

MJ Civics End-of-Course Practice Exam

The correct answer for each multiple choice question is in red.

SS.7.C.1.1

1. The statements below are from the Declaration of Independence.

- A) All men...are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...
- B) He has...obstruct[ed] the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither...
- C) Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.
- D) The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history...having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.

Source: Public Domain

Which statement reflects the Enlightenment ideas of natural law as expressed by Locke?

- A. **A**
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D

Founding fathers like Thomas Jefferson were influenced by many Enlightenment ideals. These ideas were incorporated in important founding documents like the Declaration of Independence. The statement, “All men...are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness” reflects the Enlightenment ideals as expressed by John Locke. Locke wrote at length about natural law and natural rights. His writings argued that all people are born with natural rights to life, liberty and property. He believed these rights were independent of any government or social laws.

SS.7.C.1.2

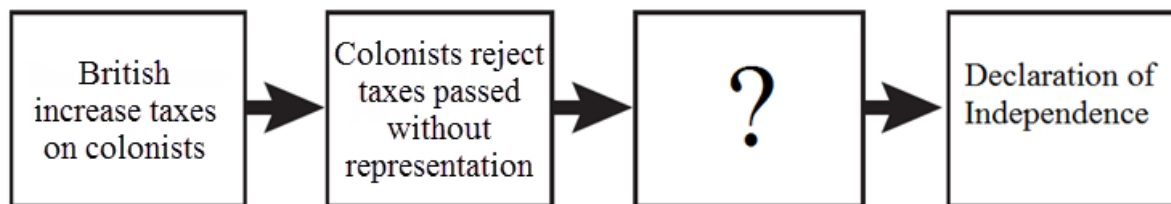
2. What did many American colonists use Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* to justify?

- A. Acts of sabotage against British merchants
- B. **Declaring independence from Britain**
- C. Joining the army instead of the militia
- D. Supporting the British monarchy

The pamphlet *Common Sense* was written by Thomas Paine in 1776. It blamed King George III for the problems in American Colonies. It also challenged the authority of the British government and monarchy. Thomas Paine argued that the colonists should declare their independence from Britain. The pamphlet *Common Sense* emphasized the right to and benefits of self-government. It was widely read and encouraged support for independence from colonial rule among many colonists.

SS.7.C.1.3

3. The diagram describes a cause that led to the writing of the Declaration of Independence.



© 2012 FLVS

Which action completes the diagram?

- A. British eliminate all taxes on colonists
- B. Colonists vote to elect new member of Parliament
- C. **British ignore colonist grievances**
- D. Colonist send troops to Britain in protest

The American colonists were upset over many policies imposed by the British. One of these policies was imposing taxes without the consent of the people. The colonists expressed their grievances with the taxes and lack of representation, but the British did not take actions that addressed the colonists concerns. Ultimately, the Continental Congress appointed five delegates to create a document declaring independence from the British government. This document became known as the Declaration of Independence.

SS.7.C.1.4

4. The Declaration of Independence included these complaints:
- Taxation without representation
 - Limiting judicial powers
 - Quartering Troops
 - Dissolving legislature

Which complaint should be added to this list?

- A. Requiring colonists to send representation to Parliament
- B. **Suspending trial by jury in many cases**
- C. Ordering colonists to move from Native American land
- D. Allowing the wealthy to avoid local laws

The Declaration of Independence has three main sections. The colonists began by describing their beliefs about government, including natural rights and the social contract. The middle section is the list of grievances or complaints against King George III. The document ends with the official statement of independence. Some of the complaints included in the Declaration of Independence include imposing taxes without the consent of the people, suspending trial by jury, limiting judicial powers, quartering soldiers on colonist property, and dissolving local legislatures.

SS.7.C.1.4

5. The passage below was written by John Locke in his *Second Treatise of Civil Government*.

Government being for the preservation of every man's right and property, by preserving him from the violence or injury of others, is for the good of the governed.

Source: Public Domain

Based on this passage, with which complaint in the Declaration of Independence would John Locke agree?

- A. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.
- B. He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people...
- C. He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

D. He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

In this passage from Locke's *Second Treatise on Civil Government*, he states that government should preserve the peoples' rights, property and safety. The grievance from the Declaration of Independence "He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good" explains that the colonists believe the King has refused to assent (or agree) to laws which are necessary for the public good. Based on the passage, it is reasonable to conclude that John Locke would have agreed that a ruler who did not create laws to protect the public good was not fulfilling his duties.

SS.7.C.1.5

6. Which of the following was a weakness of the Articles of Confederation?

- A. **The government did not have a separate judicial branch.**
- B. The states could not print their own currency.
- C. The president was able to spend taxes freely.
- D. The government had too much power over trade.

The Articles of Confederation were written as the first plan of government for the United States. The Founding Fathers feared the tyranny a strong central government could encourage, so they restricted the powers of the new government. However, the weaknesses of the central government created several problems. These weaknesses included:

- Each state had one vote in the legislative branch.
- The government did not have an executive branch.
- **The government did not have a separate judicial branch.**
- Congress could not create taxes.
- Congress could not raise a national military separate from the states.
- Each state printed its own currency.
- Congress could not control trade between states and with other nations.
- New laws would require the support of nine of the 13 states, more than a majority.
- The Articles of Confederation required unanimous agreement of the states to amend the document.

