RLP-GOV · RLP American Government — Principles of American Democracy

Unit 1: Constitutional Foundations and Rights

Practice Workbook. The same problems, in the same order, as the Practice sections of the online lessons.

Name _____ Period _____

Lesson 1.1 — Where the Constitution's Ideas Came From

FLUENCY

1. Match each idea to the source the lesson traces it to: (a) legitimate government rests on the consent of the people; (b) liberty requires that legislative, executive and judicial power be held by different hands; (c) even a king is bound by law; (d) rule by elected representatives, a senate and civic virtue.

2. Define *classical republicanism* and *classical liberalism* in one sentence each, and name one feature of the Constitution that reflects each.

3. The Federalist Papers were signed "Publius." Where does the name come from, and what does the choice suggest about the authors?

APPLICATION

4. Compare two excerpts. Locke: "no one can be put out of this estate, and subjected to the political power of another, without his own consent." Declaration: "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." What idea do they share, and how does the Declaration put it to a different use?

5. Madison writes: "If men were angels, no government would be necessary… you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself." State his premise about human nature and explain how it leads to a specific feature of the Constitution.

6. Scenario: a new country's constitution gives one elected council the power to write the laws, carry them out and judge disputes under them, with members elected every year. Using Montesquieu's excerpt, predict the risk and propose one change.

REVIEW

7. Prerequisite review from U.S. History: what was the first national plan of government before the Constitution, and name one weakness that led to the 1787 Convention.

Lesson 1.2 — The Machinery of Liberty — Separated Powers, Checks and Federalism

FLUENCY

1. Name the check: (a) the President rejects a bill; (b) Congress passes it anyway; (c) the Senate approves a President's nominee; (d) a court declares a statute unconstitutional; (e) the House charges an official and the Senate tries the case.

2. Describe the two stages of amending the Constitution under Article V, with the vote each requires. How many states must ratify?

3. Define *incorporation*. Which amendment is it based on, and why was it needed?

APPLICATION

4. Federalist 10 says "the causes of faction cannot be removed, and that relief is only to be sought in the means of controlling its effects." Brutus I says that in a republic "the manners, sentiments, and interests of the people should be similar." Explain how the two authors reach opposite conclusions about a large republic.

5. Hamilton says the judiciary has "neither FORCE nor WILL, but merely judgment." What does he mean, and what is the strongest Anti-Federalist reply described in the lesson?

6. Scenario: a state's governor issues an order that closes a newspaper for printing articles critical of the state government. A resident sues under the First Amendment. Why can she rely on a federal amendment against a *state*?

7. *Missouri v. Holland* (1920): Missouri sued a federal game warden, arguing that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act invaded powers the Tenth Amendment reserves to the states. Why could the Tenth Amendment not settle the case by itself, and what reasoning did Justice Holmes give for letting the national government act?

REVIEW

8. Review from Lesson 1.1: which thinker's argument does the lesson say is organized into the Constitution's first three articles, and how?

Lesson 1.3 — Deliberation Lab — Rights, Obligations and Becoming a Citizen

FLUENCY

1. Name the amendment: (a) protection against unreasonable searches and seizures; (b) freedom of speech, press, assembly and petition; (c) the right to a fair criminal trial; (d) protection against self-incrimination and double jeopardy; (e) the listing of some rights does not deny others.

2. Sort each duty as a *legal obligation* or a *civic obligation*: paying taxes; voting; serving on a jury when summoned; volunteering; staying informed; obeying the law.

3. List the general requirements for naturalization described in the lesson.

APPLICATION

4. Scenario: police search a student's car without a warrant and find evidence, and, separately, the city takes the student's family's land for a road without paying for it. Which two protections are at issue, and in which amendments?

5. Explain the idea of reciprocity using the right to a jury trial as your example.

6. In the deliberation on mandatory voting, one position holds: "Jury service is compulsory, so voting should be too." Write a summary of this argument that its holder would accept, then state the strongest objection from the other side. Do not give your own verdict.

7. Missouri's Constitution, Article I, section 15, protects people's "persons, papers, homes, effects, and electronic communications and data" from unreasonable searches. Compare it with the Fourth Amendment and explain what a state may and may not do with a right the federal Constitution already guarantees.

8. In *Shelley v. Kraemer* (1948), owners on a St. Louis block had signed a private agreement barring occupancy by anyone not of the "Caucasian race." What act did the Court treat as the state's, and what did it hold?

REVIEW

9. Review from Lesson 1.2: why did the original Bill of Rights not protect people against their *state* governments, and what changed that?

Lesson 1.4 — Workshop — Tocqueville, Civil Society and the Promise and Perils of Democracy

FLUENCY

1. Define *civil society* and give three examples of associations Tocqueville describes.
2. Distinguish Tocqueville's two perils: *tyranny of the majority* and *individualism*.
3. Name three ways, other than voting, that civil society lets people influence government.

APPLICATION

4. Tocqueville writes that in America "an author may write whatever he pleases, but he will repent it if he ever step beyond" the majority's barriers. Identify the claim, the kind of evidence he would need to support it, and one limit of his point of view as a source.

5. Write a precise, arguable claim (WHST.11-12.1.a) that tests Tocqueville's view of associations against the present, and name the counterclaim you would have to answer.

6. Scenario: in Country X every sports club, charity and newspaper must register with the ruling party, which may dissolve any group it considers disloyal. Using the lesson, classify the system and explain the test you used.

REVIEW

7. Review from Lesson 1.2: Madison's cure for faction in Federalist 10 and Tocqueville's remedy for tyranny of the majority both rely on many groups. State each in one sentence.

8. Prerequisite review: which amendment, ratified in 1868, guarantees citizenship to people born in the United States?

Unit 1 checkpoint

1. Which thinker argued that liberty cannot survive if legislative and executive powers are united in the same body?
   A. John Locke
   B. Montesquieu
   C. William Blackstone
   D. Niccolò Machiavelli
2. The Declaration says governments derive their just powers from the _____ of the governed.
3. In Federalist 51, why does Madison say government must be obliged to control itself?
   A. Because angels govern men
   B. Because those who govern are people with ambitions of their own
   C. Because the states demanded it
   D. Because the Articles of Confederation required it
4. True or false: In Federalist 10, Madison argues that the best cure for faction is to remove its causes.
5. An amendment is ratified when _____ of the 50 states approve it (give a number).
6. Which argument did the Anti-Federalist Brutus make?
   A. A large republic cannot represent a people whose interests differ
   B. Factions are best controlled by extending the republic
   C. The judiciary is the least dangerous branch
   D. Separation of powers is unnecessary
7. True or false: The Bill of Rights originally limited only the national government.
8. Which of these is a civic obligation rather than a legal obligation in the United States?
   A. Paying taxes
   B. Serving on a jury when summoned
   C. Voting
   D. Obeying the law
9. A lawful permanent resident generally must live in the U.S. for _____ years before applying to naturalize, or three if married to a U.S. citizen.
10. What did Tocqueville see as the remedy for both tyranny of the majority and individualism?
    A. A strong national government
    B. A hereditary aristocracy
    C. Voluntary associations in civil society
    D. An established church
11. True or false: In authoritarian systems, independent associations are typically banned, co-opted or controlled by the state.

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