

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Ratifying the Republic: 8th Grade Constitution Analysis Quiz

Imagine arguing over the very laws that will define a new nation as you analyze the Supremacy Clause, Anti-Federalist concerns, and the 1787 Great Compromise.

1. Which specific constitutional provision was argued by the Anti-Federalists as a potential threat to state sovereignty?

Answer: B) The Supremacy Clause

Anti-Federalists feared the Supremacy Clause because it established that federal law takes precedence over state laws, potentially rendering state governments powerless.

2. True or False: Under the Articles of Confederation, the central government consisted of a unicameral legislature with no separate executive branch.

Answer: A) True

The Articles of Confederation lacked both a President and a federal court system, relying entirely on a single-house legislature where each state had one vote.

3. The _____ plan proposed at the Constitutional Convention favored larger states by suggesting representation should be based entirely on population.

Answer: C) Virginia

The Virginia Plan, drafted by James Madison, advocated for a bicameral legislature with representation based on state population or wealth.

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

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

The Federalist Papers were a series of 85 essays designed to explain the Constitution and encourage its ratification in the key state of New York.

5. True or False: The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 was significant because it established a process for admitting new states and prohibited slavery in the territory.

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Answer: A) True

This ordinance was one of the few successes of the Articles of Confederation, setting a precedent for territorial governance and the limitation of slavery's expansion.

6. Which of the following describes the 'Connecticut Compromise' (Great Compromise) regarding the structure of the legislative branch?

Answer: C) A dual house with one based on population and one on equal votes

Roger Sherman proposed a bicameral legislature to satisfy both large states (House of Representatives) and small states (Senate).

7. In Federalist No. 10, James Madison argued that a large republic would best control the 'mischiefs of _____.'

Answer: C) Factions

Madison argued that a large republic would prevent any single special interest group (faction) from dominating the government.

8. The 1794 Whiskey Rebellion was a significant turning point in the Early Republic because it demonstrated that:

Answer: A) The federal government had the power to enforce its laws

By sending troops to suppress the rebellion, Washington proved that the new Constitution provided a strong enough executive to maintain domestic order.

9. True or False: George Mason and Patrick Henry were leading Federalists who advocated for the immediate removal of the Bill of Rights.

Answer: B) False

Mason and Henry were Anti-Federalists who refused to support the Constitution until a Bill of Rights was promised to protect individual liberties.

10. The _____ of 1798 authorized the President to deport non-citizens deemed dangerous and made it a crime to criticize the government.

Answer: B) Alien and Sedition Acts

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These acts, passed during John Adams' presidency, were highly controversial and led to the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions regarding states' rights.