

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Old Parchment, New World: The Constitution 10th Grade Quiz

Analyze the ideological shifts from the Rhode Island currency crisis to the legal nuances of the Supremacy Clause.

1. Which specific event in 1780s Rhode Island served as a catalyst for federalists to argue that state-led fiscal policies were becoming dangerously 'leveling' or radical?

Answer: B) The Printing of massive amounts of paper money to pay off state debts

Rhode Island's radical assembly issued massive amounts of depreciated paper money and forced creditors to accept it, which horrified nationalists like Hamilton and Madison, sparking the push for the Contract Clause.

2. To prevent the 'tyranny of the majority,' the Constitution established _____, which allowed for the indirect election of the President rather than a direct popular vote.

Answer: B) The Electoral College

The Electoral College was a compromise designed to balance the interests of large and small states while providing a buffer between the 'passions' of the general public and the selection of the executive.

3. The 'Necessary and Proper Clause' (Article I, Section 8) was viewed by Anti-Federalists like Brutus as an unlimited grant of power to the federal government.

Answer: A) True

Anti-Federalist writers, specifically 'Brutus,' argued that the 'Elastic Clause' would eventually grant the federal government the power to subvert state legislatures entirely.

4. Unlike the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution allowed the federal government to bypass state governments to interact directly with citizens through:

Answer: A) The power of federal taxation and law enforcement

A fundamental shift in the Constitution was the ability of the central government to tax individuals and enforce federal law directly rather than relying on state compliance.

5. The _____ of 1787 was a significant achievement of the Confederation Congress because it established the precedent that new territories would enter the Union as equal states, not colonies.

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Answer: C) Northwest Ordinance

The Northwest Ordinance provided a structured path to statehood and notably prohibited slavery in the territory north of the Ohio River.

6. The original Constitution of 1787 contained a specific clause that explicitly legalized the formation of political parties (factions).

Answer: B) False

The Framers generally abhorred political parties, viewing them as 'factions' that would destabilize the republic; the Constitution makes no mention of them.

7. In Federalist No. 10, James Madison argues that a large republic is better than a small one because:

Answer: C) Diverse interests make it harder for a single faction to form a majority

Madison theorized that a 'multiplicity of interests' in a large republic would prevent any one group from violating the rights of others.

8. The ____ Resolution, written by Thomas Jefferson, introduced the theory of 'nullification,' suggesting states had the right to void unconstitutional federal laws.

Answer: A) Kentucky

In response to the Alien and Sedition Acts, Jefferson and Madison wrote the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions to argue for state sovereignty in checking federal power.

9. Which specific provision in Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution protected the international slave trade from being banned by Congress until 1808?

Answer: C) The Migration or Importation Clause

The Constitution prohibited Congress from banning the 'migration or importation' of persons (referring to enslaved people) for twenty years after ratification.

10. The Chisholm v. Georgia (1793) Supreme Court case led directly to the ratification of the 11th Amendment to protect states from being sued in federal court.

Answer: A) True

Chisholm v. Georgia was the first major Supreme Court case; the 11th Amendment was quickly passed to overturn it and reinforce state sovereign immunity.

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