SS.7.C.1.5

7. How did the U.S. Constitution address the problem under the Articles of Confederation that Congress had no power to ensure its laws were followed by the states?

- A. **It created an executive branch to enforce laws.**
- B. It gave each state sovereign authority over its laws.

- C. It required the president to resolve disputes between states.
- D. It required unanimous consent of states to create new laws.

One of the weaknesses of The Articles of Confederation was that the government did not have an executive branch. When Congress passed a law, the state governments were supposed to enforce it, but this did not always happen. The U.S. Constitution addressed this problem by creating an executive branch to enforce laws made by the U.S. Congress.

SS.7.C.1.6

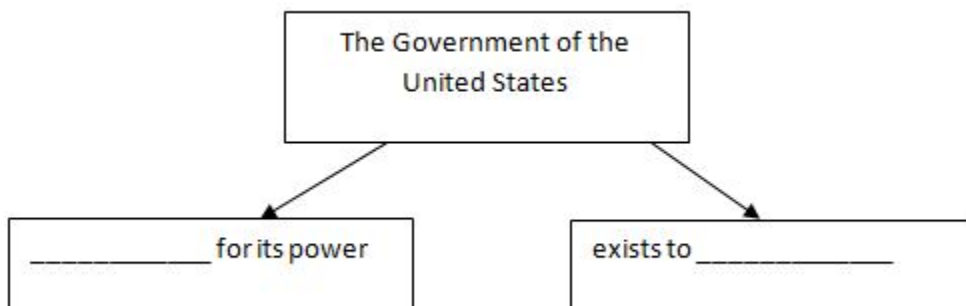
8. What does the phrase "insure domestic tranquility" in the Preamble of the Constitution mean?

- A. Give land to the homeless
- B. Fight wars on foreign soil
- C. **Keep the homeland at peace**
- D. Provide citizens with insurance

The first section of the Constitution describes the purpose of the document. We call this section the "Preamble." The Preamble describes the purpose and duty of government to its citizens. One of the duties of government listed in the Preamble is to "insure domestic tranquility". Tranquility means to be free from commotion. Domestic refers to something inside a particular country. So, "insure domestic tranquility" best aligns with the statement "keep the homeland at peace".

SS.7.C.1.6:

9. This diagram shows the purpose of government according to the Preamble of the Constitution.



Source: public domain

Which phrases complete the diagram?

- A. **depends on people; serve the people**

- B. depends on law; maintain the law
- C. depends on legislators; serve legislators
- D. depends on liberty; maintain those liberties

The first section of the Constitution describes the purpose of the document. We call this section the "Preamble." The Preamble reveals the concerns U.S. leaders had at the time. It also describes the purpose and duty of government to its citizens. The preamble, or introduction, of the Constitution, explains why the Constitution was written. "We the people" emphasizes that the government depends on people for its power and that the government exists to serve the people.

SS.7.C.1.7

10. These boxes describe two events relating to the U.S. government.

Example A

The U.S. Supreme Court declares a law created by Congress unconstitutional.

Example B

Congress passes a new tax law and the Internal Revenue Service enforces it.

Source: Public Domain

What constitutional principles are demonstrated in examples A and B?

- A. Example A: checks and balances; Example B: separation of powers
- B. Example A: checks and balances; Example B: judicial review
- C. Example A: separation of powers; Example B: individual rights
- D. Example A: separation of powers; Example B: checks and balances

The Founding Fathers were afraid of a government with too much power, which it feared could take away people's basic rights. They believed in creating a limited and constitutional government. Therefore, the U.S. Constitution divides the powers of government into three separate branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. We call this the separation of powers. Some of the powers of each branch were designed to limit, or "check," the overall power of the

other branches. The purpose of these checks is to balance the branches of government so that no one branch could become too powerful.

Example A is an example of checks and balances at work. The U.S. Supreme court (judicial branch) checked the power of the U.S. Congress (legislative branch) by declaring a law that they made unconstitutional. Example B shows separation of powers. The U.S. Congress (legislative branch) passed a law and the Internal Revenue Service (executive branch) enforces it. This is an example of how the U.S. Constitution divides the powers of government into three separate branches.

SS.7.C.1.7

11. The passage below is from Federalist 51, written by James Madison in 1788.

“... the interior structure of the government as that its several constituent parts may, by their mutual relations, be the means of keeping each other in their proper places. ”

Source: Public Domain

Which constitutional principle does Madison describe in the passage?

- A. Popular sovereignty
- B. Judicial review
- C. **Checks and balances**
- D. Separation of powers

Checks and Balances are a system where one branch of government may act to limit the power of the other branches to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful. In the passage from Federalist 51 James Madison describes this principle by saying that the interior structure of government (i.e. the legislative, executive and judicial branches) must be the means of keeping each other in their proper places (i.e. not allowing one to become too powerful).

SS.7.C.1.8

12. Which viewpoint was common among Anti-Federalists?

- A. There is no need for a separate Bill of Rights.
- B. **The Constitution does not give enough power to the states.**

- C. The Constitution will not strengthen the government.
- D. A strong national government will protect the people in times of crisis.

