

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Document Based Question: The United States Constitution**

**Lessons Learning Objective:** I will be able to analysis primary source historical documents to answer comprehension questions and complete a five paragraph DBQ essay question.

### **Essay Question**

**Discuss *two* ways in which the *Constitution of the United States* has created a strong national (federal) government**

**Identify and discuss *two* methods included in the *Constitution* to limit the power of the national government**

**Provide *two examples* on how the *Constitution* protects the rights of the people**

### **Directions Part A**

- i) Read and annotate the Historical Context DBQ Introduction
- ii) In pairs using information from the documents and your prior knowledge answer the questions that follows each document (1-6)
- iii) Complete Document Based Organizer

### **Part B**

- i) Read instruction for essay
- ii) Complete Essay Graphic organizer
- iii) Write a five paragraph essay to answer the following essay question

**Discuss *two* ways in which the *Constitution of the United States* has created a strong national (federal) government (Paragraph 1)**

**Identify and discuss *two* methods included in the *Constitution* to limit the power of the national government (P-2)**

**Provide *two examples* on how the *Constitution* protects the rights of the people (p-3)**

## Part A

### Historical Context:

#### i) Read and Annotate

Although the United States won its independence from Great Britain during the Revolutionary War, the nation found the years immediately following the war to be difficult. The national government, created by the *Articles of Confederation*, was plagued by weaknesses. The country was troubled by financial difficulties, military weakness, massive debt, and lack of cooperation between State and the National Governments. Many felt that the nation was on the verge of collapse. Shays' Rebellion frightened the nation and convinced leaders in all 13 states that changes to the government were necessary.

In 1787, delegates from 12 states met in Philadelphia to correct the weaknesses of the *Articles of Confederation*. Over the course of the summer, the delegates worked to create a new and more powerful national government. At the same time, the "Framers" of the new *Constitution of the United States* took steps to limit the power of the national government and to protect the rights of the people. Ratified in 1789, the *Constitution of the United States* has served as the nation's framework of government for 226 years and is one of the world's oldest written constitutions.

- ii) Read and annotate the documents and answer the questions underneath each document

**Document One • Articles Six and Seven of the Constitution**

**Article Six of the Constitution –Supreme Law of the Land**

This Constitution and all laws and treaties of the United States Government created by it shall be the supreme (highest) law of the land. The judges of every state shall be bound by it (forced to obey it) regardless of the laws of any state to the contrary (that stand in conflict with it).

**Article Seven of the Constitution – Oaths of Office**

The Senators, Representatives, members of the state legislatures, and all officers of the executive and judicial branches shall be bound by oath to support this Constitution.

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1. According to Article Six, what became the "supreme law of the land" and who was forced to obey it?"

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2. Who was required to swear oaths to support the *Constitution of the United States*?

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**Document Two-Powers of the Federal (National Government)**

The Powers of the Three Branches of the Federal Government

**Article One** of the Constitutions -Legislative Powers (Congress)

Legislative Branch/Congress of the United States:

- Create Laws
- Coin (make) money
- Raise Taxes
- Establish post offices
- Borrow Money
- Declare War
- Raise and support a military (Army and Navy)

**Article Two** of the Constitution –Executive Powers (President)

Executive Branch/President of the United States

- Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces
- May negotiate treaties with foreign nations
- May nominate federal judges and other officials
- May grant pardons to federal offenders

**Article Three** of the Constitution -Judicial Powers (Federal Courts)

Judicial Branch/Supreme Court and Federal Courts.

- Interpret and rule on laws
  - Interpret and rule on the actions of the other branches
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3. Explain how the Constitution gave the new Federal Government *increased powers* that allowed it to effectively govern the entire nation. Give three specific examples.

