

Study Guide: Constitutional Era

Use your notes and Chapter 5, Constitution Handbook and U.S. Constitution in your text to answer the questions below

For each statement below, decide whether it describes the Constitution (C), the Articles of Confederation (AC), neither (N) or both (B)

- _____ no chief executive
- _____ strong legislature; weak executive and judicial branches
- _____ gives Congress power to tax
- _____ promotes idea of federalism
- _____ provides for no common currency
- _____ gave states votes according to population
- _____ provides for executive branch
- _____ includes method to amend (change)
- _____ created a monarchy
- _____ gave states one vote in Congress regardless of size or population
- _____ gave Congress power to regulate trade
- _____ result of colonists' fear of strong central power (like a king)
- _____ contained a bill of rights
- _____ provided for separation of powers
- _____ contained checks and balances
- _____ unanimous vote to amend

SHORT ANSWER

1. The Articles of Confederation government did agree on two key laws. The Land Ordinance of 1785 divided land in the Ohio Valley in such a way that small landowners could afford to buy property. What was the second law that set the procedure for future states to enter the Union as equals and banned slavery in the territories it governed.
2. Why did the Articles of Confederation govt fail?
3. What revolt led Madison and Hamilton to believe they needed to call the states together to REVISE the Articles?
4. Where was the Constitutional Convention held? And in what year?
5. What 2 leading patriots were absent? Where were they?

KEY PLAYERS

Match the people in column A with one item in column B and one item in column C. Not all items will be used

1. Alexander Hamilton
2. George Mason
3. James Madison
4. George Washington
5. Thomas Jefferson

- A. Virginian who writes Federalist Papers and
- B. Writes VA Statute for Religious Freedom
- C. New Yorker who writes Federalist Papers &
- D. Writes VA Declaration of Rights
- E. Writes the U.S. Constitution
- F. Presides over Constitutional Convention

- G. is called "Father of the Constitution"
- H. later becomes first Treasury Secretary
- J. urging specific protections for individuals
- K. later becomes first Chief Justice of U.S.
- L. does not vote on any specific issues
- M. to separate church and state

COMPETING INTERESTS AND COMPROMISES

Underline the correct answer(s) in each of the following:

- A. Under the Constitution, who has more power? the federal govt or the state govts
- B. This plan suggested that large, populous states should have more power in the new Congress: Virginia Plan or New Jersey Plan.
- C. This deal gave states equal representation in the Senate and proportional representation in the House of Representatives: "The Great Compromise", The Connecticut Compromise" "the Missouri Compromise
- D. This deal gave Southern states some "credit" for their slaves for representation in Congress but did not penalize them too much in taxes, but it was terribly demeaning to African-Americans: The Great Compromise; the Three-Fifths Compromise; the Compromise of 1850

- E. This branch of government makes the laws: the executive, the judicial, the legislative.
- F. This legislative chamber is based on a state's population: Senate or House of Representatives.
- G. This branch of government enforces the laws: the executive, the judicial, the legislative.
- H. This man wrote the Virginia Plan: Jefferson or Hamilton or Madison
- I. This branch of government interprets the laws: the executive, the judicial, the legislative.
- J. This branch of government includes the president: the executive, the judicial, the legislative.

RATIFICATION FIGHT—It took 9 states to ratify Constitution, but support from wh

This group supported the Constitution as written: _____

Their main arguments: (you should have at least 2)

This group wanted the Constitution to include specific protections for individuals: _____

Their main arguments: (you should have at least 2)

What was the purpose of the Federalist Papers? Who are the main writers of the Federalist Papers?

What are the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution called? (Who writes most of them?)

BEHIND THE BILL OF RIGHTS

Document	Who writes it?	Main point(s)
Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom		
Virginia Declaration of Rights		