2022-2023 AP Government & Politics – Chapter **2**: The Constitution and the Founding

Important information:

Overarching goal: thoughtfully read for understanding all of chapter two – it is the foundation of everything we will do.

Part I lists chapter goals to guide student thinking on the major points of understanding. Chapter goals are for thoughtful consideration only and do not require any written student responses.

Part II lists the chapter vocabulary terms, mainly for student review and studying purposes. Written vocabulary definitions will occur in Part III.

Part III contains the primary portion of student effort for this assignment. Numbers within brackets, for example {20}, represent the textbook page where important information can be found, like graphs, written text, and/or glossary definitions. Students must take hand-written notes using a computer program like OneNote or on loose leaf paper (if you have the ability to scan work into a PDF doc) responding to prompts and definition requests listed below in Part III. Within your notes you must identify responses to prompts by writing and circling the prompt number next to your response. Additionally, when directed to write a term definition, students must write the term and box it in, for example: Virginia Plan, and then write the complete text definition.

**DUE DATE**: Assignment due the first day class is scheduled to meet.

**Part I - Chapter Goals:**

1. Describe the historical circumstances that led to the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

2. Analyze the major issues debated by the framers of the Constitution.

3. Contrast the arguments of the Federalists with those of the Antifederalists.

4. Outline the major provisions of the Constitution.

5. Explore how the meaning of the Constitution has evolved.

**Part II - Terms:**

Articles of Confederation

Limited government

Shay’s Rebellion

Monarchy

Republicanism

Consent of the governed

Natural rights

Social contract

Federalists

Antifederalists

Pluralism

Virginia Plan

New Jersey Plan

Great Compromise

Parliamentary system

Reserved powers

National supremacy clause

Three-Fifths Compromise

Bill of Rights

Necessary and proper clause

Impeachment

Power of the purse

Judicial review

Executive powers clause

Commerce clause

Enumerated powers

Implied powers

**Part III – Reading Response Prompts**

{26}

1. What seems to be the overarching goal of the Tea Party within the Republican Party?

{28}

(The last sentence of the initial paragraph stating “…now that Republicans have unified control of government” has changed since the Election of 2018, Democrats control the House of Representatives)

2. How did the Founders address the recognized human elements of self-interest and conflict?

{29}

3. Explain the ultimate impact of each: the Stamp Act 0f 1765, Tea Tax of 1773, and Coercive Acts of 1774.

Define: Articles of Confederation

Define: limited government

{30}

4. Identify what part of government received all national power under the Articles of Confederation. Explain the role that states played in the arrangement and what is meant by ‘decentralized.’ Identify ways in which states might be considered ‘more powerful’ under the Articles. (This response should be detailed but not a copy of book text).

5. Theorize (you have to do this on your own – the book does not directly say) why the Articles of Confederation did not include an executive branch.

{31}

6. Describe the effectiveness of trade in relation to taxation, import duties, and interstate commerce under the Articles.

7. Explain what was agreed to at the Annapolis Convention of 1786.

{32}

Define: Shay’s Rebellion

8. Explain why Shay’s Rebellion concerned national leaders.

Define: monarchy

9. Identify three key principles shared by the leaders who met in Philadelphia to discuss the Articles.

Define: republicanism

{33}

10. Identify the three main ideas expressed in the opening passage of the Declaration of Independence.

Define: consent of the governed

Define: natural rights

Define: social contract

11. Explain how the concept of a social contract relates to the opening passage of the Declaration of Independence printed at the top of page 33. Cite a specific phrase from the D.o.I. to support your explanation.

12. How does Thomas Hobbes view the state of nature and the role of government?

13. Compare and contrast the solutions Hobbes and Locke have to address the challenges of a state of nature.

14. Identify the major contribution that Montesquieu’s *The Spirit of the Laws* made to the U.S. Constitution and the reasoning behind his contribution.

15. Describe the purpose of the *Federalist Papers*.

16. Describe James Madison’s view on human nature, specifically in Federalist Paper #51.

17. Identify the challenge, according to Madison’s Federalist Paper #10, faced by government.

{34}

18. Explain why governments must try to control the effects of factions rather than the causes.

19. Describe the major economic differences between the South, on the one hand, and the middle Atlantic and northern states, on the other.

