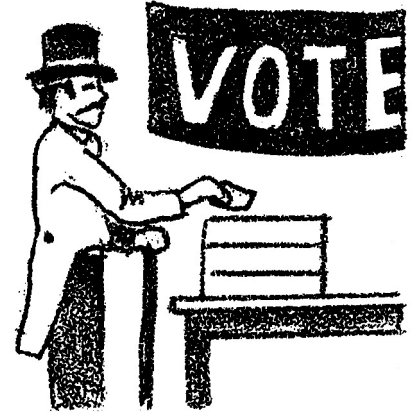


PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of the United States is based on such fundamental principles of government as representative democracy, separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism. In a representative democracy, government is controlled by the people and their representatives. Separation of powers is the sharing of power by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. The system of checks and balances prevents one branch from exercising too much power. Federalism is the division of power between the national, or federal, government and the state governments. These principles have influenced the organization and function of American government since the Constitution was adopted in 1788.



Game Rules

- (1) Put the numbers 1 through 9 inside of the nine small corner spaces on the Game 1 form on these pages. **SCRAMBLE THE NUMBERS INSTEAD OF ARRANGING THEM IN ORDER.**
- (2) Play begins when the teacher announces a number between 1 and 9. Put this number in the box next to question 1 below. Then read question 1 and choose the answer that you think is correct. Find the announced number on your game form and write the answer in the large space next to it. Play continues in this way until five numbers have been announced and five answers have been filled in on the game form.
- (3) Papers will be exchanged and correct answers read. Points will be scored as follows:
10 points for each correct answer.
10-point bonus for three correct answers in a row — either across, down, or diagonally.
(Note: It is possible to earn two 10-point bonuses by having three right answers in a row in two different directions.)
- (4) When checking a person's paper, put their total points in the space below the game form. The highest possible score is 70 points. Games 2 through 4 will be played in the same way.

Game 1: Representative Democracy

1. The Preamble to the Constitution states: "We the people of the United States . . . do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." In a democracy, it is the people and their (appointed; elected) representatives who establish and change the fundamental rules of government.
2. The national government gets its authority from the American people through the Constitution. The Constitution defines the goals of the national government and what it (can; can and cannot) do.
3. According to the Constitution, the national government's purpose is to "establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of (liberty; equality)" for the American people.
4. The United States government relies on the consent of the people. The people elect their fellow citizens to represent them in making laws and in other matters. At the national level, voters choose a President every four years. Members of the Senate serve 6-year terms. Lawmakers in the House of Representatives are elected to (2-year terms; 4-year terms).

5. American citizens can change the Constitution. An amendment may be proposed by Congress or a national convention called by Congress. The amendment becomes part of the Constitution after being ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states or by conventions in (two-thirds; three-fourths) of the states.

Game 2: Separation of Powers

6. Three separate branches — legislative, executive, and judicial — share the powers of the United States government. The idea that government powers ought to be divided was originally suggested by Baron de Montesquieu, a French political philosopher. The first three (articles; amendments) of the Constitution spell out how the powers of government are to be shared.
7. The legislative branch includes the Congress, which is made up of the Senate and House of Representatives. The Senate has 100 members, 2 from each state. In the House of Representatives, usually called simply the House, the number of representatives from each state is based on the state's population. The House has (212; 435) members.
8. Making laws is the main job of Congress. During each two-year session, senators and representatives introduce up to 10,000 bills (proposed laws). In that period, Congress passes, and the President signs into law, about (600; 6,000) bills.
9. The President is the head of the executive branch. The President enforces federal laws, directs the preparation of the federal budget, and appoints many high-ranking officials. Other duties include being the commander in chief of the armed forces, directing foreign and national security affairs, recommending new laws to Congress, and negotiating (treaties with other countries; contracts with national labor unions).
10. The judicial branch interprets the nation's laws. It is made up of a system of federal courts and judges. The Supreme Court of the United States is the highest court in the nation. The courts' most important power is judicial review — their authority to overturn laws they judge (unethical; unconstitutional).

