

Name: _____

Score: _____/30

US Government and Constitution Test

Answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Read all directions and questions carefully. Do not leave answers blank - always guess if you are not sure. Good luck!

Multiple Choice (.5 pt each)

- 1.) In the summer of 1787, 55 delegates gathered in Philadelphia for what purpose?
 - a.) To write the Declaration of Independence
 - b.) To amend the Articles of Confederation
 - c.) To write the Pledge of Allegiance
 - d.) To abolish state laws.

- 2.) Which one of these was NOT a reason for drafting the Constitution?
 - a.) Provide for the common defense
 - b.) Insure domestic tranquility
 - c.) keep the old system
 - d.) promote the general welfare

Fill in the blank (1 pts. each)

- 3.) How many states attended the Constitutional Convention? _____
- 4.) Which state did not attend the Constitutional Convention? _____
- 5.) What was our first Constitution called? _____
- 6.) Why did we abandon the Articles of confederation? _____
- 7.) How many articles are in the Constitution? _____
- 8) What are the three branches of government?
A _____ B _____
C _____

Short Answer (2 pts each)

Please explain in your own words the role of each of the 3 branches of government.

9.) _____ Branch

10.) _____ Branch

11.) _____ Branch

12.) Explain the meaning of the Preamble to the Constitution.

13.) Why did people fear a strong national government under the Articles of Confederation?

Matching (1 pt. each)

Match each of the following terms with its corresponding definition.

14.) Impeach_____

15.) Ratify_____

16.) Pocket Veto _____

17.) Ex post facto law _____

18.) Writ of Habeas Corpus_____

19.) Veto_____

A.) A law intended to apply to crimes or events that took place before its passage. The United States Constitution forbids the passage of these criminal laws, on the principle that it is wrong to punish an act which was not illegal when committed.

B.) An order to bring a person before a court, most frequently used to ensure that a person's imprisonment is legal.

C.) To confirm by expressing consent, approval, or formal sanction

D.) The power or right vested in one branch of a government to cancel or postpone the decisions of another branch.

E.) A veto of a bill brought about by the president's failure to sign it within ten days of the adjournment of Congress.

F.) The first of two stages in a specific process for a legislative body to forcibly remove a government official. The second stage is conviction.

20.) Personal Response (5 pts)

In a paragraph or two, respond to the following question:

Our current form of government is based on the Constitution. Do you feel the 55 men who drafted the Constitution made the right decision when they abandoned the Articles of Confederation in favor of our current Constitution? Why or Why not?