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## Document Three – Separation of Powers

Legislative Branch (Congress)	Executive Branch (President)	Judicial Branch (Supreme Court and Other Federal Courts)
		
<b>Passes Laws</b>	<b>Carries Out Laws</b>	<b>Interprets Laws</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can override President's veto</li><li>• Approves treaties and presidential appointments</li><li>• Can impeach and remove President and other high officials</li><li>• Creates lower federal courts</li><li>• Appropriates money</li><li>• Prints and coins money</li><li>• Raises and supports the armed forces</li><li>• Can declare war</li><li>• Regulates foreign and interstate trade</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposes laws</li><li>• Can veto laws</li><li>• Negotiates foreign treaties</li><li>• Serves as commander in chief of the armed forces</li><li>• Appoints federal judges, ambassadors, and other high officials</li><li>• Can grant pardons to federal offenders</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can declare laws unconstitutional</li><li>• Can declare executive actions unconstitutional</li></ul>

4. Explain how the Separation of Powers *limits* the power of the Federal Government. Give three specific examples.

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5. Why did the Framers separate the powers of the Federal Government into 3 branches?

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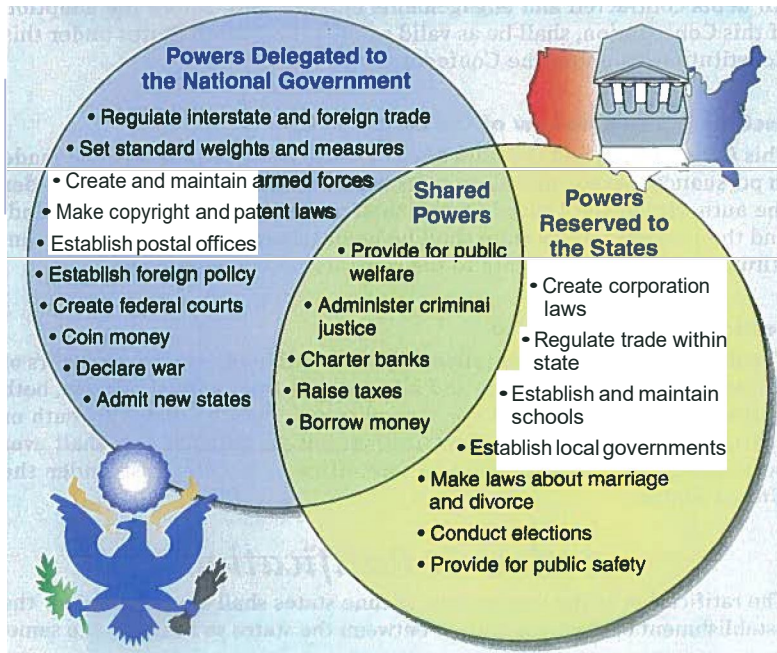
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## Document Four - Federalism



6. Describe how Federalism limits the power of the Federal Government.

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7. Why was Federalism included in the *United States Constitution*?

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## Document Five – The Bill of Rights

### The Bill of Rights (First Ten Amendments to the U.S. Constitution)

- First Amendment:** Freedoms of Religion, Press, Assembly, Speech, and Petition. The right of the people to worship, speak out (in verbal or print form), assemble, and to petition the government may not be taken away or restricted.
- Second Amendment:** Right to Bear Arms. The people have a right to bear arms (own firearms) for the purpose of keeping a "well-regulated militia".
- Third Amendment:** Lodging Troops in Private Homes. The government cannot place soldiers in the homes of civilians without their permission (in peace) or against set laws during a time of war.
- Fourth Amendment:** Search and Seizure. Private homes and properties may not be searched without reason and warrants for searches must state a probable cause (strong reason for the need to search).
- Fifth Amendment:** Rights of the Accused. No citizen may be tried for a crime without a trial by jury (unless serving in the military) and no person may be tried for the same crime twice- "double jeopardy". In addition, no person may be forced to be a witness against him/herself, or deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of the law and just compensation (repayment).
- Sixth Amendment:** Right to a Speedy trial by Jury. All citizens must be given a public trial within a reasonable period of time. Those accused of crimes must be informed of the charges against them, given the right to call witnesses, and given the right of counsel for defense (a lawyer).
- Seventh Amendment:** Jury Trial in Civil Cases. All citizens have the right to a trial by jury in any case where the value is greater than \$20.
- Eighth Amendment:** Bail and Punishment. Bail and fines must not be excessive for the crime committed and cruel and unusual punishment may not be used against those accused of crimes.
- Ninth Amendment:** Powers Reserved to the People. The people have rights that are not listed in the Constitution and the Constitution may not be used to limit the rights of the people.
- Tenth Amendment:** Powers reserved to the States: Any power that is not given to the federal government belongs to the state governments.

