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TRUE/FALSE

1 : The Mayflower Compact is the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution that lists the freedomssuch as the freedoms of speech, press, and religionthat a citizen enjoys and that cannot be infringed on by the government.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

2 : The Sugar Act passed by the British Parliament required all the American colonies to use the specially packaged sugar that was sold by the East India Company.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

3 : Implicitly, the principle of limited government in the U.S. Constitution rests on the concept of the rule of law.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

4 : The Constitution gave the national government significant powers, including the power to coin money.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

5 : According to the U.S. Constitution, the judiciary has the sole power to appoint federal judges.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

MULTIPLE CHOICE

6 : The _____, which was written more than two hundred years ago, continues to be the supreme law of the land.
A : Constitution
B : Madisonian Model
C : Mayflower Compact
D : Second Treatise of Government
E : Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

Correct Answer : A

7 : The framers of the Constitution brought with them _____ when they met in Philadelphia in 1787.

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A : their hands-on political experience
B : the Bill of Rights
C : the principle of separation of powers
D : their Darwinian views on politics
E : the wealth acquired during the colonial era

Correct Answer : A

8 : Which of the following is true of the Mayflower Compact?
A : It served as a draft of Americas first national constitution.
B : It declared British colonists independence from their home country.
C : It was a petition to the British Crown to remove taxation.
D : It was essentially a bill of rights which became the first ten amendments to the Constitution.
E : It was written by the Protestant Pilgrims who went on to settle in the New World.

Correct Answer : E

9 : The Pilgrims drew up the Mayflower Compact because:
A : it established the western boundary of the Connecticut colony.
B : they agreed that no form of governmental authority was necessary for the colony.
C : they were essentially atheists who established the compact to protect their interests.
D : they settled in an area outside the territory assigned to the Virginia Company.
E : it established that the British Crown would function as an absolute monarch for the colony.

Correct Answer : D

10 : Which of the following is true of the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut?
A : It set up the western boundary of the Connecticut colony.
B : It consisted of the first ten amendments to the Constitution which codified the inalienable rights.
C : It proposed that Connecticuts laws should be made by the British Crown and not the settlers in the New World.
D : It called for the civil laws to be made by an assembly of elected representatives from each town.
E : It provided the basic architectural layout for Connecticut.

Correct Answer : D

11 : The earliest colonial legislature in America was the _____.
A : Virginia House of Burgesses
B : Assembly of Freemen
C : Massachusetts House of Representatives
D : Connecticut House of Representatives
E : House of Delegates

Correct Answer : A

12 : In the context of the colonists participation in colonial governments, which of the following statements is true?
A : They became familiar with the practical problems of governing.
B : They did not pay taxes to support the costs incurred by the British government.
C : They were represented in the British Parliament.
D : They resented the Sugar Act more than the Stamp Act.

E : They were unable to establish their own constitutions even after their independence from Britain.

Correct Answer : A

13 : After the British victory in the Seven Years War, the:
A : relationship between the American colonists and the British greatly improved.
B : British government began imposing taxes on the American colonists.
C : American colonists began to enjoy more independence from British control.
D : American colonists convened for the First Continental Congress on September 5, 1774, to discuss an alliance with the French.
E : American colonists strategized for a war against the Native Americans.

Correct Answer : B

14 : Which of the following is a reason that contributed to the resentment felt by British colonists in America toward their motherland after the Seven Years War?
A : Many colonists were held prisoners in Britain under false allegations of treason during the Seven Years war.
B : The colonists felt that the British did not give them due credits for the victory in the Seven Years War.
C : The British Parliament refused to allow the colonists to trade with other countries after the Seven Years war.
D : The colonists were denied British citizenship after the Seven Years war.
E : The British government used American colonists as slaves in Britain after the Seven Years war.

Correct Answer : B

15 : The colonists began using the word American to describe themselves:
A : after writing the Articles of Confederation.
B : when the Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts.
C : after adopting the Declaration of Independence.
D : after the conclusion of the Seven Years War.
E : when the British Parliament refused to repeal the Stamp Act.