{35}

20. Make three comparisons between the legislature under the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution.

21. Describe the amendment and the ratification process in the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution.

22. Identify how taxes are collected under the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution.

Define: Federalist

Define: Antifederalist

{36}

23. Identify five points of tension between delegates attempting to address the problems of the Articles.

24. Describe what groups the framers were thinking of when they discussed minorities.

25. Define “factions.”

26. Describe the republican principle.

27. Explain why Madison was more concerned about tyranny by the majority factions than tyranny by the minority factions.

{37}

28. Describe the method of election favored by large states and by small states, as well as the resulting compromise.

29. Describe the position of the slave states and the position of the non-slave states with regard to control over commerce.

30. Describe how double protection is designed to address the problems of factions. (See also page 41 under National power verse state and local power, first paragraph)

31. Describe the size principle and explain why Madison thought it to be effective. Next, take a moment and consider for yourself…the U.S. is larger than in Madison’s day in terms of land size and population. Does the size principle work today? Speculate and explain your reasoning.

Define: pluralism

{38}

Define: Virginia Plan

Define: New Jersey Plan

Define: Great Compromise

32. Describe one advantage and one disadvantage of having a single executive.

{39}

33. Explain the concept of median population.

34. Identify two perspective that explain how Connecticut occupied a pivotal place at the Constitutional Convention.

{40}

35. Explain an advantage that the executive branch has over the legislative branch according to John Locke.

Define: parliamentary system

36. Describe how representation in the Electoral College is determined.

37. What did each side in the debate over the electoral college cite as justification for supporting this compromise in electing the president.

{41}

38. Explain how the emergence of parties affected the Electoral College system and even the Constitution.

39. Identify and explain the amendment meant to limit the power of the federal government.

Define: reserved powers

Define: national supremacy clause

{42}

40. Explain the concepts of ‘splitting the difference’ and ‘logrolling.’

Define: Three-Fifths Compromise

{44}

41. Describe the Antifederalists’ main objections to the new Constitution.

{44-45}

42. Explain two reasons why some were opposed to a Bill of Rights.

{46}

Define: Bill of Rights

{47}

43. Identify the ‘first branch of government.’

44. List ten powers granted exclusively to Congress.

45. Explain the concept of ‘power of the purse.’

Define: necessary and proper clause

{50}

46. Explain why Alexander Hamilton thought the Supreme Court would be the least dangerous branch.

47. How did the framers attempt to empower the Supreme Court?

48. Identify three shared powers of the president.

49. How did George Washington set a precedent keeping control of the military in civilian hands?

{51}

Define: impeachment

Define: power of the purse

50. Specifically, identify multiple ways in which Congress can check the executive and judicial branches.

{52}

51. Identify a check the executive has over the legislative branch.

52. Identify a check the executive has over the judiciary branch.

Define: *Marbury v Madison*

Define: judicial review

53. What argument do critics of the Marbury decision make in relation to Congress and the president?

54. Concerning separation of powers, what is the ultimate effect of the Marbury decision?

{53}

55. Identify four central values of American citizens.

56. Identify three components of the Constitution that allow it to be a ‘living’ document.

{54}

57. Identify the two approaches to viewing the Constitution and generally how the major political parties side in the discussion.

{55}

58. Explain why the framers intended the Constitution to be ambiguous and identify three components of the Constitution that are ambiguous.

Define: executive powers clause

Define: commerce clause

Define: enumerated powers

59. Describe the differences between *intra*state and *inter*state commerce and explain how this impacted the concept of federalism (the division of power between national and state governments). Why is the distinction between manufacturing and commerce important?

{56}

60. Describe two ways in which amendments can be proposed. (See also chart page 57)

61. Describe two ways in which amendments can be ratified. (See also chart page 57)

62. Describe the main purpose of the 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, and 19th Amendments.

{57}

Define: implied powers

63. How did the viewpoints of Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson differ on the point of George Washington’s proclamation of neutrality in 1793?

{58}

64. Identify examples of proposed amendments to the Constitution that were not ratified.