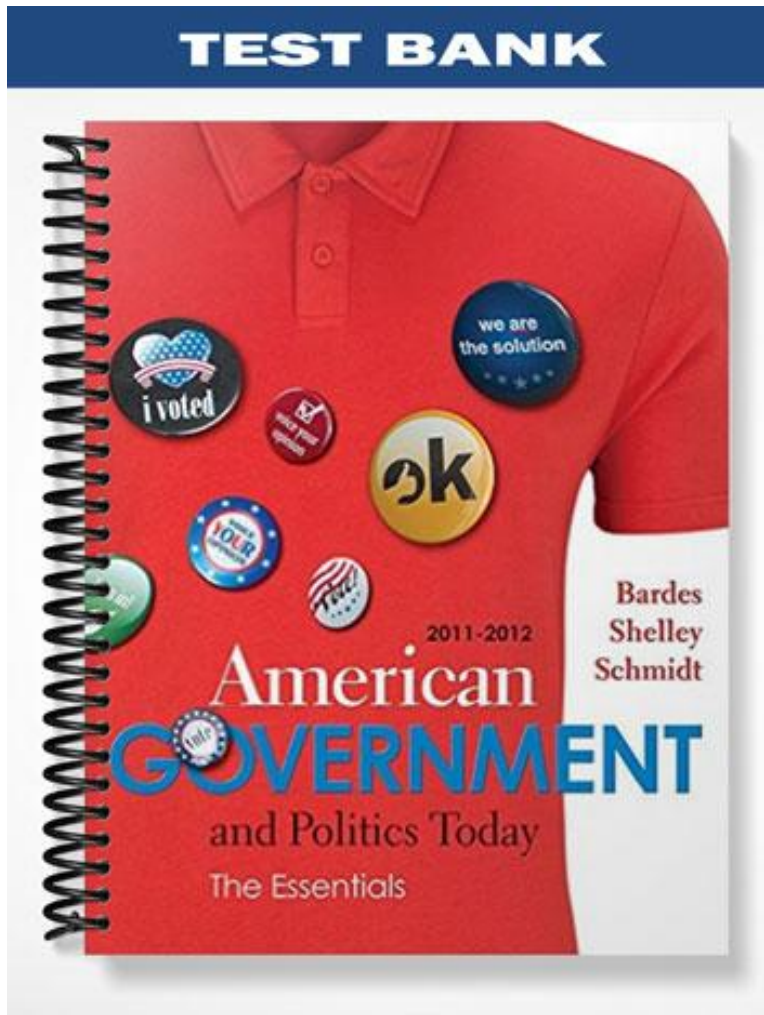


TEST BANK



Bardes
Shelley
Schmidt

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American
GOVERNMENT

and Politics Today

The Essentials

Chapter 2—The Constitution

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. The Jamestown colonists set a political precedent by
 - a. allowing the governor to use a line-item veto.
 - b. instituting a direct democracy.
 - c. instituting a representative assembly.
 - d. creating a judicial system.
 - e. writing a constitutional document.

ANS: C

PTS: 1

REF: 31

TOP: The Colonial Background

2. The major historical and political significance of the Mayflower Compact was that it
 - a. served as a prototype for many similar compacts.
 - b. was the start of the first settlement in America.
 - c. depended on the consent of the individuals involved.
 - d. established the colony of Massachusetts.
 - e. both a and c.

ANS: E

PTS: 1

TOP: The Colonial Background

3. During the colonial period, all of the following developments took place **except**
 - a. the colonists developed a concept of limited government.
 - b. the colonists exercised a large measure of self-government.
 - c. the colonists adopted a variety of bills, such as the Massachusetts Body of Liberties and the Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges, that protected civil liberties.
 - d. Louisiana was established as the last of the colonies.
 - e. the colonists acquired crucial political experience.