Correct Answer : D

16 : Which of the following was a result of the Sugar Act of 1764?
A : The British government started exercising more direct control over colonial trade.
B : Representatives of the American colonies prepared a declaration of rights and grievances, which they sent to King George III.
C : The British Parliament closed Boston Harbor and placed the government of Massachusetts under direct British control.
D : Colonists dressed as Mohawk Indians dumped almost 350 chests of British tea into Boston Harbor.
E : Some colonists proposed a boycott of certain British imports.

Correct Answer : E

17 : Which of the following statements is true about the Stamp Act?
A : It imposed a tax on all paper imported into the American colonies.
B : It was the second direct tax that the British Parliament imposed on the colonists.

C : It was a document prepared by colonial delegates outlining their perceived rights and grievances against the British rule.
D : It required that packaged sugar should have the stamp of the British crown.
E : It required that all legal documents use specially embossed paper that was to be purchased from the government.

Correct Answer : E

18 : Which of the following was an argument by James Otis, Jr. against the Stamp Act?
A : The British government was discriminating against its own people and violating the Magna Carta by imposing the Stamp Act.
B : It was only fair that the British government taxed the aboriginals of America and not the settlers who hailed from England.
C : The colonists were not represented in the British Parliament and so could not be taxed.
D : The colonists were solely responsible for Britains victory in the Seven Years War and it was only fair that they were exempted from taxes.
E : The colonists were contributing to British expansion and so should not be taxed.

Correct Answer : C

19 : The first time a majority of American colonists joined together to oppose British rule was during:
A : the Second Continental Congress.
B : Shays Rebellion.
C : the Boston Tea Party.
D : the First Continental Congress.
E : the Stamp Act Congress.

Correct Answer : E

20 : In response to the Boston Tea Party, the British Parliament:
A : passed new laws designed to give the colonists in Boston more right to govern themselves.
B : repealed the Stamp Act and allowed greater representation for the colonists in the parliament.
C : closed Boston Harbor and placed the government of Massachusetts under direct British control.
D : imposed additional taxes on glass, paint, and lead that was imported by the colonists in Boston.
E : wrote the Articles of Confederation to limit the freedom of American colonists.

Correct Answer : C

21 : The First Continental Congress:
A : called for a continued boycott of British goods.
B : had all thirteen colonies participate in it.
C : immediately assumed the powers of a central government.
D : named George Washington as the commander in chief of the army.
E : declared that the militiamen who had gathered around Boston were a full army.

Correct Answer : A

22 : In the context of the Continental Congress, which of the following is true of the committees of safety or observation?

A : They were formed after the battles at Lexington and Concord.
B : They conducted paramedical training for the colonists army.
C : They were responsible for propagating a sense of loyalty to the British Crown among the colonists.
D : They were formed as a result of the Second Continental Congress.
E : They reported to the press the names of those who violated the boycott against Britain.

Correct Answer : E

23 : Which of the following is true of the Second Continental Congress?
A : It intended to reach a peaceful settlement with the British Parliament.
B : It intended to impose taxes on Native Americans.
C : It decided that the colonies should send a petition to King George III to explain their grievances.
D : It named Thomas Jefferson as its commander in chief.
E : It was convened with the primary intention of declaring war on Britain.

Correct Answer : A

24 : Which of the following is true of the pamphlet Common Sense?
A : It was an Anti-Federalist essay which argued that the Constitution would lead the nation to tyranny.
B : It expressed the desire to acquire a strong central government.
C : It was a pamphlet that reflected the Hobbesian views on world politics.
D : It argued that America could be economically self-sufficient and does not need its British connection.
E : It helped re-establish loyalty to the British monarch.

Correct Answer : D

25 : Following Paines publication of Common Sense, the Second Continental Congress:
A : suggested that all colonies establish state governments separate from Britain.
B : voted for free trade at all American ports with all countries including Britain.
C : immediately accepted the resolution for independence proposed by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia.
D : appointed Paine as the commander in chief of its army.
E : decided to declare war on Britain.

