

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Directions: Answer all questions to the best of your ability.

Colonial Period

1. Based on the House of Burgesses in Virginia (1619), what TWO democratic traditions did it help establish in America?

a) _____

b) _____

2. The philosopher John Locke wrote about three natural rights. What are they?

- Life
- Liberty
- _____

3. What TWO factors led to the growth of representative government in the colonies?

a) Geographic distance from _____

b) Influence of _____ and other Enlightenment philosophers

4. Why did New England colonies focus on shipbuilding and whaling instead of large farming operations?

5. Under mercantilism, what were colonies expected to do? How did this benefit England?

Road to Revolution

6. List TWO examples of British mercantilist policies that restricted colonial trade:

a) _____

b) _____

7. When the British passed the Intolerable Acts in 1774, how did the American colonists IMMEDIATELY respond?
8. Why was the Battle of Saratoga considered a turning point in the American Revolution?
9. In 1776, George Washington saved the Continental Army in New York. What helped him successfully evacuate his troops?
10. According to Thomas Jefferson, why was the Declaration of Independence one of his greatest contributions?

Articles of Confederation & Northwest Ordinance

11. List TWO weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation:
- a) _____
- b) _____

12. Why did the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 encourage education in new territories?

The Constitution

13. What compromise created a bicameral (two-house) legislature to solve disagreements about representation?
14. The Three-Fifths Compromise was about counting population for representation. How did this compromise support slavery?

15. Fill in the chart with the correct powers for each branch:

Branch	Powers
Legislative Branch	a. _____ b. Declares war
Executive Branch	a. _____ b. Commands armed forces
Judicial Branch	a. _____ b. Declares laws unconstitutional

16. Match each example to the correct constitutional principle:

_____ People are governed by state and national laws.

_____ Cruel punishments and excessive fines are prohibited.

_____ Only Congress can make laws.

A. Limited Government

B. Separation of Powers

C. Federalism

17. According to James Madison in Federalist No. 51, why is federalism needed in government?

18. How does dividing power between different levels of government protect the people?

The Bill of Rights

19. Which historic document had the GREATEST influence on the first ten amendments (Bill of Rights)?

20. Read this excerpt from Virginia law in the late 1700s:

"No man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place or ministry whatsoever...; but that all men shall be free to [declare]... their opinions in matters of religion."

Why was this law significant?

21. How did the First Amendment's protection of religious freedom affect early American society?

22. The Declaration of Independence complained that the British military was "independent of and superior to the Civil power." How did the Constitution address this grievance?

23. Why was the Third Amendment (prohibiting quartering of troops) added to the Constitution?

24. Which of these situations would VIOLATE the Eighth Amendment's protection against cruel and unusual punishment? Underline the correct answer.

- a) A protester jailed for violent acts
- b) A person sentenced to life in prison for shoplifting
- c) A person sentenced to 10 years for assault and robbery
- d) A judge orders bail for an accused person

Early Republic

25. Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson debated whether to create a national bank. Fill in their arguments:

Hamilton's Argument (FOR the bank)

- a) _____
- b) A national bank would help maintain public credit.

Jefferson's Arguments (AGAINST the bank)

- a) _____
- b) A national bank would favor manufacturing at the expense of agriculture.

26. Disagreements over what issue led to the formation of the Federalist Party?

27. How did the US government encourage the free-enterprise system in the early 1800s?

Supreme Court Cases

28. What principle was established by the Supreme Court case *Marbury v. Madison*?

29. What issue was debated in *Gibbons v. Ogden*?

2025-2026 Chronological USH8 December Semester Exam Review