

**REGENTS UNITED STATE HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT
LEARN AT HOME
Book 1**

Includes:

Short review notes for the entire U.S. history course focusing on material covered on the NY State Regents multiple-choice section. Additionally, provides shortresponse questions and related practice multiple-choice questions. An answer key for the multiple-choice questions is included at the end of each unit.

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Unit 1: The Colonies and the Revolutionary War

Section 1: The Colonies

Early Americans:

The history of the United States of America is the history of its entire people. The first people to live on this continent were the Native Americans, who migrated here between 35,000 and 12,000 years ago and lived in many varied tribes. The tribes reflected the many different environments across all of America, each having its own unique and rich history. For example, the tribes of the Southwest, who lived in the deserts, developed a much different culture than those living on the plains that traveled with the Bison, or the tribes of the Northeast who lived in longhouses. While we will not be able to give their histories the time they deserve, it is important to recognize their contributions to the United States and to acknowledge their continued existence and their intricate role within the history of the U.S. nation.

Colonization:

The first Europeans to colonize the Americas were the Spanish and Portuguese, who did so for both monetary (**mercantilism**) and religious reasons. Mercantilism was an economic system in which colonies provide resources to a mother country, which then forced its colonies to buy finished goods at high prices. In the early 1600s, the Spanish and Portuguese had settlements in vast sections of South America, and lower North America, including the American Southwest and present-day Florida. Other Europeans joined in, including the English, French and Dutch. Our history stems from the early English settlers, who founded the 13 British colonies on the Eastern coast of North America.

The first successful British colony was Jamestown, which was founded in Virginia in 1607 by 100 men and boys. While 60% of the population died within the first year, new settlers continued to arrive because of the prospects of land, opportunity, and wealth. The second successful colony was the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which was founded in 1620 by British Puritans who were seeking religious freedom and to create a “City Upon a Hill.” Both these colonies would attract immigrants looking for freedom, opportunities, and new lives. By 1750, there were 13 distinct and developed colonies. The southern colonies in particular also established the practice of forcing Blacks from Africa to America to work on large plantations.

British Colonies:

- The **New England Colonies** of the North consisted of port cities and smaller towns with small self-supporting governments and the first American colleges.
- Southern Colonies**: Moving south along the coast, where the climate was warmer and the land more fertile, farming and agriculture became more important, as well as slavery.

French and Indian Wars:

Not all settlers on the North American continent lived peacefully. In fact, tensions between the French and English translated into a war between those two European groups in the colonies. This war involved both Europeans and Native Americans, who played the colonists against each other to secure their own benefits. The English would win this war in 1763, however the cost of this war would burden Britain. England began to tax the colonist to pay for the war, which enraged the colonists who up until this point had been *left alone* to run the colonies without much oversight under the policy of **salutary neglect**. The English abandoned the policy of neglect and continued to exert more taxes and restrictions from 1764-1775, causing the colonist to grow angrier and slowly more defiant until they eventually declared their independence and fought the British in 1776.

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Appalachian Mountains:

This range of mountains stretches along the eastern seaboard of the United States. They acted as a barrier between British colonists and Native Americans/French settlers before the revolutionary war, but not after. It was also known as the **Proclamation Line**.

Section 1 Review Questions:

1.) Summarize in your own words: what is <u>mercantilism</u> ?	
2.) The history of the United States is from what “mother country”?	
3.) Describe the <u>New England</u> colonies.	
4.) Describe the <u>Southern</u> colonies.	
5.) What was <u>Salutary Neglect</u> ?	
6.) highlight the <u>proclamation line</u> on the map.	

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The 13 British Colonies



Education Place: <http://www.eduplace.com>

Section 2: The Causes of the Revolution

The Revolutionary War (1775-1783) pitted the colonists (Patriots) against their former mother (the British Red Coats). While the revolutionaries of the 13 colonies lacked the resources and organization of the British Empire, they used new fighting tactics and their knowledge of the landscape along with a determined spirit to defeat the British and create a new nation, The United States of America.

Causes of the Revolutionary War:

- 1: The **French and Indian War** and its financial toll on England.
- 2: The increased taxes and restrictions placed on colonists: **Stamp Act** (printed materials), **Tea Act** (tea tax), **Quartering Act** (forcing colonists to house British soldiers), **Coercive/Intolerable Acts** (series of restrictive policies).
- 3: The growing nationalism and resentment in the colonies: **Committees of Correspondences** (writing letters of petition between the colonies), **Boston Tea Party** (destroying \$1 million of tea), **First Continental Congress** (The colonists met to organize themselves), **Thomas Paine's "Common Sense"** (pamphlet that encouraged colonist to join the revolution).