Correct Answer : A

26 : The _____ was adopted on July 4, 1776 and most of the document was written by Thomas Jefferson.
A : Mayflower Compact
B : Bill of Rights
C : Declaration of Independence
D : Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
E : Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges

Correct Answer : C

27 : Which of the following statements is true about the Declaration of Independence?
A : It served as a draft of Americas first national constitution.
B : It empowered state governments to write their own constitutions.

C : It was written by the Pilgrims to serve as a social contract.
D : It was issued by the British Government to grant freedom to its American colonies.
E : It elevated the dispute between Britain and the American colonies to a universal level.

Correct Answer : E

28 : As the American colonies transformed themselves into sovereign states, republican sentiment was so strong in many of them that the _____ became all-powerful.
A : legislatures
B : courts
C : executive branches
D : state governments
E : bureaucracies

Correct Answer : A

29 : Nationalist ideologies differed from those of republicans in that nationalists:
A : had an antiauthoritarian, localist impulse.
B : opposed government interference in the lives of citizens.
C : favored an effective central authority.
D : opposed any form of government that resembled monarchy.
E : were suspicious of national authority as represented by the Continental Congress.

Correct Answer : C

30 : Which of the following is true of a confederation?
A : States are governed centrally so that they can progress in a unified direction.
B : It is a party convention held at the local level that elects delegates to conventions at the national level.
C : The member states let the central government undertake most state activities.
D : It is an involuntary association of states which are annexed by the most powerful state.
E : The member states typically govern most state affairs as they see fit.

Correct Answer : E

31 : The _____ established a national form of government following the American Revolution.
A : Articles of Confederation
B : Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
C : Declaration of Independence
D : Mayflower Compact
E : Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges

Correct Answer : A

32 : The Articles of Confederation provided that:
A : each state could send two to seven representatives to the congress.
B : the Congress of the Confederation could force the states to meet military quotas.
C : a bicameral Congress of the Confederation would act as the central governing body.
D : each state, no matter what its size, had two votes.
E : a powerful central government would be formed based on the system of monarchy.

Correct Answer : A

33 : In the context of the American government under the Articles of Confederation, the Committee of States:
A : consisted of one delegate from each state, appointed by Congress.
B : needed the approval of at least nine states to exercise most powers.
C : had no executive authority.
D : was formed by Congress to manage general affairs under the direction of Congress.
E : needed the consent of all states to amend the Articles.

Correct Answer : A

34 : Which of the following is true of the provisions of the Articles of Confederation?
A : The Congress of the Confederation was a unicameral assembly of representatives.
B : Civil officers could be elected by the public to manage general affairs.
C : States were deprived of their independent political authority.
D : The Congress of the Confederation needed the consent of at least five states to amend the Articles.
E : Each state could send only one representative to Congress.

Correct Answer : A

35 : In the context of the Articles of Confederation, the Congress of the Confederation:
A : could not enter into treaties and alliances.
B : did not have the power to enforce its laws.
C : could not settle disputes among different states.
D : had no power to declare war on any country.
E : had no power to establish the armed forces.

Correct Answer : B

36 : Within a year of signing the _____, the new nation was suffering from a serious economic depression.
A : Mayflower Compact
B : Treaty of Versailles
C : Treaty of Paris
D : Declaration of Independence
E : Magna Carta

Correct Answer : C

37 : Which of the following is a crisis America faced after the Revolutionary War ended?
A : The nation was prevented from entering into agreements with foreign powers.
B : The nation suffered the loss of many lives due to an epidemic.
C : The nation drastically reduced the printing of money.
D : The nation was prevented from importing sugar from Britain.
E : The nation was suffering from a serious economic depression.

Correct Answer : E

38 : Which of the following is true of Shays Rebellion?
A : It was an indication to American political leaders that the national government was too discriminating.
B : It was one of the series of disruptions which indicated the need for a strong central government.