The Federalists believed in a strong, central government. They supported the Constitution as written and argued for immediate ratification. On the other hand, the Anti-federalists thought the new government proposed by the Constitution was too strong. They wanted to see a Bill of Rights added to protect state governments' power and the people's rights.

SS.7.C.1.9

13. How does rule of law affect U.S. government officials and institutions?

- A. It holds government officials and institutions accountable to the law.
- B. It requires government officials and institutions to create new laws.
- C. It prevents government officials and institutions from making their work public.
- D. It ensures government officials and institutions are exempt from laws.

Rule of law is the principle that both those who govern and those who are governed must obey the law and are subject to the same laws. Everyone agrees to follow the laws. Rule of law affects government leaders and groups in many ways. Everything they do must be based on the law, and they are accountable for their decisions. That means officials are held responsible for the choices they make.

SS.7.C.3.10

14. What is a government that is run by the people, either directly or indirectly?

- A. Democracy
- B. Oligarchy
- C. Autocracy
- D. Communism

Many different types of governments exist around the world. Each nation's government establishes control over its territory and people through law. No two nations' governments and laws are exactly the same. One type of government is a democracy, where everyone has decision-making power. A democracy can either be direct or indirect. In a direct democracy, everyone gets a vote on every major decision. This type works best for small groups. There is also an indirect democracy (also called a representative democracy or republic). This is the type of government of the United States. In an indirect democracy, the people elect a few individuals to represent them. The people trust those elected officials to make decisions in their best interest. If they don't, the people can elect new representatives.

SS.7.C.2.1

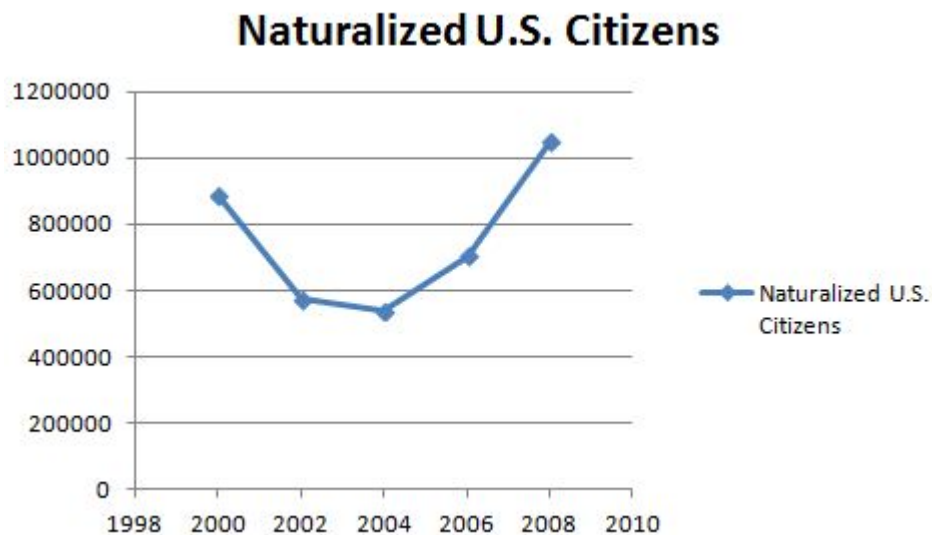
15. What is the term used in the Fourteenth Amendment to describe persons who are born or naturalized in the United States?

- A. Aliens
- B. **Citizens**
- C. Immigrants
- D. Residents

A citizen is a legal member of a state or country. The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution defines U.S. citizens as people who are “born or naturalized in the United States”.

SS.7.C.2.1

16. This graph shows the number of naturalized U.S. citizens from 2000 to 2008.



Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Which of the following statements can be inferred from this graph?

- A. Naturalization has become less popular than it was in the past.
- B. Naturalization has steadily increased voter turnout.
- C. Naturalization laws have become increasingly strict over time.
- D. **Naturalization leads to a larger pool of voters.**

Each year, thousands become naturalized U.S. citizens. In 2008, the number passed one million! Just like natural born citizens, naturalized citizens have the right to vote in elections. The graph

shows that many citizens have chosen to become naturalized citizens, therefore it can be inferred that naturalization leads to larger pool of voters.

SS.7.C.2.2

17. This box lists actions that citizens can take.

- Attending public meetings
- Helping neighbors after a storm
- Following rules at landmarks
- Volunteering in the community

Source: Public Domain

What will happen if a citizen does NOT perform these actions?

- A. The democracy will fail.
- B. **The common good will suffer.**
- C. The citizen will be charged with a crime.
- D. The citizen will be fined.

Responsibilities of citizenship include community expectations. Good citizens choose to meet these expectations. Americans have specific ideas about what good citizenship means. Influencing government, voting, showing support for troops, helping other people, showing respect for leaders and symbols and protecting rights are some of these expectations of citizenship. Acting like a good citizen helps improve the community for everyone. Fulfilling civic responsibilities helps secure the common good.

SS.7.C.2.2

18. The illustration below shows a legal tax document.

Form 1040 Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service (99) **2013** OMB No. 1545-0074 IRS Use Only—Do not write or staple in this space.