Section 2 Questions:

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7.) What two sides were involved in the Revolutionary war?	
8.) What (3) advantages did the colonist have that helped them to win the war?	
9.) How might the French and Indian war have caused tensions between England and the colonists? (You may need to review the reading from section 1)	
10.) Pick and describe 2 taxes that were placed on the colonists.	1: _____ 2: _____
11.) Pick and describe 2 examples of growing nationalism in the colonies.	1: _____ 2: _____

Section 3: Foundations of the New Nation Second

Continental Congress 1775:

Delegates from the 13 colonial governments met a second time to draft a declaration of war against Britain and to begin to create a new United States government.

The Declaration of Independence, July 4th 1776:

This represents the birth of the United States. The founding fathers of the Continental Congress, led by Thomas Jefferson, drafted a document declaring their *reasons* for breaking apart from the British empire and outlining their *justifications* for doing so. In it they relied heavily on Enlightenment thinker's beliefs in the Rights of Men. They also detailed how colonists had been wronged by England.

Influences on the New Democracy:

1: Enlightenment thinker John Locke's belief in the Rights of Man.

2: Enlightenment thinker Baron de Montesquieu's belief in Separation of Powers (Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary).

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- 3: Two house (bi-cameral) legislature inherited from England.
- 4: Representative assemblies from colonial governments.
- 5: Athenian state, Roman law, Mayflower compact influenced a government under the consent of the governed (democracy).
- 6: From a blend of European and American experiences.
- 7: Respect for individual rights and having free and open elections.

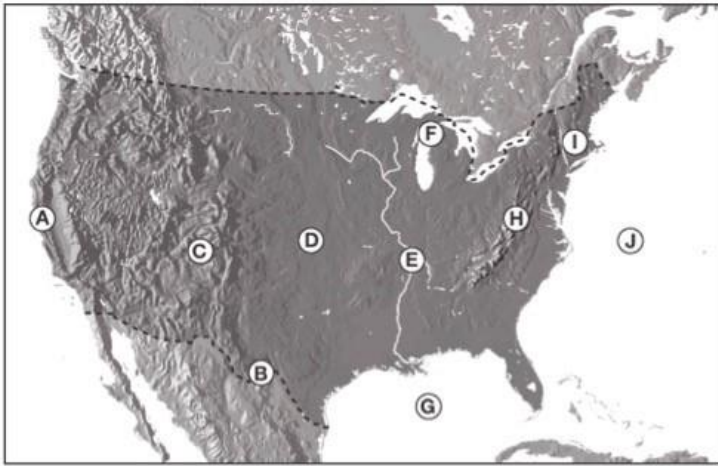
Section 3 Questions:

12.) What is significant about the date the <u>Declaration of Independence</u> ? What happens on that day today?	
13.) What were the 2 main objectives of the <u>Declaration of Independence</u> ?	1: 2:
14.) What philosophical movement is expressed in the <u>Declaration of Independence</u> ?	
15.) Pick and describe 4 influences that helped to shape the new U.S. democracy.	1: _____ 2: _____ 3: _____ 4: _____

Section 1 Regents Practice:

- 1.) Base your answer to this question on the map below and on your knowledge of social studies. Each letter on the map represents a specific geographic feature.

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Source: Mountain High Maps (adapted)

Which geographic feature most limited the westward movement of American colonists before 1750?

- 1. H 3. C
- 2. I 4. F



Source: U.S. History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination, AMSCO (adapted)

2.) Base your answer to the question on the map and on your knowledge of social studies.

What would be the best title for this map?

- 1. British Domination of the Americas 2. Colonial Trade Routes
- 3. Spanish Colonies in the New World
- 4. The United States in 1750.

3.) Which heading best completes the partial outline below?

- I. _____
- A. Villages with town meetings
- B. Small farms and commercial fishing

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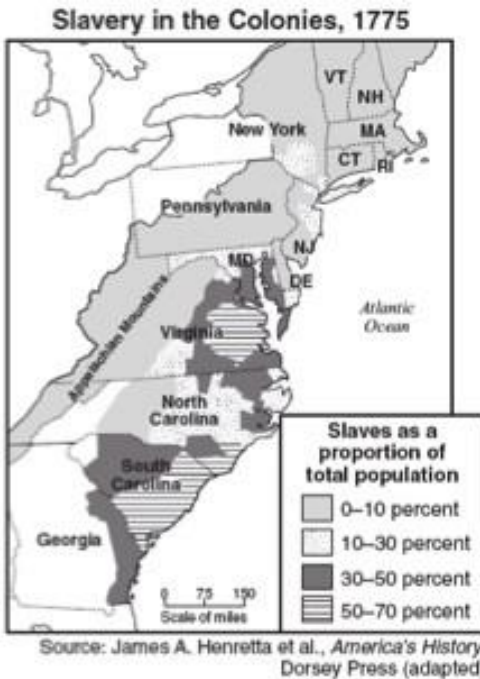
C. First American college