C : It was a protest against the imposition of a tax on all sugar imported into the American colonies.
D : It was a catalyst for the Boston Tea Party in rebellion of the Stamp Act.
E : It was an indication of the dependence of American colonists on the British Crown.

Correct Answer : B

39 : Which of the following is a consequence of Shays Rebellion?
A : Banks started refusing to issue new loans.
B : States started printing their own money at dizzying rates, leading to inflation.
C : Similar protests, emphasizing the need of a strong national government, started in many areas.
D : It led to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
E : States increasingly taxed each others imports and at times even prevented trade altogether.

Correct Answer : C

40 : The Philadelphia meeting, which became the Constitutional Convention, was called for the sole and express purpose of:
A : revising the Articles of Confederation.
B : drafting the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut.
C : revising the Mayflower Compact.
D : electing a president.
E : reviewing the provisions in the Great Compromise.

Correct Answer : A

41 : The delegates of the _____ wrote a new constitution, the U.S. Constitution that established a federal form of government.
A : Nominating Convention
B : Boston Tea Party
C : Second Continental Congress
D : Constitutional Convention
E : First Continental Congress

Correct Answer : D

42 : For the most part, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention were _____.
A : representative of the population as a whole
B : from the best-educated and wealthiest classes
C : members of the Anti-Federalist group
D : ordinary farmers and merchants
E : Native Americans

Correct Answer : B

43 : Which of the following proposals was part of the Virginia Plan?
A : A unicameral legislature with states representations based on their population
B : A national executive branch, elected by a bicameral legislature
C : A state court system, created by the legislature
D : A committee of states based on their participation in the Constitutional Convention
E : A federal court judge elected by the people

Correct Answer : B

44 : Which of the following was proposed in the New Jersey Plan?
A : The legislature would create a national court system.
B : A states population would determine its number of representatives in Congress.
C : A bicameral legislature would have two chambers that represented the states equally.
D : The Acts of Congress would be the supreme law of the land.
E : The state laws would overrule Acts of Congress in matters of conflict between states.

Correct Answer : D

45 : The Great Compromise at the Constitutional Convention:
A : guaranteed freedom of speech to Americans of all races.
B : resolved the small-state and large-state controversy by giving something to both sides.
C : resolved the issue of slavery.
D : guaranteed land for Native Americans.
E : agreed on the establishment of a unicameral legislature that equally represented the states.

Correct Answer : B

46 : In the context of the three-fifths compromise, the delegates from the northern states:
A : did not want slaves to be counted as part of the population.
B : wanted a legislature with two separate chambers.
C : did not want southern states to have any representation in the upper house.
D : wanted each state to have only one vote.
E : did not want to trade with the southern states.

Correct Answer : A

47 : In the context of the issues regarding slavery, which of the following statements is true about the settlement that was reached at the Constitutional Convention?
A : The South won fifty years of unrestricted slave trade by agreeing to its prohibition thereafter.
B : Slaves were not considered as part of a states population.
C : Slaves who had fled to the northern states had to be returned to their owners.
D : Domestic slave trading was banned immediately after the Convention.
E : Slaves who had escaped to England were considered free.

Correct Answer : C

48 : At the Constitutional Convention, in exchange for a ban on export taxes, the South agreed to let Congress have the power to _____.
A : impose import taxes
B : regulate voting rights
C : appoint an independent executive
D : ban slavery
E : regulate interstate commerce

Correct Answer : E

49 : Which of the following is one of the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation that was addressed by making the president the commander in chief of the army and navy and of the state militias when called into national service?
A : Lack of regulation of interstate commerce

B : Inability of the Congress to force the states to meet military quotas
C : Lack of an independent executive authority
D : Absence of a judiciary that was independent of the state courts
E : Lack of voting powers of the common people to choose their president

Correct Answer : C

50 : The battle over the ratification of the Constitution was fought chiefly by two opposing groups, _____.
A : the Nationalists and the Federalists
B : the Republicans and the Conservatives
C : the Anti-Federalists and the Confederates
D : the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists
E : the Conservatives and the Libertarians

Correct Answer : D

51 : As opposed to their opponents, which of the following is an advantage the Federalists had in the debate over the ratification of the Constitution?
A : They assumed a positive name, leaving their opposition with a negative label.
B : They favored the bill of rights more strongly than their opponents.
C : They had the support of ordinary farmers and merchants.
D : They wrote brilliantly, attacking nearly every clause of the new constitution document.
E : They stood for the status quo, which gave them the support of the working class.