ANS: D

PTS: 1

REF: 32

TOP: The Colonial Background

4. Taxes were imposed on the colonists to
 - a. pay for the coronation of King George III.
 - b. pay for the establishment of more colonies.
 - c. pay the costs of Britain's defense of the colonies during the French and Indian War.
 - d. purchase Canada (Quebec) from the French.
 - e. none of the above.

ANS: C

PTS: 1

REF: 34

TOP: British Restrictions and Colonial Grievances

5. Taxes that the British attempted to impose in the years leading up to the Revolution included all of the following **except**
 - a. the Sugar Act, which imposed a tax on sugar.
 - b. the Stamp Act, which taxed, among other things, legal documents.
 - c. duties on glass, lead, and paint.
 - d. a tax on tea.
 - e. an income tax.

ANS: E

PTS: 1

REF: 34

TOP: British Restrictions and Colonial Grievances

6. The colonists' fury over taxation climaxed in

- a. the French and Indian War.
- b. the First Continental Congress.
- c. the appointment of the president of the United States of America.
- d. the Boston Tea Party.
- e. none of the above.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 34
TOP: British Restrictions and Colonial Grievances

7. The First Continental Congress
- a. was called by the colonies to seek independence from Britain.
 - b. called for the abdication of King George III.
 - c. asked the colonies to boycott British trade and raise troops.
 - d. was ignored by the British.
 - e. was only attended by delegates from six colonies.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 34
TOP: The Colonial Response: The Continental Congresses

8. One of the main actions of the Second Continental Congress was
- a. to establish an army and appoint a commander in chief.
 - b. to sign a treaty with Britain prohibiting armed conflict.
 - c. to sign a treaty with France to declare war on Britain.
 - d. the creation of a unitary government in America.
 - e. to bring the remaining seven colonies into the congress.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: 35
TOP: The Colonial Response: The Continental Congresses

9. Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense* advocated
- a. the formation of a new government that would still be loyal to the king.
 - b. the establishment of a government that would limit further immigration.
 - c. an end of hostilities toward Britain.
 - d. the idea that a government of our own is our natural right.
 - e. the repeal of all taxes, including those the colonists had imposed on themselves.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 35
TOP: The Colonial Response: The Continental Congresses

10. The first draft of the Declaration of Independence was written by
- a. J John Locke .
 - b. John Adams.
 - c. Thomas Jefferson.
 - d. George Washington.
 - e. Benjamin Franklin.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 35 TOP: Declaring Independence

11. "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal" are the first words of
- a. the Constitution of the United States of America.
 - b. the Declaration of Independence.
 - c. the Magna Charta.
 - d. the United Nations Charter.
 - e. the Bill of Rights.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 36 TOP: Declaring Independence

12. A voluntary agreement among individuals to secure their rights and welfare by creating a government and abiding by its rules is called
- a confederation.
 - a social contract.
 - a syndicate.
 - a constitution.
 - natural law.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 36 TOP: Declaring Independence

13. The inalienable rights stipulated in the Declaration of Independence included the right
- of free speech and a free press.
 - to freely associate and assemble.
 - to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
 - to privacy from governmental intervention.
 - to freedom of religion.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 36 TOP: Declaring Independence

14. Which of the following is not true of the Declaration of Independence?
- It listed the colonists' grievances against England.
 - It established the United States as a new nation.
 - Reasons were given for dissolving the tie with Great Britain.
 - A constitutional government was set up.
 - It gave the people the rights to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness and to alter the government if it became destructive of the people's rights.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 36 TOP: Declaring Independence

15. The term *confederation* or *confederal* refers to
- a system in which most power is with the central government.
 - a voluntary association in which states have most of the power
 - a system in which state and local governments have equal power with the central government
 - a national legislature.
 - the southern states where slavery was legal.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 37

TOP: The Articles of Confederation

16. Which of the following was not true of the Articles of Confederation?
- Congress was a unicameral body.
 - The national government did not have an executive branch.
 - The states retained most of the power.
 - The president was chosen by Congress.
 - There was no system of national courts.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 37-38

TOP: The Articles of Confederation

17. Which of the following was a weakness of the Articles of Confederation?
- Congress lacked the power to collect taxes directly from the people.
 - There was no executive branch.
 - Congress lacked the power to coin money.