1. New England Colonies
2. Middle Colonies
3. Southern Colonies
4. Spanish Colonies

4.) Because of fertile land and a long growing season, plantations in the thirteen colonies developed in

1. New England
2. the Middle Atlantic region
3. the South
4. the upper Mississippi River valley

5.) Base your answer to the question on the map below and on your knowledge of social studies.



A conclusion supported by the information on the map is that slavery in the American colonies was

1. declining by the start of the Revolutionary War
 2. concentrated in areas suitable for large plantations
 3. becoming illegal in the northern colonies
 4. growing fastest in the New England colonies
- 6.) Which statement is most accurate about the movement for independence in the thirteen colonies?
1. The independence movement began soon after the founding of the Plymouth Colony.
 2. Protests against British colonial policies gradually led to demands for independence.
 3. The King of England required the colonists to become economically self-sufficient.
 4. The movement for independence was equally strong in all of the colonies.

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Section 2 Regents Practice:

7.) The pamphlet *Common Sense*, by Thomas Paine, aided the American cause in the Revolutionary War because it

1. convinced France to join in the fight against England
2. led to the repeal of the Stamp Act
3. created a new system of government for the United States
4. persuaded individuals who were undecided to support independence

8.) Base your answer on the table and on your knowledge of social studies.

Preparations for War

	England	Thirteen Colonies
Population	Approximately 12,000,000	Approximately 2,800,000
Manufacturing	Highly developed and flourishing	Practically none
Money	Richest country in the world	No money to support the war effort
Army	Large, well-trained army plus mercenary Hessians	All-volunteer forces — willing to fight but poorly equipped
Leaders	Many dedicated and able officers	Few officers capable of leading
Geography	Strange land with long distance to base of supplies	Familiar land with easy access to limited amounts of supplies

Which conclusion about the American Revolutionary War is most clearly supported by information in this chart?

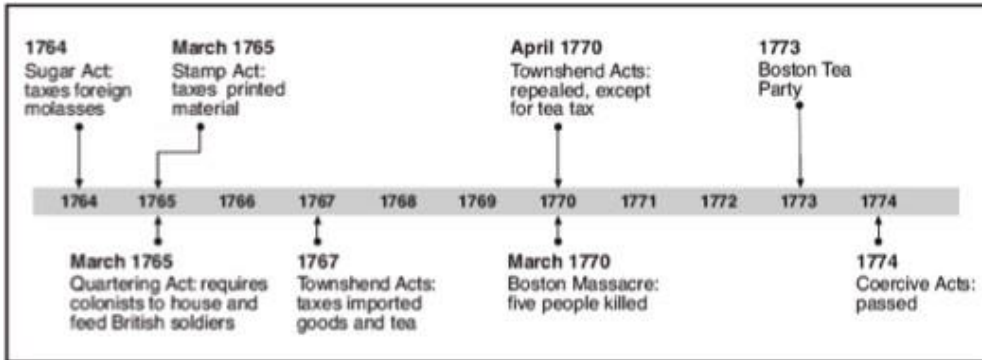
1. England had few advantages in a war with her American colonies.
2. The thirteen colonies had more advantages than disadvantages upon entering the war.
3. England did not believe that the thirteen colonies were worth the expense of a war.
4. The thirteen colonies had few, but important advantages in the war with England.

9.) Which heading best completes the partial outline below?

I. _____

- A. Committees of Correspondence
 - B. Nonimportation Agreements
 - C. Boston Tea Party
 - D. First Continental Congress
1. Protests Against Slavery in the American Colonies
 2. British Parliamentary Actions to Punish Colonial Americans
 3. Colonial Responses to British Mercantile Policies
 4. Colonial Attempts to End the British Policy of Salutary Neglect

10.)



Which title is most accurate for this time line?

1. Forms of Colonial Protest
2. Effects of British Navigation Laws
3. Causes of the American Revolution
4. Abuse of Power by Colonial Legislatures

11.) Which is an important reason that the American colonists rebelled against England in the 1770s?