Correct Answer : A

52 : Which of the following was a fear expressed by the new Constitutions critics?
A : Americans would consider themselves superior to other nations and declare war unreasonably.
B : The rights of the wealthy upper classes would not be protected because of the principle of equality before law.
C : A republican form of government would not work in a nation the size of the United States.
D : A slave rebellion would ensue because the problem of slavery in the northern states was unresolved despite widespread disapproval.
E : Extensive individual freedom in the hands of the common people would lead to chaos.

Correct Answer : C

53 : In an attempt to negotiate with the Anti-Federalists during the Constitutional ratification, the Federalists promised to:
A : establish a federal court system once the Constitution was ratified.
B : add a bill of rights to the Constitution under the new government.
C : guarantee voting rights for women and slaves to ensure complete representation.
D : appoint Anti-Federalists to important positions in the government.
E : minimize the powers of the judicial branch of government to ensure privileges to aristocrats.

Correct Answer : B

54 : Kayla, a counsellor at a government rehabilitation center, refused to pay a fine for violating a traffic rule. She claimed that she had the right to drive as she pleased because she worked for the government. However, according to the principle of _____, Kayla was obligated to pay the fine.

A : representative government
B : federalism
C : liberty
D : separation of powers
E : rule of law

Correct Answer : E

55 : The Constitution incorporated the principle of _____ as the solution to the debate over whether the national government or the states should have ultimate sovereignty.
A : popular sovereignty
B : rule of law
C : limited government
D : federalism
E : partisanship

Correct Answer : D

56 : The Madisonian Model of government is based on the principle of _____.
A : separation of powers
B : representative government
C : rule of law
D : taxation without representation
E : the Great Compromise

Correct Answer : A

57 : A bill is introduced by Congress that proposes the use of electronic surveillance in the homes of all citizens. However, the president of the U.S. rejects the bill and returns it to the legislature for reconsideration on the grounds of the bill violating the Bill of Rights. Which of the following concepts is illustrated in this scenario?
A : Federalism
B : Formal anarchy
C : Partisanship
D : Veto power
E : Absolute authority

Correct Answer : D

58 : _____ emphasizes effective government rather than limited government.
A : The parliamentary system
B : The concept of the separation of power
C : Federalism
D : The concept of checks and balances
E : The concept of the veto power

Correct Answer : A

59 : All the amendments to the Constitution have been proposed by:
A : a vote by one-third of the state legislatures.
B : a vote by three-fourths of the state legislatures.
C : a two-thirds vote in the Senate and in the House of Representatives.
D : a three-fourths vote in the Senate and in the House of Representatives.

E : a three-fourths vote in the House of Representatives.

Correct Answer : C

60 : The traditional amendment ratification method involves:
A : a three-fourths vote in the Senate in favor of the proposed amendment.
B : a three-fourths vote in the House of Representatives requesting Congress to call a national convention.
C : a two-thirds vote in the Senate and in the House of Representatives in favor of the amendment.
D : a vote by two-thirds of the state legislatures requesting Congress to call a national convention.
E : a vote by three-fourths of the state legislatures in favor of the proposed amendment.