Game 3: Checks and Balances

11. The system of checks and balances makes sure that each branch acts only within its constitutional limits. Each branch has some powers that check, or limit, those of the other two. This prevents any single government group or official from becoming (irresponsible; too powerful).
12. The President may veto bills approved by Congress. The threat of a veto can influence the way (Congress; the President) writes a bill, so that it is more likely to become a law.
13. Congress can investigate the actions of the executive branch. The House of Representatives may bring impeachment (misconduct) charges against an official, such as the President. The accused official is then tried by the (Senate; Supreme Court), and can be removed from office by a two-thirds vote.
14. Congress has the power to limit most of the President's powers. Congress must approve the federal budget and the President's legislative plans. It can override a President's veto of a bill by a (two-thirds; three-fourths) vote in both the Senate and House.

15. The judicial branch can check the power of the executive and legislative branches, as well as state and local governments. Any court in the United States can declare laws or the actions of public officials illegal if they conflict with the U.S. Constitution. Since the early 1800s, the Supreme Court has overturned all or parts of more than 100 federal laws and over (100; 1,000) state laws.

Game 4: Federalism

16. Federalism is a system in which power is divided between the national, or federal, government and the governments of each state. This division of power is set forth (in state law; in the Constitution).
17. The powers specifically given to the national government are known as “delegated powers.” They are also sometimes called “enumerated” or “expressed” powers. An example of a delegated power is the (making of motor vehicle laws; coining of money).
18. “Reserved powers” are held by the individual state governments. They include all powers not specifically delegated to the national government or denied to the states. An example of a reserved power of the state governments is (declaring war; providing public education).
19. Some powers have been given to both the national and state governments. These “concurrent powers” include (collecting taxes; making treaties with foreign countries).
20. In a federal system, a national law and a state law may occasionally say two different things about the same issue. In such an instance, the “supremacy clause” in Article VI of the Constitution says that the (national law; state law) is to be followed.

GAME 1		
Total Points Scored		<input type="text"/>

GAME 2		
Total Points Scored		<input type="text"/>

GAME 3		
Total Points Scored		<input type="text"/>

GAME 4		
Total Points Scored		<input type="text"/>

Principles of the Constitution

Multiple-Choice

- (1) _____ Victorious Senate candidates serve: (a) 2-year terms (b) 4-year terms
(c) 6-year terms
- (2) _____ An amendment proposed by Congress can become part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures in: (a) half of the states (b) two-thirds of the states
(c) three-fourths of the states
- (3) _____ The main job of Congress is to: (a) interpret the laws (b) make the laws
(c) enforce the laws
- (4) _____ The number of representatives each state has in the House is: (a) based on
election results (b) determined by each state's population (c) the same for every
state
- (5) _____ When a national law and a state law say different things about the same issue:
(a) the national law must be obeyed (b) the state law must be obeyed because of
the supremacy clause (c) either law can be followed

True/False

- (6) _____ The national government gets its authority from the American people through
the Declaration of Independence.
- (7) _____ The President prepares the federal budget, directs national security affairs,
and appoints many high-ranking officials.
- (8) _____ In a federal system, power is divided between the national government and
the governments of each state.
- (9) _____ When the President is against a proposed law, he overrides it.
- (10) _____ The Constitution states that one of the purposes of the national government is
to "secure the blessings of liberty" for the American people.

Matching

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| (11) _____ Preamble | (a) type of government in which voters elect their fellow
citizens to represent them in making laws in Congress |
| (12) _____ democracy | (b) proposed laws that are introduced in Congress by
senators and representatives |
| (13) _____ amendments | (c) the authority that courts have to overturn laws they
believe are unconstitutional |
| (14) _____ separation of powers | (d) a system that enables one branch of government to
limit the power of another branch |
| (15) _____ bills | (e) powers given specifically to the national government
by the Constitution |
| (16) _____ judicial review | (f) "We the people of the United States . . . do ordain
and establish this Constitution for the United States
of America." |
| (17) _____ checks and balances | (g) the sharing of power among three branches of
government |
| (18) _____ delegated powers | (h) changes or additions to the Constitution |
| (19) _____ reserved powers | (i) powers given to both the national and state
governments |
| (20) _____ concurrent powers | (j) powers held by the states; include all powers not given
to the national government or denied to the states |