- d. Each state had one vote regardless of size.
- e. All the above.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: 38-39
TOP: The Articles of Confederation

18. The Constitutional Convention in 1787 was brought on by the
- a. tyranny of the British king.
 - b. request of President Washington.
 - c. failure of the Articles of Confederation.
 - d. publication of the Declaration of Independence.
 - e. end of the Revolutionary War.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 39 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

19. At the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia,
- a. the delegates talked openly with other people to let them know what was happening at the convention.
 - b. most delegates represented the poor farmers and the tradesmen.
 - c. there were few important leaders of the country in attendance.
 - d. all the states were represented.
 - e. there were different views among the delegates about the powers that should given to the national government.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: 40 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

20. The Virginia Plan
- a. called for a bicameral legislature.
 - b. worked to the advantage of small states.
 - c. provided for the direct election of a president by the people.
 - d. settled all controversy.
 - e. both b and d.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: 42 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

21. The New Jersey Plan called for all of the following **except**
- a. Congress to elect several people to form an executive office.
 - b. the creation of a new and very powerful central government.
 - c. the ability of Congress to regulate trade and impose taxes.
 - d. acts of Congress to be the supreme law of the land.
 - e. the principal of one state, one vote.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 42 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

22. The supremacy doctrine asserts the superiority of
- a. large states over small states.
 - b. non-slave states over slave states.
 - c. national law over state law.
 - d. natural law over man-made law.
 - e. none of the above.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 42 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

23. Under the supremacy clause of the Constitution
- a. state laws cannot conflict with city ordinances.
 - b. federal laws cannot conflict with state laws.

- c. state and local laws are superior to the state's constitution.
- d. local, state, and federal laws cannot conflict with the Constitution.
- e. none of the above.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 42 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

24. The Great Compromise
- a. was advanced by the delegates from Georgia.
 - b. proposed a bicameral legislature with equal representation in the Senate.
 - c. was presented too late to be considered.
 - d. was proposed by Texas.
 - e. proposed a unicameral legislature in which each state would have one vote.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 42-43 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

25. The three-fifths compromise did all of the following **except**
- a. illustrate the power of the southern states at the convention.
 - b. partially apportion the House of Representatives and the Electoral College on the basis of the property.
 - c. give African Americans representation that was equal to what free white received.
 - d. give more voting power to southern slave owners.
 - e. fail to address the slave trade directly.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 43 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

26. All of the following were compromises in the Constitution **except** that
- a. there was no ban on the importation of slaves before 1808.
 - b. there were to be no export taxes on goods leaving the United States.
 - c. slavery was outlawed.
 - d. representation in the House of Representatives was based on a state's population.
 - e. states were equally represented in the Senate.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 43 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

27. The United States of America is among the few countries that do not tax their exports because
- a. it does not need the money.
 - b. it encourages exports.
 - c. the South obtained a promise that export taxes would not be imposed.
 - d. the World Trade Organization prohibits it from doing so.
 - e. the president of the United States of America vetoed the bill.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 44 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

28. The concept of separation of powers was included in the Constitution to prevent
- a. disputes between the federal and state governments.
 - b. the imposition of export taxes.
 - c. a major dispute over power between the House and the Senate.
 - d. disputes over power between Congress and the president.
 - e. tyranny either of the majority or the minority.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: 44 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

29. Which of the following is NOT correct under the concept of separation of powers?
- a. The president executes and carries out the law.
 - b. The Supreme Court uses judicial review.
 - c. The legislative branch's job is lawmaking.