1. The colonists desired the right to control the basic aspects of their economy
2. An overwhelming majority of the colonists favored rebellion
3. England did not adequately protect America from attack by other European nations
4. England had reduced the number of colonial representatives in Parliament

12.) "We have an old mother
 that peevish is grown
 that snubs us like children
 that scarce walk alone.
 She forgets we're grown up
 and have sense of our own."

This poem presents a justification for American participation in the

1. Revolutionary War
2. Civil War
3. Spanish-American War
4. Vietnam War

Section 3 Regents Practice:

13.) The primary purpose of the United States Declaration of Independence is to

1. establish the basic law of the land in the United States
2. explain and justify why the American colonists revolted against their mother country
3. provide a clear plan for a meaningful and effective political system
4. guarantee human rights for all Americans

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14.) In writing the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson based his argument for American independence on the idea that

1. people have natural rights as human beings
2. the British refused to import colonial raw materials
3. monarchy was evil by nature
4. Britain was too far away to rule the Colonies effectively

15.) Which action can be justified by the political philosophy expressed in the Declaration of Independence?

1. The president of a democratic country orders a crackdown on terrorists
2. A government passes laws to strengthen its racist policies
3. The government of a communist nation releases some political prisoners
4. A group of rebels tries to overthrow a repressive government

16.) Which feature of the United States governmental system was inherited from England?

1. judicial review
2. direct election of Senators
3. system of checks and balances
4. a two-house legislature

17.) Which feature of government was developed most fully during the colonial period?

1. separation of church and state
2. an independent court system
3. universal suffrage
4. representative assemblies

18.) Which characteristic is most essential to a democratic society?

1. a respect for individual rights
2. a federal structure of government
3. a strong two-party system
4. a written constitution

19.) The most essential feature of democratic government is

1. a bicameral legislature
2. free and open election process
3. a written constitution
4. separate branches of government

20.) The ideals of the Athenian State, Roman law, and the Mayflower Compact contributed most significantly to the growth of the principles of

1. government under law and the consent of the governed
2. religious freedom and women's suffrage
3. checks and balances and separation of powers
4. racial equality and equal treatment under the law

Unit 2: Ideals of the Young Republic and the Constitution

Section 1: Writing the Constitution

The Articles of Confederation 1781:

- First governmental plan for the 13 states.
- In response to British injustice and tyranny, it tried to protect individual and state rights, it made the government very decentralized.
- States had more power than the Federal government, so it was ineffective.
- States could coin their own money and trade.
- It did, however, create a system for determining western expansion with the Northwest Ordinance of 1787.

The Northwest Ordinance 1787:

- The most successful point of the Articles of Confederation created a system for adding new states.
- From the Land Ordinance of 1785, land was divided into townships of 36-square miles.
- Once 5,000 white male settlers had settled an area they could elect a legislature. A population of 60,000 could write a state constitution.

Shay's Rebellion 1786:

- The newly created U.S. was weak, and soon the nation was suffering economically and politically.
- Poor farmers in Massachusetts who were plagued by debt took over a courthouse. The rebellion grew to 1,200 farmers and helped to prompt a call for a new constitution and a stronger Federal government.

Constitutional Convention 1787:

- 55 delegates met to write and ratify a new plan of government: The Constitution.
- Their plan was modeled after the Enlightenment thinker Montesquieu who called for a Separation of Powers between an executive, legislative and judiciary in addition to a system of Checks and Balances to make sure no branch of government became too powerful.
- Their major debate concerned the balance of power between the state and national governments; they wanted the Federal government to be powerful enough, but not too powerful to override individual and state's rights.
- The Great Compromise**: created a **bicameral** or two-house legislature. The House of Representatives is determined by state population while each state provides two representatives to the Senate.

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Three-fifths Compromise: Southerners wanted slavery but Northerners did not, as a compromise slaves would be both taxed and counted as part of the state population for determining representation: slaves were considered equal to 3/5ths of a person.

Section 1 Questions:

1.) What were the Articles of Confederation and why were they made so weak and ineffectual?	
2.) What was the one benefit of the Articles of Confederation?	
3.) Describe Shay’s Rebellion and its impact on the U.S. government.	
4.) What happened at the Constitutional Convention?	
5.) Under the philosophy of Montesquieu, what were the separate branches made under the new Constitution?	
6.) Why were there 3 separate branches of government?	
7.) What was the major debate or issue that was discussed at the convention?	
8.) What “Great Compromise” was made to solve this issue?	
9.) What other words are like “bicameral,” which also mean 2 of something?	

Section 2: The Constitution and the Organization of the U.S. Government

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The Constitution 1789:

- The Constitution is statement of rules and procedures for how our government works, it is still the basis of all government decisions today.
- It includes a preamble, or introduction, which describes the purpose of the US government.