Correct Answer : E

FILL IN THE BLANK

61 : The _____ was Americas first written constitution, which was adopted in 1639.A. Pennsylvania Charter of PrivilegesB. Articles of ConfederationC. Fundamental Orders of ConnecticutD. New Jersey Plan

Correct Answer : Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

62 : The _____ pioneered the popular election of a governor and judges.A. Bill of RightsB. Mayflower CompactC. Pennsylvania Charter of PrivilegesD. Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

Correct Answer : Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

63 : The _____ consists of the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution.A. Bill of RightsB. Mayflower CompactC. Pennsylvania Charter of PrivilegesD. Declaration of Independence

Correct Answer : Bill of Rights

64 : In response to the Boston Tea Party, the British Parliament passed the _____ in 1774.A. Bill of RightsB. Mayflower CompactC. Coercive ActsD. Articles of Confederation

Correct Answer : Coercive Acts

65 : In the _____, the congress called for a continued boycott of British goods and required each colony to establish an army.A. Annapolis MeetingB. Philadelphia ConventionC. First Continental CongressD. Second Continental Congress

Correct Answer : First Continental Congress

66 : The _____ settled states claims to many of the western lands and established a basic pattern for the government of new territories.A. Madisonian ModelB. Mayflower CompactC. Northwest OrdinanceD. Stamp Act

Correct Answer : Northwest Ordinance

67 : The Madisonian Model of government was devised to _____.A. create a unicameral legislatureB. give the judiciary supreme powerC. promote controlling factionsD. implement separation of powers

Correct Answer : implement separation of powers

68 : _____ are appointed for life but may be impeached and removed from office by Congress for misconduct.A. Federal court judgesB. Members of the House of RepresentativesC. Members of the SenateD. Civil officers

Correct Answer : Federal court judges

69 : In the context of checks and balances among the branches of government, _____ can override presidential vetoes.A. CongressB. the ParliamentC. the Supreme CourtD. voters

Correct Answer : Congress

ESSAY

70 : Discuss the necessity and significance of the Mayflower Compact.

Correct Answer : Answers will vary. The first New England colony was founded by the Plymouth Company in 1620 at Plymouth in what is today Massachusetts. Most of the settlers at Plymouth were Pilgrims, a group of English Protestants who came to the New World on the ship Mayflower. Even before the Pilgrims went ashore, they drew up the Mayflower Compact, in which they set up a government and promised to obey its laws.The reason for the compact was that the group was outside the territory assigned to the Virginia Company, which had arranged for them to settle in what is now New York, not Massachusetts. Fearing that some of the passengers might decide that they were no longer subject to any rules of civil order, the leaders on board the Mayflower agreed that some form of governmental authority was necessary.The Mayflower Compact was essentially a social contract. It has historical significance because it was the first of a series of similar contracts among the colonists to establish fundamental rules of government. The Compact reflected the fact that Plymouth was essentially a religious colony, and early colonial attitudes toward religion were different from those of the revolutionary era.

71 : In the context of the history of the American government, explain the structure and benefits of colonial legislatures.

Correct Answer : Answers will vary. The British colonies in America were under the rule of the British monarchy. Britain, however, was thousands of miles away—it took two months to sail across the Atlantic. Thus, to a significant extent, colonial legislatures carried on the "nuts and bolts" of colonial government. These legislatures, or representative assemblies, consisted of representatives elected by the colonists. The earliest colonial legislature was the Virginia House of Burgesses, established in 1619. By the time of the American Revolution, all of the colonies had representative assemblies. Many had been in existence for more than a hundred years. Through their participation in colonial governments, the colonists gained crucial political experience. Colonial leaders became familiar with the practical problems of governing. They learned how to build coalitions among groups with diverse interests and how to make compromises. Indeed, by the time of the American Revolution in 1776, Americans had formed a complex, sophisticated political system. The colonists benefited from their political experiences.

They were quickly able to establish their own constitutions and state governments after they declared their independence from Britain in 1776. Eventually, they were able to set up a national government as well.

72 : Summarize the Constitutions principles of limited government and federalism.