- d. Congress has the right to interpret the law.
- e. None of the above is correct.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 44-45 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

30. The concept of checks and balances allows
- a. each branch of the government to be able to check the actions of the others.
 - b. the president to veto judicial decisions.
 - c. the president to pass laws during a time of crisis.
 - d. Congress the power to select justices of the Supreme Court.
 - e. both a and c.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: 44-45 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

31. The group that actually elects the president of the United States is called
- a. the Presidential Election Commission.
 - b. the Congressional Election Forum.
 - c. the Association of State Legislatures.
 - d. the Electoral College.
 - e. the Electorate at Large.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 46 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

32. The Constitution that was to be ratified established the following fundamental principles **except**
- a. popular sovereignty, or control by the people.
 - b. a republican government in which the people choose representatives to make decisions for them.
 - c. limited government with written laws.
 - d. a federal system that allows for states' rights, because the states feared too much centralized control.
 - e. presidential infallibility.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: 47 TOP: The Final Document

33. Compared to the Articles of Confederation, the federal government under the Constitution is
- a. stronger .
 - b. weaker.
 - c. unchanged.
 - d. more like Great Britain's constitution.
 - e. little different from the Articles.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: 46 TOP: The Final Document

34. Ratification of the Constitution was to occur by
- a. approval of the thirteen state legislatures.
 - b. approval by nine out of thirteen state conventions.
 - c. approval of the thirteen state legislatures and two-thirds of Congress.
 - d. approval by popular vote in nine states.
 - e. none of the above.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 47
TOP: The Difficult Road to Ratification

35. The Federalists advocated
- a. the status quo.
 - b. return to the Articles of Confederation.

- c. ratification of the new Constitution.
- d. strong state government system.
- e. both a and b.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 47
TOP: The Difficult Road to Ratification

36. The Anti-Federalists advocated
- a. the status quo.
 - b. a strong central government.
 - c. the new Constitution.
 - d. an end to slavery.
 - e. both b and c.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: 47
TOP: The Difficult Road to Ratification

37. The Bill of Rights was important for ratification of the Constitution because
- a. all state constitutions had such rights, and this would have made the U.S. Constitution void without a national bill.
 - b. such rights were stipulated in the Articles of Confederation.
 - c. some states would not have voted to ratify the Constitution without the promise of the Bill of Rights
 - d. none of the above.
 - e. all of the above

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 48 TOP: The Bill of Rights

38. The Bill of Rights provided for
- a. the protection of individual liberties from state governments.
 - b. the protection of individual liberties from the national government.
 - c. equal protection under the law.
 - d. Protect protection against state infringements on the freedoms of conscience, the press, and jury trial.
 - e. both b and d.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 50 TOP: The Bill of Rights

39. The Bill of Rights is an example of the way in which government power is
- a. dictatorial.
 - b. limited.
 - c. delegated to the states.
 - d. without controls.
 - e. always right.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 51 TOP: The Bill of Rights

40. A constitutional amendment can be proposed by
- a. Nata national convention called by Congress at the request of two-thirds of the state legislatures.
 - b. a two-thirds vote in each chamber of Congress.
 - c. the legislatures in two-thirds the states.
 - d. a majority vote in both chambers of Congress, provided the amendment is not vetoed by the president.
 - e. a and b.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: 53 TOP: Altering the Constitution

41. A constitutional amendment can be ratified by
- a positive vote in conventions in three-fourths of the states.
 - a positive vote in the legislatures of three-fourths the states.
 - a two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress.
 - the legislatures in two-thirds of the states.
 - a and b.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: 53 TOP: Altering the Constitution

42. Which groups are involved in proposing and ratifying amendments to the Constitution?
- The states, the president, and Congress
 - The Senate, the Supreme Court, and the House of Representatives
 - Congress, the president, and the people
 - The Senate, the House of Representatives, and the states
 - The House of Representatives, the president, and the Senate

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: 53 TOP: Altering the Constitution

43. The only method used so far to propose an amendment to the Constitution is
- the popular vote of the people.
 - a two-thirds vote in favor of it by both houses of Congress.
 - state legislatures or conventions in three-fourths of the states.
 - a national convention.
 - a proposal by the president.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 53 TOP: Altering the Constitution