For the year Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2013, or other tax year beginning , 2013, ending , 20

Your first name and initial Last name Your social security number

If a joint return, spouse's first name and initial Last name Spouse's social security number

Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see instructions. Apt. no. Make sure the SSN(s) above and on line 6c are correct.

City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, also complete spaces below (see instructions).

Foreign country name Foreign province/state/country Foreign postal code Presidential Election Campaign

Check here if you, or your spouse if filing jointly, want \$3 to go to this fund. Checking a box below will not change your tax or refund. ☐ You ☐ Spouse

Filing Status 1 ☐ Single 4 ☐ Head of household (with qualifying person). (See instructions.) If the qualifying person is a child but not your dependent, enter this child's name here. ▶

Check only one box. 2 ☐ Married filing jointly (even if only one had income) 5 ☐ Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child

3 ☐ Married filing separately. Enter spouse's SSN above and full name here. ▶

Exemptions 6a ☐ Yourself. If someone can claim you as a dependent, do not check box 6a

b ☐ Spouse

c Dependents:

(f) First name	Last name	(g) Dependent's social security number	(h) Dependent's relationship to you	(i) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if child under age 17 qualifying for child tax credit (see instructions)
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>

If more than four dependents, see instructions and check here ▶ ☐

d Total number of exemptions claimed

Boxes checked on 6a and 6b

No. of children on 6c who:

- lived with you
- did not live with you due to divorce or separation (see instructions)

Dependents on 6c not entered above

Add numbers on lines above ▶

Which of the following is one reason why citizens are required to file such documents with the government?

- A. To ensure that students can go to private schools
- B. To ensure the operation of international trade
- C. To provide a fair report of business practices
- D. To provide social programs for needy citizens

This is an illustration of a citizen's tax return. Good citizens can support the common good at each level of government. Paying taxes is one way to help the government improve society for its citizens. Federal taxes help pay for military defense, health care programs, and protecting national landmarks. State taxes help pay for education, highways, environmental protection programs. Local taxes help pay for things like roads, police and fire protection, local parks, and animal shelters.

SS.7.C.2.4

19. Which situation does NOT involve a right protected by the Bill of Rights?

- A. Freedom to publish opinions in the local newspaper
- B. The ability to own a gun, as long as the laws are followed
- C. **The guarantee of a well-paying job**
- D. Freedom to join the church of choice

The Bill of Rights is the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. It exists to protect Americans way of life. The First Amendment protects political and religious freedom, with the rights to speech, press, assembly, petition, and religion. Writing an opinion in a local paper and joining a church of your choice are protected by the First Amendment. The Second Amendment protects the right to bear arms, which means people can purchase and own guns and other weapons as long as they follow laws. A well-paying job, however, is not a right guaranteed by the Constitution.

SS.7.C.2.4

20. Peter Brown has lived in his home since he was a child. Now the department of parks and recreation wants to tear down his neighborhood to build a park. A government official comes to visit Peter and offers to buy the house from him. Peter refuses. The official says that the government will now seize the property under the constitutional power of "eminent domain." According to the U.S. Constitution, under what circumstances would Peter win his fight to keep his home?

- A. If Peter could prove that he had paid the full price of the house already
- B. If Peter was born as a citizen of the United States, not a naturalized citizen or resident
- C. If the government did not make a reasonable effort to build the park in an uninhabited area
- D. **If the government did not offer him fair market price for his home**

The Fifth Amendment has several parts. It protects the rights of those accused of crimes, but also includes a line about property in general. The last line says "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." It safeguards people against government taking their property. However, the legal limit to this right is "eminent domain". This phrase means the government has the power to claim the property for public use (like for a public park or roadway) after paying the owner a fair price for it.

SS.7.C.2.5

21. Ben was prosecuted and convicted in state court for speaking out publicly against the governor. During his trial, he was denied the counsel of a lawyer. Two years later, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned his conviction, explaining that the state had not guaranteed Ben's constitutional rights. Which amendments apply to this case?

- A. Amendment I (free speech) and Amendment VI (due process)
- B. Amendment I (free press) and Amendment IV (search and seizure)
- C. Amendment IX (unenumerated rights) and Amendment VI (due process)
- D. Amendment IX(unenumerated rights) and Amendment IV (search and seizure)

The Amendments that apply to this case are Amendment I and Amendment VI. The First Amendment protects political and religious freedom, with the rights to speech, press, assembly, petition, and religion. Speaking out against a government official is tied to the First Amendment right to freedom of speech. The Sixth Amendment protects the right to legal counsel and to present evidence in defense. If Ben was denied a lawyer, his Sixth Amendment right was violated.

SS.7.C.2.5

22. Anne Tracy works as a journalist for *The Daily Mouth*. She wrote a story about how Senator Jones cheated on a law school exam. She interviewed witnesses who saw the senator cheating. The story ran on the front page. Senator Jones denied the charges. Then he resigned from office. He plans to sue *The Daily Mouth* for damages. Under what circumstances could he sue the paper and win his lawsuit?

