. balance between national and state government power
- D. the representation of states in the legislative houses



49. Which of these parts of the United States Constitution contains fundamental liberties of American citizens?
- A. Preamble
  - B. Article I, Section 8 — Enumerated Powers
  - C. Article III — Judicial Branch
  - D. Amendments 1–10 — Bill of Rights

50. Use the quotation below from the United States Constitution to answer the following question.

“The right of citizens of the United States who are eighteen years of age or older to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or [by] any State on account of age.”

—Section 1, Twenty-sixth Amendment, ratified in 1971

Which *best* accounts for the ratification of the Twenty-sixth Amendment?

- A. the need to make citizens between ages 18 and 21 eligible for college tuition loans
- B. the need to ensure that states did not impose a poll tax or any other kind of tax to prevent citizens from voting
- C. the desire to be certain that states with small populations were equal in influence to those with large populations
- D. the growing demand by citizens between ages 18 and 21 to be granted suffrage

51. The Bill of Rights gives Americans freedom of the press. What does this freedom mean?

- A. All newspapers should be free for anyone who wants them.
- B. The government cannot say what should be printed in newspapers.
- C. Printing presses should be available for everyone to use for free.
- D. The government cannot stop anyone from giving speeches.

52. Americans are able to criticize their government without fear of punishment because they have a right to

- A. a fair trial.
- B. assemble peacefully.
- C. practice any religion.
- D. free speech.



53. Use the passage below to answer the following question.

Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievance.

This passage is from the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It includes the right of people to

- A. refuse to pay taxes.
- B. protest government policies.
- C. break the law for religious reasons.
- D. determine how crimes should be punished.

54. Why was the Bill of Rights added to the United States Constitution?

- A. to ensure rights of foreigners
- B. to ensure slaves' right to vote
- C. to protect the federal government from the states
- D. to protect the individual rights of citizens from government abuse