Correct Answer : Answers will vary. The Constitution incorporated the principle of limited government, which means that government can do only what the people allow it to do through the exercise of a duly developed system of laws. This principle can be found in many parts of the Constitution. Implicitly, the principle of limited government rests on the concept of popular sovereignty. In other words, it is the people who form the government and decide on the powers that the government can exercise. The idea that no one, including government officers, is above the law is often called the rule of law. Ultimately, the viability of a democracy rests on the willingness of the people and their leaders to adhere to the rule of law. A nation's written constitution may guarantee numerous rights and liberties for its citizens. Yet, unless the government of that nation enforces those rights and liberties, the law does not rule the nation. Rather, the government decides what the rules will be.The Constitution also incorporated the principle of federalism, or a federal system of government, in which the central (national) government shares sovereign powers with the various state governments. Federalism was the solution to the debate over whether the national government or the states should have ultimate sovereignty. The Constitution gave the national government significant powers—powers that it had not had under the Articles of Confederation. For example, the Constitution expressly states that the president is the nation's chief executive as well as the commander in chief of the armed forces. The Constitution also declares that the Constitution and the laws created by the national government are supreme—that is, they take precedence over conflicting state laws. Other powers given to the national government include the power to coin money, to levy and collect taxes, and to regulate interstate commerce, a power granted by the commerce clause. Finally, the national government was authorized to undertake all laws that are "necessary and proper" for carrying out its expressly delegated powers.Because the states feared too much centralized control, the Constitution also allowed for many states' rights. These rights include the power to regulate commerce within state borders and generally the authority to exercise any powers that are not delegated by the Constitution to the central government.

73 : Discuss how the system of checks and balances in the Constitutional framework ensures that no one group or branch of government can exercise exclusive control.

Correct Answer : Answers will vary. A system of checks and balances was also devised to ensure that no one group or branch of government can exercise exclusive control. Even though each branch of government is independent of the others, it can also check the actions of the others. The president checks Congress by holding a veto power, which is the ability to return bills to Congress for reconsideration. Congress, in turn, controls taxes and spending, and the Senate must approve presidential appointments. The judicial branch can check the other branches of government through judicial review—the power to rule congressional or presidential actions unconstitutional. In turn, the president and the Senate exercise some control over the judiciary through the president's power to appoint federal judges and the Senate's role in confirming presidential appointments.Among the other checks and balances built into the American system are staggered terms of office. Members of the House of Representatives serve for two years, members of the Senate for six, and the president for four. Federal court judges are appointed for life but may be impeached and removed from office by Congress for misconduct. Staggered terms and changing government personnel were supposed to make it difficult for individuals within the government to form controlling factions.

74 : Describe the four possible ways for an amendment to be added to the Constitution.

Correct Answer : Answers will vary. Since the Constitution was written, more than eleven thousand amendments have been introduced in Congress. Nonetheless, in the years since the ratification of the Bill of Rights, only seventeen proposed amendments have actually survived the amendment process and become a part of our Constitution. Some contend that members of Congress use the amendment process simply as a political ploy. By introducing an amendment, a member of Congress often can show her or his position on an issue, knowing that the odds against the amendment's being adopted are high.One of the reasons there are so few amendments is that the framers, in Article V, made the formal amendment process difficult (although it was easier than it had been under the Articles of Confederation). There are two ways to propose an amendment and two ways to ratify one. As a result, there are four possible ways for an amendment to be added to the Constitution.The two methods of proposing an amendment are as follows:1. A two-thirds vote in the Senate and in the House of Representatives is required. All of the twenty-seven existing amendments have been proposed in this way.2. If two-thirds of the state legislatures request that Congress call a national amendment convention, then Congress must call one. The convention may propose amendments to the states for ratification. No such convention has ever been convened.The notion of a national amendment convention is exciting to many people. Many leaders, however, are uneasy about the prospect of convening a body that conceivably could do what the Constitutional Convention did—create a new form of government.There are two methods of ratifying a proposed amendment:1. Three-fourths of the state legislatures can vote in favor of the proposed amendment. This method is considered the "traditional" ratification method and has been used twenty-six times.2. The states can call special conventions to ratify the proposed amendment. If three-fourths of the states approve, the amendment is ratified. This method has been used only once—to ratify the Twenty-first Amendment.

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