- A. He could sue the paper for libel and could win the case if he proved that Tracy had a grudge against him.
- B. He could sue the paper for slander and could win the case if he proved that Tracy had a grudge against him.
- C. He could sue the paper for libel and could win the case if he proved that the accusations were untrue and his reputation was hurt.
- D. He could sue the paper for slander and could win the case if he proved that the accusations were untrue and his reputation was hurt.

The First Amendment protects most speech or expression, but not all. Though Americans have freedom of expression, they may not use that freedom in a way that harms the rights of others. Some of these limits are related to giving false information such as slander and libel. Both of

these mean sharing information that is not only false, but also harmful to a person's reputation or position in the community. The difference is that slander is spoken aloud while libel is printed. An example could be a newspaper printing a made-up story about a Senator cheating on a law school exam. If the Senator's reputation was hurt by the untrue story, he could sue the newspaper for libel.

SS.7.C.3.6

23. The constitutional guarantee of a free press has resulted in

- A. a government more likely to hide its actions from the people
- B. **a government more responsive to the needs of the people**
- C. the establishment of English as the official language of the United States
- D. the establishment of government-run news organizations

The Founding Fathers wrote the First Amendment to cover the many situations in which people express ideas. This right is critical to active citizenship. Without it, people might not be free to bring concerns to leaders or discuss solutions to public issues. If the First Amendment were not in place, laws could be passed that would punish people for complaining, whether through making a speech, publishing an article on a news site, or chatting at a community event. Protecting free expression encourages people to be active participants in government. It helps ensure that government leaders continue to serve and respond to the needs of the people.

SS.7.C.3.6

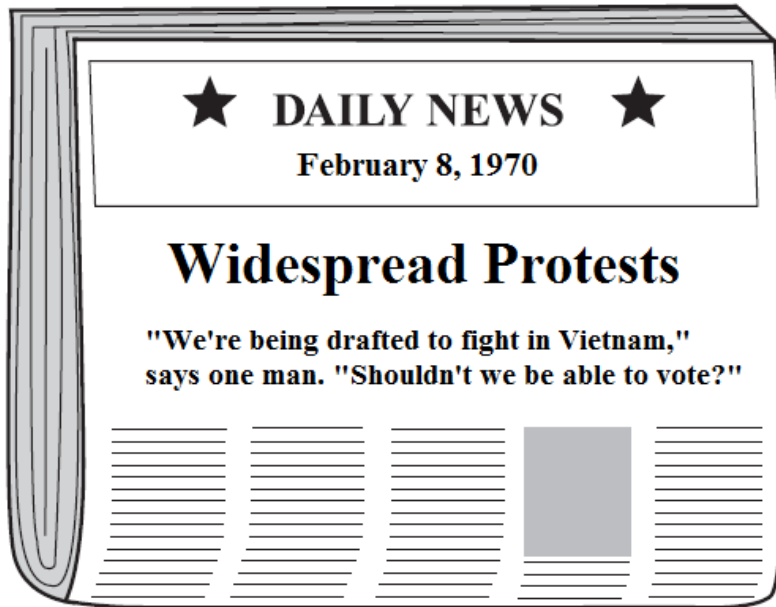
24. A more informed society has resulted from which constitutional protection?

- A. Trial by jury
- B. **Free speech**
- C. Right to bear arms
- D. Due process

The U.S. Constitution protects the right to freely express beliefs and ideas without needless government limits. Free speech ensures the free flow of information and ideas. This can be seen in on the nightly news, on the internet, or even in your favorite work of fiction. Societies where free speech is protected have access to more information and are therefore, more informed.

SS.7.C.3.7

25.



Source: Public Domain

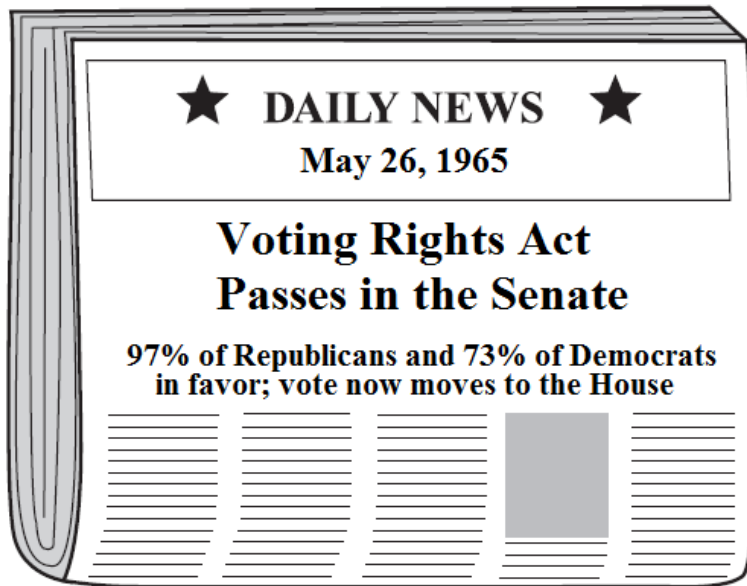
How did opinions like the one shown in this news story affect the political process in the United States?

- A. It led to the Fifteenth Amendment, allowing racial minorities to vote.
- B. It led to the Nineteenth Amendment, allowing women to vote.
- C. It led to the Twenty-Sixth Amendment, allowing 18-year-olds to vote.
- D. It led to the Twenty-Sixth Amendment, allowing 21-year-olds to vote.