Important Inherent Ideas:

Popular Sovereignty: The founding fathers wished to create a balanced and strong democracy that was based on popular sovereignty meaning that the government derives its power and authority from the people, who consent to being represented and governed. The peoples’ consent is shown in the opening phrase: “We, the people...”

Limited Government: In order to prevent tyranny there were limits placed on national and state governments.

Separation of Powers: There are three separate branches of government, the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judicial branches. These branches are separated to ensure that no one branches becomes too powerful.

Checks and Balances: Each branch has specific powers and duties, these powers allow each branch to check or control other branches too ensure that one branch does not become too powerful.

Legislative	Executive	Judicial
Includes: the Senate and House of Representatives	Includes: the President and the Vice President	Includes: the Supreme Court and the Federal Courts
Duty: Makes Laws	Duty: Enforces Laws and Treaties	Duty: Explains and Interprets the Laws and Constitution
Powers and Checks: *Overrides Presidential vetoes with a 2/3 vote. *Approves presidential appointments *Approves treaties *Taxes to provide service *Provides for defense *Declares war *Regulates money and trade *Impeaches officials * Elastic Clause	Powers and Checks: *Can veto laws * Nominates high officials including Supreme Court Justices and can draft treaties *Conducts foreign affairs *Enforces laws and treaties *Commander and chief of the military *Recommends bills to Congress *Reports the State of the Union to Congress	Powers and Checks: * Justices serve for life to protect them from changing climate *Settles state and federal disputes *Settles disputes between states and foreign countries *Hears cases with ambassadors of foreign governments *Settles disputes between individuals and the Federal government * Judicial Review

Section 2 Questions:

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<p>10.) What is the purpose of the Constitution?</p>	
<p>11.) What is the purpose of the preamble of the Constitution?</p>	
<p>12.) What idea of governance is supported by the opening phrase “we the people”? Explain its significance.</p>	<p>Idea:</p> <p>Definition:</p>
<p>13.) Why was the power of our government limited?</p>	
<p>14.) How might these limitations reflect how the colonists felt about the monarchy of their mother country, England?</p>	
<p>15.) What is the duty of the Legislative branch?</p>	
<p>16.) Who is a part of the Legislative branch?</p>	
<p>17.) Name and explain 3 powers of the Legislative branch.</p>	<p>1:</p> <p>2:</p> <p>3:</p>
<p>18.) What is the duty of the Executive branch?</p>	
<p>19.) Who is a part of the Executive branch?</p>	

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20.) Name and explain 3 powers of the Executive branch.	1: 2: 3:
21.) What is the duty of the Judicial branch?	
22.) Who is a part of the Judicial branch?	
23.) Name and explain 3 powers of the Judicial branch.	1: 2: 3:

Section 3: Aspects and Powers of the Constitution

Flexibility: The Constitution was written to be adaptable over time, in order to ensure that it would be able to meet the changing needs of the nation.

- The Elastic Clause:** Gives Congress the Power to make all laws “necessary and proper” for carrying out the tasks listed in the Constitution. This allows Congress to write new laws as needed over time.
- Judicial Review:** This Power was established under the Marshall court, it allows the court to determine the Constitutionality of laws. This allows the court to interpret the laws and check if they fit with our Constitution.
- The Amendment Process:** The Constitution may be changed to reflect the needs of society or to expand the reach of government. Both Congress and the states must agree to such changes and ratify these amendments.

Federalism: Is the separation of the Federal government from the state governments. To rectify the weaknesses of the original constitution (the Articles of Confederation) our Constitution provides **Supremacy** of the Federal government over the state governments (**Federal Supremacy Clause**). However, there are certain powers that are given to the state governments too.

- Delegated Powers:** These are powers given only to the Federal government and are stated explicitly in the Constitution, like the Federal government’s ability to draft and sign treaties with foreign nations.

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- Implied Powers:** These are powers assumed by the Federal government under the Elastic Clause.
- Denied Powers:** Certain powers are denied to the Federal government such as the power to pass and export tax. Similarly, certain powers are denied to the state governments, like the power to print money.
- Concurrent Powers:** Some powers are held by both the Federal and State governments, like the power to tax.
- Reserved Powers:** These are powers not delegated to the Federal government nor denied to the state governments. These powers are thereby “reserved” to the state governments as outlined by the 10th Amendment.

Unwritten Constitution:

- The government, out of tradition, follows certain procedures, even though they were not written down in the Constitution. The best example of this is the **President’s Cabinet**, which is a group of advisors whom the President selects to help him fulfill his duties.

