

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Ratifying the Republic: A 3/5ths and Federalist Quiz for 8th Grade

Factionalism, bicameralism, and executive precedence — analyze the systemic frictions that transformed a loose confederation into a cohesive federal authority.

1. Which specific failure of the Articles of Confederation was most directly illustrated by the Spanish closure of the Mississippi River in 1784?

Answer: B) The lack of a centralized diplomatic voice to negotiate navigation rights

Under the Articles, the central government was too weak to project power abroad or compel states to follow national treaties, making it impossible to effectively negotiate with Spain over vital trade routes.

2. The ____, proposed by William Paterson, sought to preserve the power of smaller states by maintaining a unicameral legislature with equal representation.

Answer: C) New Jersey Plan

The New Jersey Plan was the 'small state' alternative to the Virginia Plan; it argued for a one-vote-per-state system to prevent larger states from dominating the federal government.

3. The Anti-Federalists believed that the 'Necessary and Proper' clause granted the federal government dangerously vague and unlimited power.

Answer: A) True

Anti-Federalists like Brutus argued that the Elastic Clause (Necessary and Proper) would eventually allow the central government to subvert the authority of state governments entirely.

4. How did the Residency Act of 1790 serve as a critical tool for political synthesis during the Early Republic?

Answer: C) It functioned as a compromise to secure Southern support for federal debt assumption

This was the famous 'Dinner Table Bargain' where Hamilton gained the votes for his financial plan in exchange for placing the national capital in the South (Washington D.C.).

5. Authored by Madison and Jefferson, the ____ introduced the theory of nullification, suggesting states could declare federal laws unconstitutional.

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Answer: B) Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions

In response to the Alien and Sedition Acts, these resolutions argued that the Constitution was a compact between states and that states had the right to 'nullify' overreaching federal laws.

6. George Washington's 'Farewell Address' discouraged the formation of permanent foreign alliances and the growth of political factions.

Answer: A) True

Washington used his final address to warn that partisan 'factions' and foreign entanglements would threaten the stability and unity of the young United States.

7. Which structural feature of the Constitution was designed specifically to mitigate the 'tyranny of the majority' that the Founders feared?

Answer: B) The establishment of the Electoral College

The Electoral College was viewed as a buffer between the direct will of the people and the selection of the executive, reflecting the Founders' skepticism of pure democracy.

8. The ____ of 1794 was the first major test of federal internal authority, proving the new government could suppress domestic unrest with an organized military force.

Answer: C) Whiskey Rebellion

Unlike Shays' Rebellion, which the Articles could not stop, Washington's response to the Whiskey Rebellion demonstrated that the new Constitution provided the executive with sufficient power.

9. The 'Three-Fifths Compromise' actually decreased the political power of Southern states in the House of Representatives compared to counting enslaved people as full persons.

Answer: A) True

While morally reprehensible, the South wanted enslaved people to count as '1' to maximize their seats in Congress; the North wanted them to count as '0'. '3/5' was a reduction of the South's desired power.

10. In 'Federalist No. 10,' James Madison argues that the best way to control the effects of factions is through:

Answer: C) A large republic where many interests cancel each other out

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Madison argued that in a large republic, there would be so many different interest groups (factions) that no single one could gain enough power to oppress the minority.