Prior to 1972, most states required voters to be at least 21 years of age. In this year, the 26th Amendment passed, lowering the voting age to 18. Americans thought that people who were old enough to marry, fight in a war, and own a business ought to be able to vote as well.

SS.7.C.3.7

26.



Source: Public Domain

How did passage of this legislation affect the political process in the United States?

- A. **It enforced the Fifteenth Amendment, protecting the right of racial minorities to vote.**
- B. It enforced the Nineteenth Amendment, protecting the right of women to vote.
- C. It extended suffrage to U.S. citizens, allowing 18-year-olds to vote.
- D. It extended suffrage to U.S. citizens, allowing 21-year-olds to vote.

In the five years following the Civil War, states ratified the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments. These three amendments changed the Constitution to establish former slaves as U.S. citizens, giving them the same protections and rights as other citizens. The 15th Amendment protects the right of citizens to vote no matter their race or skin color. However, some states used literacy tests and other regulations intended to discourage minorities from exercising their right to vote. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 banned such practices, protecting the right to vote for all citizens.

SS.7.C.3.12:

27. What happened in American schools after the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*?

- A. States could continue segregation as long as facilities were separate but equal.
- B. Individuals of different races voluntarily stopped all forms of school segregation.
- C. **The federal government ordered that states desegregate classes.**

D. Desegregation was ordered for only high schools.

Brown vs. Board of Education was decided in 1954 by the United States Supreme Court. Parents in Kansas challenged laws that allowed separate schools for children of different races. The United States Supreme Court ruled that “separate but equal facilities” were fundamentally unequal. This decision reversed the earlier decision in Plessy vs. Ferguson and declared racial segregation illegal. The federal government ordered that states must desegregate formerly segregated classes.

SS.7.C.3.12:

28. Following the 1966 Supreme Court decision in *Miranda v. Arizona*, police began informing people placed under arrest that they "have the right to remain silent." What basic freedom is this meant to protect, and how does it affect arrested individuals?

- A. The right to freedom of speech; it provides them with the ability to speak to their attorneys without fear of incrimination.
- B. The protection against self-incrimination; it informs them that speaking to law enforcement could incriminate them.
- C. The protection of due process; it prevents convicted offenders from receiving cruel and unusual punishments.
- D. The right to freedom of assembly; it prevents law enforcement from asking them questions without the presence of an attorney.

In the Supreme Court case *Miranda v. Arizona*, the court examined the rights protected in the Fifth and Sixth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Ernesto Miranda was arrested after a crime victim identified him in a police lineup. The police officers questioning him did not inform him of his Fifth Amendment right that prevents government from forcing citizens to give evidence against themselves. He also was not informed of his Sixth Amendment right to the assistance of an attorney. In 1966, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case and ruled in favor of Miranda. As a result, police officers now read the Miranda warning to suspects before they are arrested. This helps ensure suspects understand they have the right to not answer questions, or say anything at all, if they choose. However, if a suspect chooses to speak despite the Miranda warning, what they say could be used in court. The Miranda warning also explains that suspects have the right speak to an attorney.

SS.7.C.2.8

29. How do modern Democrats and Republicans view taxation?

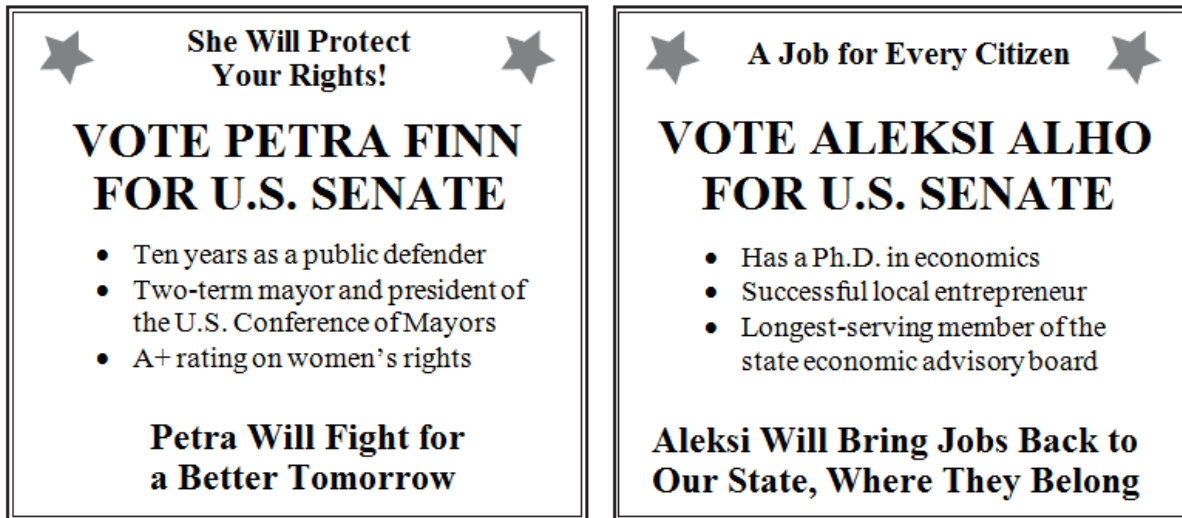
- A. Democrats tend to favor tax increases to support new social programs more than Republicans.
- B. Republicans tend to favor tax increases to support new social programs more than Democrats.

