UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT · MASSACHUSETTS

United States Government
Practice Test

Unit 1: Foundations and the Constitution

25 Questions

Original practice test based on the Massachusetts curriculum. Work through each question, then check your answers at the end.

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

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Question 1

In which form of government does a single ruler inherit power?

A) Democracy

B) Monarchy

C) Republic

D) Oligarchy

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Question 2

According to John Locke, natural rights include

A) life, liberty, and property

B) the right to vote in every election

C) free public education

D) trial by jury in all cases

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Question 3

In what year was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

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Question 4

A major weakness of government under the Articles of Confederation was that Congress could not

A) declare war

B) send diplomats abroad

C) levy taxes

D) admit new states

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Question 5

Shays Rebellion showed that the government under the Articles of Confederation was

A) the states had too little power

B) the central government was too weak to help maintain order

C) the president had too much power

D) Congress had too large an army

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Question 6

The Great Compromise provided that

A) both houses would have equal representation for each state

B) the House would be based on population and the Senate would have equal representation for each state

C) both houses would be based on population

D) the House would have equal representation and the Senate would be based on population

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Question 7

Under the compromise reached at the Constitutional Convention in 1787, each enslaved person was counted as

A) a full person for representation

B) not counted at all

C) a full person for taxation only

D) three fifths of a person for representation and taxation

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Question 8

The Federalists were people who

A) wanted to keep the Articles of Confederation

B) opposed any central government

C) supported the Constitution and a stronger central government

D) wanted a king to rule the United States

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Question 9

The Anti Federalists feared a strong central government and

A) demanded a bill of rights to protect individual liberties

B) supported a strong central government with no limits

C) wanted a king to rule the United States

D) opposed all state governments

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Question 10

How many amendments make up the Bill of Rights?

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Question 11

The idea that government power comes from the people is called

A) rule of law

B) popular sovereignty

C) federalism

D) judicial review

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Question 12

Dividing government power among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches is called

A) federalism

B) checks and balances

C) republicanism

D) separation of powers

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Question 13

Which is an example of checks and balances?

A) Congress passes a law

B) A court hears a case

C) The president vetoes a bill passed by Congress

D) A state governor signs a state law

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Question 14

Dividing power between the national government and the state governments is called

A) federalism

B) popular sovereignty

C) limited government

D) separation of powers

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Question 15

Powers not given to the national government and not denied to the states are

A) enumerated powers

B) reserved powers

C) concurrent powers

D) implied powers

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Question 16

The clause that makes the Constitution the highest law of the land is the

A) necessary and proper clause

B) full faith and credit clause

C) supremacy clause

D) commerce clause

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Question 17

Congress passes a law creating a national bank, arguing it is needed to carry out its power to collect taxes.

The constitutional basis Congress is relying on is the

A) supremacy clause

B) commerce clause

C) establishment clause

D) necessary and proper clause

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Question 18

How many of the thirteen original states had to ratify the Constitution for it to take effect?

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Question 19

In the Preamble, to insure domestic tranquility means to

A) keep peace within the country

B) defend against foreign attack

C) provide for the public welfare

D) secure liberty for future generations

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Question 20

Which article of the Constitution establishes the legislative branch?

A) Article II

B) Article III

C) Article IV

D) Article I

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Question 21

An amendment proposed by Congress must be approved by what fraction of each house?

A) One third

B) One half

C) Two thirds

D) Three fourths

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Question 22

An amendment proposed by Congress becomes part of the Constitution when it is ratified by

A) one half of the states

B) two thirds of the states

C) nine of the thirteen original states

D) three fourths of the states

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Source I - A Town Meeting Report

Use this reading for question 23.

Each spring, the voters of our town meet in the school gym. They debate the proposed budget line by line, and then every registered voter present casts a ballot. The budget that wins the most votes is the budget the town follows for the next year.

Question 23

Source I best illustrates the principle of

A) popular sovereignty

B) judicial review

C) federalism

D) separation of powers

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Source II - A Newspaper Report on a Court Case

Use this reading for question 24.

A state passed a law that set its own rules for goods shipped across state lines. A federal law already set different rules for the same shipments. A court ruled that the state law could not stand where it conflicted with the federal law.



Question 24

According to Source II, when a state law and a federal law conflict, which law prevails?

A) The state law prevails

B) The federal law prevails

C) The newer law always prevails

D) The court must ask voters to decide

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Question 25

How many articles does the original Constitution contain?

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ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. A
3. 1776
4. C
5. B
6. B
7. D
8. C
9. A
10. 10
11. B
12. D
13. C
14. A
15. B
16. C
17. D
18. 9
19. A
20. D
21. C
22. D
23. A
24. B
25. 7

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