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#### 8. How does the Bill of Rights protect the people against abuses by the government?

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#### 9. State and explain one example of a right or freedom that is protected by the Bill of Rights.

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Document Six – Requirements for Federal Offices

Office	Number	Term	Selection	Requirements
Representative	At least 1 per state; based on population	2 years	Elected by voters of congressional district	Age 25 or over Citizen for 7 years Resident of state in which elected
Senator	2 per state	6 years	Original Constitution—elected by state legislature Amendment 17—elected by voters	Age 30 or over Citizen for 9 years Resident of state in which elected
President and Vice President	1	4 years	Elected by electoral college	Age 35 or over Natural-born citizen Resident of United States for 14 years
Supreme Court Justice	9	Life	Appointed by President Approved by Senate	No requirements in Constitution

10. With the exception of Supreme Court Justice, what do all Federal Government Officeholders have to do every two to six years?

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11. How can American citizens show their disapproval with the actions of Federal Officeholders and force them to make changes?

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- iii) Complete the following Document Organizer by placing a check mark on the line as in whether you can use this doc. In paragraph 1-3 of your essay

	<u>Doc 1</u>	<u>Doc 2</u>	<u>Doc 3</u>	<u>Doc 4</u>	<u>Doc 5</u>	<u>Doc 6</u>
<p><b><u>Par-1</u></b></p> <p><b>Discuss ways in which the Constitution created a stronger Nation Gov.</b></p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 1 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 2 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 3 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 4 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 5 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 6 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>
<p><b><u>P-2</u></b></p> <p><b>Identify and discuss two methods included in the constitution to limit the power of the national government</b></p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 1 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 2 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 3 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 4 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 5 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 6 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>
<p><b><u>P-3</u></b></p> <p><b>Two examples on how the constitution protected the rights of the people</b></p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 1 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 2 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 3 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 4 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 5 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>	<p><u>Can I use Doc 6 in Par-1</u></p> <p>y _____</p> <p>N _____</p>

## Part B - Essay

i) *Read the essay Directions*

**Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, 3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph. Use evidence from at least ONE document in each of the body paragraphs of the essay. Cite evidence from the documents in the form of quotations, relevant facts, examples, and details obtained from your documents in each paragraph of your essay.**

**\*\*\*\*THE MORE DOCUMENT YOU USE IN YOU BODY PARAGRAPHS THE BETTER YOUR ESSAY  
YOU DO NOT USE DOC. IN THE INTRO OR CONCLUSION**

1. Write an introductory paragraph giving a brief background about the Constitution
2. Paragraph 2: Discuss *two* ways in which the *Constitution of the United States* has created a strong National (Federal) government.
3. Paragraph 3: Identify and discuss *two* methods included in the *Constitution* to limit the power of the national government.
4. Paragraph 4: Provide *two examples* on how the *Constitution* protects the rights of the people.
5. Paragraph 5: Conclusion -Summarize the main points mentioned in the body of your essay

### **Guidelines:**

In your essay, be sure to:

Answer all aspects (parts) of the *Task* by analyzing and interpreting at *least four* documents.  
Include information from the documents in the body of the essay  
Use a logical and clear plan or organization

ii) Complete Essay Graphic Organizer

Intro:

<u>Paragraph 1</u>	<u>Paragraph 2</u>	<u>Paragraph 3</u>
<p>Discuss <i>two</i> ways in which the <i>Constitution of the United States</i> has created a strong national (federal) government</p>	<p>Identify and discuss <i>two</i> methods included in the <i>Constitution</i> to limit the power of the national government</p>	<p>Provide <i>two examples</i> on how the <i>Constitution</i> protects the rights of the people</p>
<p><u>Supporting Details/Doc</u></p>	<p><u>Supporting Details/Doc</u></p>	<p><u>Supporting Details/Doc.</u></p>

Conclusion