- C. Democrats tend to favor tax decreases, while Republicans tend to favor keeping tax rates the same.
- D. Republicans tend to favor tax increases, while Democrats tend to favor keeping tax rates the same.

In general, members of the Democratic Party are more likely to see ensuring the people's well-being as a responsibility of the government. They are more also likely to create new government programs, which may require increased taxes to pay for them. Republicans generally believe that it is the people's own responsibility to ensure their well-being. They tend to limit government programs and taxes.

SS.7.C.2.9:

30. The political campaign posters below are for two candidates running for the U.S. Senate.



Source: Public Domain

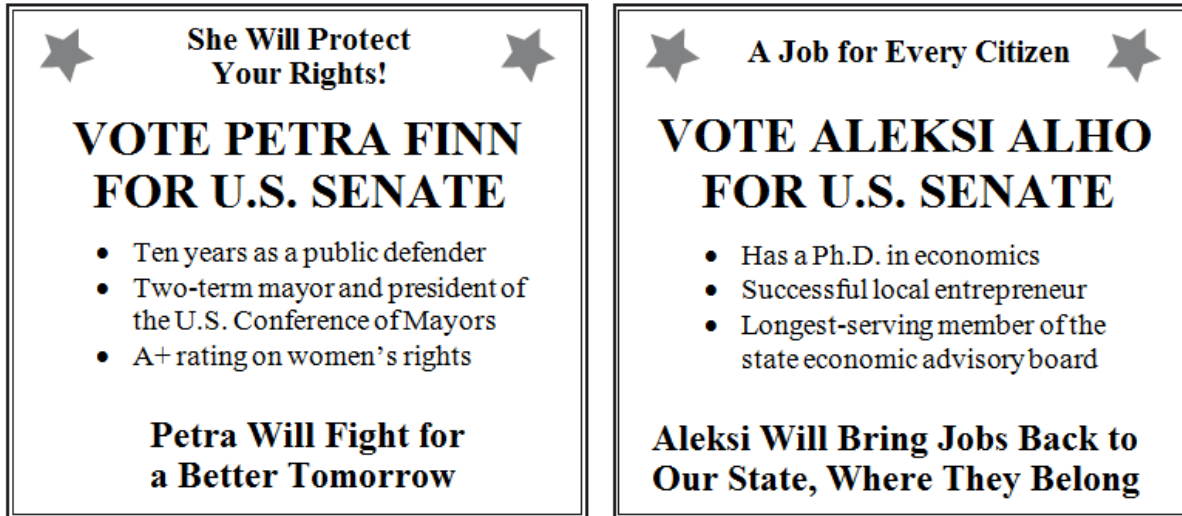
According to the information on the posters, which individual would more likely vote for Aleksi Alho?

- A. A voter concerned about leadership experience
- B. A voter concerned about women's rights
- C. A voter concerned about protecting the rights of the accused
- D. A voter concerned about rising unemployment in the state

A voter concerned about rising unemployment would more likely vote for Aleksi Alho. Aleski's poster shows he is campaigning on the platform of reducing unemployment by bringing jobs back to the state.

SS.7.C.2.9

31. The political campaign posters below are for two candidates running for the U.S. Senate.



Source: Public Domain

According to the information on the posters, what is one reason Petra could be considered more qualified than Aleksi to be elected to the U.S. Senate?

- A. Her business experience
- B. Her educational experience
- C. **Her political experience**
- D. Her lobbyist experience

According to the information on the posters, Petra could be considered more qualified than Aleksi because she has more political experience. Petra served two-terms as a mayor and was the president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Aleksi has served as a member of the state economic advisory board, but does not have experience as an elected official.

SS.7.C.2.10

32. The table below shows lobbying methods and their associated costs and time required.

Method	Cost	Minimum Time Needed
Online Petition	Low	Three Weeks
Calling Citizens by Phone	Moderate	Five Weeks
Letters to Citizens	Moderate	One Month
Group Rally Event	High	Two Weeks

Emailing the Representative	None	One Hour
-----------------------------	------	----------

Source: Public Domain

Lela wants to show her district's representative in Congress that there is a lot of popular support of an upcoming bill. She has drawn up a chart of lobbying methods. She wants to lobby indirectly, but she does not have much money, and her deadline is a month from now. Which are her best options?

- A. **An online petition and letters to citizens**
- B. Calling citizens by phone and letters to citizens
- C. Emailing the representative and an online petition
- D. Group rally event and emailing the representative

Lela's best options are on-line petitions and letters to citizens. These are both indirect lobbying methods, are low to moderate in cost and can meet her deadline of a month from now.

