

The Almost Painless Guide to the U.S. Constitution

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. **At over 200 years old, the United States of America has the oldest continual form of government in use today.**
(Check only one answer)

- true
- false

2. **Our constitutional government includes the following, EXCEPT _____.**
(Check only one answer)

- establishing a higher law
- explaining all the amendments
- limiting the powers of government
- protecting the individual rights of the people

3. **What did the framers of the Constitution do?**
(Check only one answer)

- established a constitutional convention
- passed two-thirds of the laws for government approval
- wrote the amendments that are the foundation of the rules
- combined the ideas of several governments into one framework

4. **The co-equal branches of government provided in the checks and balances are the _____.**
(Check only one answer)

- House and Senate
- federal, state, and local
- laws, amendments, and articles
- executive, judicial, and legislative

5. **Before it can become a law, legislation passed by Congress must also be signed by _____.**
(Check only one answer)

- the House
- the Senate
- the president
- the judges

6. **The president's duties, as part of the executive branch, include which of the following?**
(Check only one answer)

- enforcing laws
- being Head of State
- being commander-in-chief
- all of the above

7. **The Constitution is a permanent document which may never be changed.**
(Check only one answer)

- true

false

**8. The ultimate authorities in our government are _____.
(Check only one answer)**

- all the leaders
- we the people
- most of the judges
- many of the governors

Name _____

VIDEO QUIZ

Directions: For each of the following statements, circle true or false.

1. The Constitution is the set of rules or guidelines that organizes our government.

True False

2. A constitutional government limits the powers of the government.

True False

3. In a federal system of government, the federal government shares power and responsibility with the states.

True False

4. The Constitution is a permanent document which may never be changed.

True False

5. There are only ten amendments to the Constitution.

True False

6. The introduction to the Constitution is called the "Preamble."

True False

7. The name given to the individuals that created the Constitution is the "Founding Fathers" or the "Framers."

True False

8. All of the branches of government have equal power.

True False

9. The Constitution does not specifically state the powers of the branches of government.

True False

10. The Constitution can only be changed by the President of the United States.

True False

Name _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of a constitutional government?
2. What is the Preamble to the Constitution? What is its purpose?
3. What is a federal system of government?
4. What are the three branches of government?
5. How do the three branches work within the system of checks and balances?
6. What is the Bill of Rights?
7. What are the two ways in which an amendment can be ratified?
8. What is the purpose of the other sixteen amendments other than the Bill of Rights?
9. According to the Constitution, what role do the people play in the country's political processes?
10. How does the Constitution and the Bill of Rights ensure the concept of "We the people"?

Name _____

CHECKS AND BALANCES

1. In the space provided, write the name of the branch of government that has each of the following specific responsibilities.

A. To write laws and establish policies for the government. _____

B. To carry out, administer, and enforce the policies of the government. _____

C. To interpret the laws of the government. _____

2. In the space provided, write the name of the branch of government next to the body of people that elects them.

A. Elected in a national election using an Electoral College. _____

B. Elected in a state election by residents of that state. _____

C. Members of this branch are appointed, not elected. _____

3. In the space provided, write the name of the branch of government next to the appropriate length of term.

A. Length of term is for life. _____

B. Length of term is for four years. _____

C. Length of term is for either two or six years. _____

4. In the space below, answer the following question: How do all of these differences help create a system of checks and balances?