Section 3 Questions:

24.) Why was the Constitution made to be flexible?	
25.) What does the <u>Elastic Clause</u> allow for? How is this an example of flexibility?	What: Flexible:
26.) What is <u>Judicial Review</u> ?	
27.) What are <u>amendments</u> ? How are they an example of flexibility?	What: Flexible:
28.) What is the <u>Unwritten Constitution</u> and what is an example of this?	

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Section 4: Elections

Eligible U.S. citizens vote for and elect representatives for the bi-cameral legislature of the Senate and House of Representative as well as the President and Vice-President of the executive branch. While originally only white men with property could vote, the 15th amendment opened voting to Black men, the 19th opened voting to women, and the 26th amendment opened voting for citizens over the age of 18. In terms of representation the House of Representatives is the most democratically selected body because their numbers are based upon the numeric population of a state--whereas every state has two senate representatives, regardless of the state's population. U.S. citizens also vote for the office of the President and Vice-president for 4-year terms, however that office is complicated by the archaic creation of the Electoral College.

Electoral College:

The founding fathers, while Enlightenment thinkers, were still afraid to give the people all the power over government; additionally, they wanted to protect the interests of smaller states and slave owning states. The United States Democratic government was an experiment and as such there was a risk for failure. Therefore, they created an Electoral College of representatives who would cast the final vote in the election of the president; each state gets a number of representatives equal to their number of senators and representatives combined.

- Sometimes this means that a president can be elected even if he does not win the popular vote.
- This also reduces the competition of third party candidates.

Example: This is just to highlight how this works and is not accurate.

State	Connecticut	New York
Electoral College Votes	5	15
Popular votes split by candidates	Nader: 3,000 Gore: 5,000 Bush: 2,000	Nader: 2,000 Gore: 5,000 Bush: 6,000

In the above example Gore got the most votes in Connecticut and therefore would get all 5 electoral votes; Bush got the most votes in New York and therefore would get all 15 electoral votes in New York, therefore Bush would have won the election 15 to 5. However, if there was no electoral college and the President was determined solely by the popular vote, Gore would have won with a total of 10,000 votes to Bush's 8,000. Additionally, in the above example because the Electoral College votes only for the majority winner the third party candidate (Nader) is essentially erased from the competition.

Section 4 Question:

29.) What is the <u>Electoral College</u> and what impact can it have on Presidential elections?	
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Section 5: The Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights 1791:

- The first 10 Amendments to the Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights because they outline specific guaranteed rights for US citizens to ensure their protection from the abuse of governmental power. They were

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added to the Constitution because **Anti-Federalists** feared that the Constitution was too powerful and might become tyrannical. In opposition to the Anti-Federalists and the Bill of Rights were the **Federalist** who thought the Constitution was perfect as it was written. In fact, they published *The Federalist Papers* in 1787 and 1788 to promote its passage.

•Throughout history the government has had to balance the rights of citizens (as given in the Bill of Rights) with the need of government to maintain strength and security for the nation. During times of trial and war this balance is often at odds.

	The Bill of Rights (1791)
I: Basic Freedoms	Freedoms of religion, speech, assembly, press, and protest.
II: Right to Bear Arms	Controversially gives people the right to own guns.
III: Quartering	Forbids forced quartering of soldiers in civilian houses, a response to the Quartering Act.
IV: Search and Seizure	The government needs a warrant to search your property, including electronic data.
V: Rights of the Accused	People accused of a crime are promised due process of law , which means they are given certain protections from governmental abuse. For example they must be given formal indictment and may not be forced to testify against themselves in court.
VI: Right to a Fair Trial	An accused citizen is entitled to a fair and speedy trial by an impartial jury. They are entitled to a lawyer.
VII: Civil Trials	Citizens are entitled a jury trial for lost property over \$20.
VIII: Bail and Punishment	Citizens who are accused are allowed to post a bail that is reasonable. In addition, those found guilty are not to endure cruel or unusual punishment.
IX: Rights Retained by the People	Any other rights that are not listed are also protected.
X: States' Rights	Due to fear of tyranny, all other powers not listed in the Constitution are delegated to the states. (This is sometimes in opposition to the idea of Federal Supremacy Clause)

Section 5 Questions:

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<p>30.) Define Federalist and Anti-Federalist.</p>	<p>Federalist:</p> <p>Anti-Federalist:</p>
<p>31.) Summarize an amendment in your own words.</p>	<p>_____#</p>

Section 1 Regents Practice:

- 1.) The Articles of Confederation are best described as a
 1. statement of principles justifying the Revolutionary War
 2. plan of union for the original thirteen states
 3. set of arguments supporting ratification of the Constitution
 4. list of reasons for the secession of the Southern States

- 2.) The authors of the Articles of Confederation established a decentralized political system mainly to
 1. cancel state debts incurred during the Revolutionary War
 2. assist the southern states in their efforts to gain a manufacturing base
 3. promote the common goal of national sovereignty
 4. prevent the abuses of power that had existed under British rule

- 3.) Which statement best describes governmental power under the Articles of Confederation?
 1. Power was shared equally by the central government and the states.
 2. A balance of power existed between the three branches of the central government.
 3. A strong chief executive headed a unified central government.
 4. The states had much greater power than the central government.

- 4.) The United States Government under the Articles of Confederation could be considered a success because it
 1. established a strong, widely respected foreign policy
 2. created an open market that fostered interstate trade
 3. set the nation on a sound financial base
 4. provided a system for governing the Western territories that aided the nation's expansion

- 5.) Shays' Rebellion of 1786 was significant because it
 1. showed that the English still had influence after the American Revolution
 2. convinced many Americans of the need for a stronger national government
 3. revealed the increased threat from rebellious Native American Indians
 4. endangered the lives of many recent immigrants

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6.) At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, the Great Compromise was concerned mainly with

1. representation of the states in Congress
2. the powers of the executive
3. the question of slavery
4. control of interstate commerce

7.) "Weak leadership implies weak government. And weak government is but another phrase for bad government."

Which idea is most strongly suggested by this statement?

1. More people must be given the opportunity to participate in the operation of government
2. The executive branch must be prevented from becoming too dictatorial
3. The activities of political parties must be restricted
4. The President must be given enough power to rule effectively

8.) "We should consider we are providing a constitution for future generations of Americans, and not merely for the particular circumstances of the moment." - Delegate at the Constitutional Convention of 1787

The writers of the Constitution best reflected this idea when they provided that

1. Senators should be elected directly by the people
2. three-fifths of the slaves should be counted as part of the total population
3. Congress shall make all laws necessary and proper to carry out its constitutional powers
4. political parties should be established to represent various viewpoints

9.) At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, serious differences about representation were resolved by creating

1. a judicial system
2. an electoral college
3. a bicameral legislature
4. encourage economic expansion

10.) Which issue discussed at the Constitutional Convention of 1787 continues to be a major concern in the United States?

1. relationship of states to each other
2. power to regulate foreign trade
3. balance of power between state and national governments
4. location of the national capital

11.) "The individual can be free only when the power of one governmental branch is balanced by the other two." - Baron de Montesquieu, 1735 (adapted).

The idea expressed in this quotation is best illustrated by which aspect of the United States Government?

1. existence of a Cabinet
2. separation of powers
3. elastic clause
4. executive privilege

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Section 2 Regents Practice:

12.) The United States Constitution is best described as a

1. statement of rules and procedures for governing
2. summary of governmental customs and traditions
3. guarantee of prosperity for all citizens
4. justification for rebellion against Great Britain

13.) Which statement expresses the meaning of the opening words of the United States Constitution, "We, the people ..."?

1. Sovereignty is derived from the consent of the governed.
2. All citizens are guaranteed freedom of speech.
3. Federal laws are subject to popular referendum.
4. Americans favor unrestricted immigration.

14.) The Preamble of the United States Constitution was written to

1. outline the organization of the government
2. protect the people from abuses of the Federal Government
3. describe the purposes of the government
4. provide for ways to amend the Constitution

15.) The system of checks and balances is best illustrated by the powers of

1. the President to veto a bill passed by Congress
2. Congress to censure one of its members
3. a governor to send the National Guard to stop a riot
4. state and Federal governments to levy and collect taxes

16.) The purpose of limiting the powers of the three branches of the United States Federal Government is to

1. make the government more efficient
2. prevent the development of tyranny
3. give the states equal power with the Federal Government
4. allow the states to nullify Federal laws they do not favor

17.) A President's interpretation of the United States Constitution may continue to be influential long after the President leaves office because the President has the power to

1. make State of the Union addresses
2. ratify amendments to the Constitution
3. nominate Federal Justices, who serve for life
4. establish a legislative agenda for Congress

18.) When writing the original United States Constitution, the Founding Fathers believed that once these officials were in office, they would be protected from political pressures because they served for life. Which officials does this refer to?

