

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Nail the Framework of the 11th Grade New Republic

Examine how the early American legal architect's blueprint moved from a fragile alliance to a robust federal machine that still shapes modern courtrooms.

1. Which early document emphasized state sovereignty to the point that the national government could not settle disputes between states or regulate interstate commerce?

Answer: B) The Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation were intentionally designed to keep the central government weak, reflecting the fear of a distant, monarch-like authority.

2. The ____ Plan proposed a bicameral legislature with representation based solely on state population, favoring larger states during the Constitutional Convention.

Answer: C) Virginia

Presented by Edmund Randolph, the Virginia Plan sought to shift power toward more populous states, which led to the eventually balanced Great Compromise.

3. The Anti-Federalists generally opposed the new Constitution because they believed it lacked a specific list of protections for individual liberties.

Answer: A) True

Anti-Federalists feared federal overreach and insisted on a Bill of Rights as a condition for their support of the Constitution's ratification.

4. What was the primary goal of the 'Federalist Papers' written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay?

Answer: C) To persuade New York voters to ratify the Constitution

The Federalist Papers were a series of 85 essays designed to explain the necessity of a stronger federal government and encourage the ratification of the Constitution.

5. The ____ Amendment in the Bill of Rights was designed to reassure states that they retained all powers not specifically granted to the federal government.

Answer: C) Tenth

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The Tenth Amendment addresses the principle of federalism by reserving powers to the states or the people, balancing the authority of the national government.

6. Under the original Constitution before any amendments, the President and Vice President were elected on a single ticket together as a team.

Answer: B) False

Originally, the person with the most electoral votes became President and the runner-up became Vice President, which was later changed by the 12th Amendment.

7. Which event most directly demonstrated the federal government's new-found power to enforce its laws during Washington's presidency?

Answer: B) The Whiskey Rebellion

By leading troops to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion, Washington proved that the new executive branch had the will and ability to enforce federal tax laws.

8. To address the nation's debt, Alexander Hamilton proposed the creation of a _____ to manage government funds and print a stable national currency.

Answer: A) National Bank

The Bank of the United States was central to Hamilton's financial plan, though it sparked intense debate over the 'necessary and proper' clause of the Constitution.

9. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 is considered a success of the Articles of Confederation because it established a clear process for admitting new states.

Answer: A) True

While the Articles were generally weak, the Northwest Ordinance successfully organized western lands and banned slavery in the new territory.

10. The 'Elastic Clause' in Article I of the Constitution allows Congress to do which of the following?

Answer: B) Exercise powers not explicitly listed but necessary to carry out its duties

The Elastic Clause (Necessary and Proper Clause) provides the legal basis for 'implied powers,' allowing the government to adapt to changing national needs.