44. Judicial review is
- a method by which the president can check the judiciary.
 - the process of confirmation of federal judges by Congress.
 - the ability of the courts to declare acts of the legislative and executive branches of government unconstitutional.
 - not applicable to actions by state governments.
 - none of the above.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: 56-57
TOP: Informal Methods of Constitutional Change

45. The voting age of eighteen was set by
- Congress.
 - the Constitution.
 - political parties.
 - the Supreme Court.
 - the states.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: 55 TOP: The Constitution

46. According to *Federalist #51*, it is important to guard the society against the oppression of
- the rulers.
 - the majority.
 - foreign nations.
 - the wealthy classes.
 - both a and b.

ANS: E

PTS: 1

REF: 56-57

TOP: Appendix C: Federalist #51

47. Informal methods of constitutional change include
- Congress proposing an amendment with a three-fourths majority of both houses.
 - state governments changing their constitutions to give them supremacy.
 - the use of judicial review by the courts.
 - state governments agreeing to hold conventions to amend the Constitution.
 - all of the above.

ANS: C

PTS: 1

REF: 56-57

TOP: Informal Methods of Constitutional Change

48. The power of the Supreme Court to declare actions of the other branches of government to be unconstitutional is known as
- judicial review.
 - judicial activism.
 - legislative ratification.
 - the supremacy doctrine.
 - the Madisonian model.

ANS: A

PTS: 1

REF: 57

TOP: Informal Methods of Constitutional Change

49. The right to carry a gun in places like school campuses and churches is
- addressed by the First Amendment to the Constitution.
 - addressed by the Second Amendment to the Constitution.
 - addressed by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.
 - addressed by the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution.
 - not addressed by the Constitution.

ANS: B

PTS: 1

REF: 30

TOP: What If...Guns Were Allowed on Campus?

50. International agreements between the president and other nations that do not require the approval of the Senate are known as
- treaties.
 - executive agreements.
 - contracts.
 - memoranda of understanding.
 - executive orders.

ANS: B

PTS: 1

REF: 57

TOP: Informal Methods of Constitutional Change

ESSAY

1. Explain what impact the institutions established in the early American settlements had on the structure and operation of later governments in America.

ANS:

Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1

REF: 31-32

TOP: The Colonial Background

2. Explain the structure of the government formed under the Articles of Confederation. How did the shortcomings of this structure necessitate the Constitutional Convention?

ANS:

Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 37-40 TOP: The Articles of Confederation

3. Describe the controversy surrounding the slavery issue. How was this resolved at the Constitutional Convention?

ANS:

Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 43-44 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

4. Describe the concepts of separation of powers and checks and balances and explain why the Founding Fathers included these concepts in the framework of the Constitution.

ANS:

Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 44-46 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

5. Describe the methods of Constitutional amendment.

ANS:

Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 52-55 TOP: Altering the Constitution

6. Compare and contrast the structures of government formed under the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution. How are the colonists' historical experiences reflected in each document? How did the weaknesses of the Articles lead to a different structure in the Constitution?

ANS:

Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 35-46 TOP: The Articles of Confederation

7. At the Constitutional Convention, several compromises were made to garner the support of various states. Describe these compromises and the debates that surrounded them.

ANS:

Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 41-44 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

8. Describe the controversy surrounding the slavery issue. How was this resolved at the Constitutional Convention?

ANS:

Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 42-46 TOP: Drafting the Constitution

9. The Constitution's ratification process included arguments for and against ratification by Federalists and Anti-Federalists, respectively. Describe and evaluate the arguments expressed by both of these groups.

ANS:

Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 47-50 TOP: The Difficult Road to Ratification

10. The process of amending the U.S. Constitution is an intentionally difficult one. Yet those in each branch of government have found ways in which the Constitution can be changed informally. Describe the methods, both formal and informal, of constitutional change.

ANS:

Students' answers may vary.

PTS: 1 REF: 56-58 TOP: Altering the Constitution