American Government Quiz

1. The Bill of Rights was added to the U.S. Constitution primarily to—
   a. provide the President with power in times of emergency
   b. establish fair and impartial elections
   c. protect individual liberties
   d. guarantee voting privileges to minorities

2. The Federalists wrote articles called the Federalists Papers about their opinions about the government, which of the following best explains the viewpoint of the Federalists?
   a. They helped persuade some states to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
   b. They convinced the colonists to rebel against Great Britain.
   c. They presented the first legal arguments in favor of slavery.
   d. They outlined plans for the future expansion of the United States.

3. The Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution are similar in that both documents provide for—
   a. a national system of government
   b. a system of national taxation
   c. unanimous approval of amendments by the states
   d. a large standing army

"Liberty includes the liberty to believe as our conscience and reason direct."

--Thomas Jefferson

4. Where is this principle most clearly demonstrated?
   a. Declaration of Independence
   b. First Amendment
   c. Rights of the accused
   d. Checks and Balances system

5. Which statement belongs in the box with the question mark?
   a. Elections in the House of Representatives occur every two years.
   b. The U.S. Congress must approve all taxes
   c. The Congress cannot spend more than is provided in its budget
   d. U.S. Senators must serve a six-year term of office.
Use the information in the box and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following question.

- Sugar Act
- Stamp Act
- Townshend Acts
- Tea Act

6. American colonists protested against the acts listed in the box above because they believed the acts directly violated their—
   a. right to a free education    b. religious freedom    c. right to bear arms    d. economic rights

7. The unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness acknowledge the rights of the—
   a. community    b. military    c. ruler    d. individual

Use the excerpt and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following question.

In my opinion, in light of the intelligence, the idealism, and the educational achievement of the youth of today . . . the youngsters today are being discriminated against just as the women were until a few decades ago.

— Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, 1971

8. It can be inferred from the excerpt above that Senator Mansfield advocated the right of 18-year-olds to—
   a. enlist in the army    b. marry the person of their choice    c. attend the college of their choice    d. vote in national elections

9. Which document provided for the establishment of a weak central government?

10. The U.S. Constitution is considered an evolving document because it—
    a. has roots in earlier political documents and contains processes that allow for change
    b. depends on citizens who are willing to protect liberty and justice
    c. establishes a political system designed to control the use as well as the misuse of power
    d. creates a framework that defines the authority of the state and federal governments

Use the excerpt and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following question.
Excerpt from the Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed.

11. The provisions made in this excerpt were intended to address which of the following grievances listed in the Declaration of Independence?

a. “For imposing taxes on us without our consent…”
b. “For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us…”
c. “For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world…”
d. “For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offenses…”

Use the poster and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following question.

CONGRESSIONAL UNION
FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE
Mass Meeting
BELASCO THEATRE
Sunday, December 12
5:00 P.M.

SPEAKERS
Mrs. Sara Delilah, Organ of Women's Rights, California
Miss Frances Charlotte, Author of Woman's Rights, New York
Senator George Washington, Republican
Representative James Madison, Democrat
Miss Mary Jackson, Educator, California

TICKETS $1.25, $1.00, $0.75, $0.50
Open to the public

12. The poster above used which of the following to advertise a meeting in support of women’s suffrage?


Use the quote and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following question.

Thomas Jefferson is a firm Republican,--John Adams is an avowed Monarchist....Thomas Jefferson first drew the declaration of American independence;--he first framed the sacred political sentence that all men are born equal. John Adams says this is all a false and a falsehood; that some men should be born Kings, and some should be born Nobles....Will you, by your votes, contribute to make the avowed friend of monarchy President?--or will you, by neglectfully staying at home, permit others to saddle you with Political Slavery?

1796 Jeffersonian election statement

13. The author of the above statement is likely a—

14. Which title belongs in the center box?

   a. Principles of the Constitution  
   b. Our Colonial heritage  
   c. British documents  
   d. Documents that influenced American Government

15. The Bill of Rights was added to the U.S. Constitution to ________

   a. give more power to the central government  
   b. protect the basic rights of all American citizens.  
   c. establish a government similar to the British system  
   d. protect the rights of those who fought against the British

16. Which of the following violates freedom of the press?

   a. A newspaper office building is destroyed by fire  
   b. A speeding ticket is issued to a television news reporter  
   c. A journalist is arrested for criticizing a government policy  
   d. An all-news radio station is required to purchase a broadcast license

17. Which of these institutions of the British colonies in North America was a model for the government established by the U.S. Constitution?

   a. An appointed governor  
   b. A representative assembly  
   c. An independent judiciary  
   d. A hereditary monarchy

18. The Great Compromise reached at the Constitutional Convention of 1787 dealt with the issue of ________

   a. Representation of the states in Congress  
   b. Limitation of the president to two consecutive terms  
   c. Appointing judges for a term of good behavior  
   d. Creating a system in which power is shared by national and state governments

19. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 was one of the most important laws passed under the Articles of Confederation. This law established ________

   a. an executive branch of government to enforce federal laws  
   b. a federal bank to control the printing of money  
   c. a policy to admit western territories as equal states  
   d. an agency to oversee commerce in western lands
20. In 1787 many of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention opposed ratification of the U.S. Constitution because of its failure to —

a. include a bill of rights
b. reduce states’ rights
c. eliminate slavery
d. establish a foreign-trade policy

21. Anti-Federalists had many of their concerns about the U.S. Constitution satisfied through the approval of the —

a. Bill of Rights
b. electoral college
c. Three-Fifths Compromise
d. Treaty of Paris

22. In 1787 Congress established a system for creating new states from western territories —

A through the Monroe Doctrine
B through the Northwest Ordinance
C with the Treaty of Paris
D with the approval of the Three-Fifths Compromise

General Characteristics of Two Government Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Democracy</th>
<th>Dictatorship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multiparty system</td>
<td>Single-party system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>Censorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian control of police</td>
<td>Police controlled by the dictator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22 Which of the following best completes the table above?
F Freedom of movement
G Military tribunals
H Cult of personality
J Freedom of the press

How did the delegates to the Constitutional Convention settle the issue described above?

F Three-Fifths Compromise
G New Jersey Plan
H Virginia Plan
J Mason-Dixon Line
Use the diagram and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following question.

30 Which of the following best completes the diagram above?

F Women's suffrage
G Abolition of slavery
H Right to petition
J Freedom from poll taxes

5 Which title best completes the diagram above?

A Freedom from Unreasonable Searches
B Freedom of Speech
C Right to Vote
D Right to Bear Arms
5 Which document belongs in the center circle?
   A Magna Carta  
   B Declaration of Independence  
   C Articles of Confederation  
   D Bill of Rights

16 Which idea best completes this diagram?
   F Representation by presidential appointment  
   G Representation based on a state's date of admission  
   H Representation based on a state's population  
   J Representation with term limits
In what year would the headline shown above have been published?

F 1756
G 1787
H 1803
J 1821

Powers Denied to Congress Under the Articles of Confederation

• Taxation
• Trade regulation
• Tariffs

30. Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress was denied the powers above because the —

A courts were given absolute authority
B citizens feared a strong central government
C citizens lacked interest in business matters
D courts were responsible for regulating business activity

That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people…

― Virginia Declaration of Rights, 1776

31. It can be concluded from the excerpt above that in Virginia the citizens —
   a. must uphold the separation of church and state
   b. are required to serve in the military
   c. must perform jury duty each year
   d. are the source of the government’s authority

32. The Bill of Rights includes —
   A the right to own slaves
   B women’s suffrage
   C freedom of the press
   D the right to vote by secret ballot