1. Senators
2. Presidents
3. Supreme Court Justices
4. Members of the House of Representatives

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Section 3 Regents Practice:

19.) The section of the United States Constitution that grants Congress the power to "make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers..." has come to be known as the

1. great compromise
2. supremacy clause
3. due process provision
4. elastic clause

20.) In the United States, only the Federal Government has the power to

1. pass laws
2. borrow money
3. tax
4. make treaties

21.) Which Presidential action is an example of the unwritten constitution?

1. appointing Justices to the Supreme Court
2. granting pardons for Federal crimes
3. submitting a treaty to the Senate for ratification
4. consulting with the Cabinet

22.) Much of the authority of the United States Supreme Court is based on its power to

1. propose legislation to Congress
2. change the distribution of powers as outlined in the Federal Constitution
3. amend state and federal constitutions
4. interpret the Federal Constitution

23.) The term "judicial review" refers to the power of the

1. Supreme Court to determine the constitutionality of laws
2. Congress to pass laws over the veto of the President
3. states to approve amendments to the Constitution
4. President to veto bills passed by Congress

24.) Under the United States Constitution, those powers not delegated to the Federal Government are

1. exercised only by state governors
2. concerned only with issues of taxation
3. reserved to the States or to the people
4. divided equally between the States and the National Government

25.) A federal system of government must be based upon

1. citizen participation in free elections
2. the election of a President
3. the supremacy of state governments
4. a division of power between state and national governments

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- 26.) Which idea did the Founding Fathers include in the Constitution that allows Congress to meet the needs of a changing society?
1. federalism
 2. separation of powers
 3. the elastic clause
 4. States rights

Section 4 Regents Prep:

27.) Which action in the process of electing a President of the United States is provided for in the Federal Constitution?

1. the opening of a national nominating convention
2. the President making an inaugural address
3. the electoral college casting ballots
4. a political party adopting a platform

28.) Under the provisions of the original United States Constitution, the most democratically selected body was the

1. Senate
2. Cabinet
3. Supreme Court
4. House of Representatives

29.) Which constitutional provision indicates that the authors of the original Constitution did not completely trust the common voter to make decisions?

1. the electoral college
2. the veto power of the President
3. direct election of Senators
4. election of the House of Representatives

Section 5 Regents Practice:

30.) *The Federalist Papers* were published in 1787 and 1788 to help gain support for

1. a bill of rights
2. the ratification of the Constitution
3. a weaker central government
4. the abolition of slavery and the slave trade

31.) The Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights are similar in that both

1. support a federal system of government
2. maintain the importance of a strong chief executive
3. provide for a system of checks and balances
4. support limitations on governmental power

32.) The expression "due process of law" refers to the

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1. right of the Supreme Court to examine the constitutionality of laws
2. power of the police to arrest anyone who looks suspicious
3. procedure in Congress by which a bill becomes a law
4. protection given citizens against unfair actions by the government

33.) The Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution has several provisions that protect the individual's right to

1. a free public education
2. a vote in major elections
3. justice before the law
4. equal employment opportunities

34.) The Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution includes a guarantee of the right to

1. assemble peacefully
2. have a job
3. strike against an employer
4. vote in elections

35.) Antifederalist objections to the ratification of the Constitution led to the

1. addition of a Bill of Rights
2. seven-year delay in the ratification of the Constitution
3. rewriting of major parts of the Constitution
4. elimination of states' rights

36.) United States Supreme Court decisions in cases involving the 1st Amendment to the Federal Constitution generally reflect the principle that

1. if an action is based on a religious belief, it must be allowed
2. only demonstrations that support the beliefs of the majority may be held
3. freedoms of speech and religion are absolute
4. individual rights must be balanced against the needs of society at the time

37.) Which fact best illustrates separation of church and state in the United States?

1. Congress seldom meets on Sunday.
2. Religious chaplains serve in the armed forces.
3. Organized prayer in public schools is prohibited.
4. Only one Catholic has been elected President.

38.) "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law;..."

An important application of the "due process of law" clause in this quotation had been its use in Supreme Court cases involving

1. income taxes
2. rights of the accused
3. prayers in public schools
4. freedom of speech and press

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39.) The main purpose of the Bill of Rights is to

1. prevent governmental abuse of power
2. increase the power of the Federal judiciary
3. provide for separation of powers
4. create a bicameral legislature

40.) The first amendment of the Constitution deals primarily with

1. states' rights
2. property rights
3. rights of the accused
4. rights of self-expression

41.) “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” — United States Constitution, 10th amendment This part of the Bill of Rights was intended to

1. give the people the right to vote on important issues
2. reduce the rights of citizens
3. limit the powers of the federal government
4. assure federal control over the states