

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Dissect the Federal Blueprint: A College U.S. Constitution Quiz

Analyze intellectual frictions between the Enlightenment and pragmatism while weighing the fiscal and diplomatic stakes of a nation in its infancy.

1. The 1785 Mount Vernon Conference and the 1786 Annapolis Convention were critical precursors to the Philadelphia Convention primarily because they focused on:

Answer: B) Resolving interstate commercial disputes and navigation rights.

These meetings demonstrated that the Articles of Confederation were insufficient for managing interstate commerce, specifically regarding the Potomac River and trade barriers, leading to the call for a broader constitutional overhaul.

2. In the context of the ratification debates, the pseudonym _____ was used by the authors of the Federalist Papers to advocate for a rigorous central government.

Answer: C) Publius

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay wrote under the name 'Publius' to honor Publius Valerius Publicola, a founder of the Roman Republic.

3. The 'Report on Public Credit' proposed by the first Secretary of the Treasury argued that the federal government should assume state debts to tether the interests of wealthy creditors to the survival of the union.

Answer: A) True

Hamilton's assumption plan was a strategic move to ensure that the nation's financial elite had a vested interest in the stability and success of the federal government.

4. The 'Revolution of 1800' is historically significant in the development of the American Early Republic because it represented:

Answer: C) The peaceful transfer of power between opposing political factions.

The election of Thomas Jefferson marked the first time power shifted from one party (Federalists) to another (Democratic-Republicans) without violence, setting a global precedent.

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5. The Chisholm v. Georgia (1793) Supreme Court decision, which allowed citizens of one state to sue another state in federal court, was so controversial that it led directly to the ratification of the 11th Amendment.

Answer: A) True

States were outraged by the infringement on their sovereign immunity, leading to the first amendment enacted to overturn a Supreme Court ruling.

6. Which specific Enlightenment concept served as the primary justification for the 'Separation of Powers' as articulated in Federalist No. 51?

Answer: B) Montesquieu's Trias Politica

Baron de Montesquieu advocated for the distribution of government authority into executive, legislative, and judicial branches to prevent any one entity from becoming tyrannical.

7. The Neutrality Proclamation of 1793 was issued in response to the outbreak of war between Britain and France, effectively ignoring the obligations of the _____ treaty signed during the American Revolution.

Answer: C) Treaty of Alliance

The 1778 Treaty of Alliance with France was a defensive pact; Washington's administration argued it was void because the French monarchy that signed it had been overthrown.

8. The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, authored anonymously by Madison and Jefferson, introduced the radical theory of 'Nullification' in response to:

Answer: B) The Alien and Sedition Acts.

The resolutions argued that states had the right to declare federal laws unconstitutional if they exceeded the powers delegated by the Constitution, specifically targeting restrictions on free speech.

9. Fisher Ames and other 'High Federalists' were deeply concerned that the rise of _____ would lead to the same 'mobocracy' and violence seen during the French Reign of Terror.

Answer: B) Democratic Societies

Federalists viewed the local Democratic-Republican societies as dangerous, extra-constitutional 'factions' that incited civil unrest like the Whiskey Rebellion.

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10. In the 'Small Republic' argument, Anti-Federalist writers like Brutus contended that a large, diverse nation could not sustain a free republic because the representatives would be too removed from the concerns of their constituents.

Answer: A) True

Anti-Federalists believed that republican government required a homogenous population and small geographic area to ensure accountability and shared civic virtue.