SS.7.C.2.10

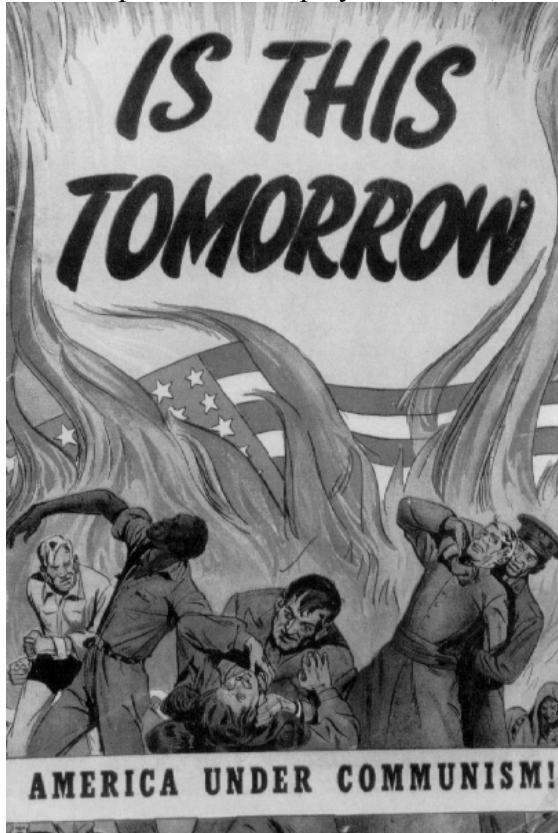
33. James Madison wrote that "liberty is to faction what air is to fire." After reading this, Jack points out that the Founders would have wanted more restrictions on lobbyists, special-interest groups, and media influencing the government. What would be a good counterargument?

- A. Elected officials are better able to measure public opinion if there are no interfering factions.
- B. Lobbyists will balance one another in government influence if they are subject to fewer laws.
- C. Political ads, despite their biases, are best able to inform citizens when there are no regulations.
- D. **The media, despite its biases, are best able to monitor the government when they are free.**

Media means the various means of sharing information. Examples include television, radio, newspapers, magazines, and the Internet. Some Americans say the media are the "watchdogs" of government. They mean that the media help inform the people what their officials are doing. For example, many websites report how members of Congress vote on new policies. We can see government leaders debate important issues on television. Radio show hosts share their opinions on new laws and programs. Writers of books and newspapers analyze the meaning behind the speeches of leaders. Interest groups use the media to spread their messages to elected officials and the public. Government leaders pay attention to the media. Monitoring the media is one way government leaders can learn how people feel about important issues and the peoples' opinion on how well government is addressing them.

SS.7.C.2.11:

34. This poster was displayed in 1947, at the beginning of the Cold War.



Source: Public Domain

How can the information on this poster **best** be categorized?

- A. Advertisement
- B. Entertainment
- C. Factual
- D. **Propaganda**

Propaganda is information an organization or government sends out to promote a policy, idea, or cause. In this poster the government is illustrating the negative impact they believe of communism would have on America.

SS.7.C.2.11

35. This poster was displayed in 1876.



Source: Public Domain

What is primary goal of this propaganda poster?

- A. To encourage people to move to government lands
- B. To discourage people from moving to government lands
- C. To encourage people to move to California
- D. To discourage people from moving to California

Many people think of the word “propaganda” as something bad, but its original meaning is neutral. Propaganda promotes a policy, idea, or cause. It could promote popular or unpopular ideas. This poster is promoting the fact that there is room for millions of immigrants in California and all that the state has to offer.

SS.7.C.2.12:

36. Flora is concerned because her little brother became ill at school. The doctor explains he has the flu. "I've seen an increase in flu cases among children the past few years," says the doctor. "Many children need flu shots, but their parents can't afford them." Flora decides to take action.

Which should be Flora's final step in attempting to encourage her community to provide low-cost flu shots?

- A. Identify public policy alternatives by talking to her doctor about options to locate funding for shots.
- B. **Outline her citizen-action plan to the local health department proposing it offer a low-cost vaccination clinic.**
- C. Evaluate public policy alternatives by speaking to federal health officials about similar efforts in other communities.
- D. Conduct background research by visiting reliable web sites to read about side effects of flu shots.

When creating a plan to address a community issue, citizens should first learn as much as they can about the problem. Next, they should identify and evaluate potential solutions and public policy alternatives. Then, citizens should choose the best public policy alternative and create an action plan to have that policy implemented. Flora's last step should be to share her action plan proposing the health department offer a low-cost vaccination clinic with officials.

SS.7.C.2.12

37. These charts compare public and private trash-collection services.

<p>City Department of Sanitation Trash Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cans in use for 10 years • Average base monthly bill for residents: \$30 • Currently does not offer recycling • Employs 5 full time workers
<p>The Refuse Company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will bring in new cans • Average base monthly bill for residents: \$32 • Recycling an average of \$7 more per month, per resident • Will add 2 full time workers to staff

Source: Public Domain

Evelyn is preparing to speak to her fellow city council members about trash collection in the city. She looks at a chart made by her aide. Which argument could she make in favor of using the current city trash-collection service instead of a private service?

- A. Can replacement will be easier if the city service collects trash.
- B. Recycling will increase if the city service collects trash.
- C. **Residents will pay less if the city service collects trash.**
- D. There will be more jobs available if the city service collects trash.

Based on Evelyn's charts the average base monthly bill for residents if the City Department of Sanitation Trash Service is used will be \$30. If the Refuse Company is used it will cost residents \$32 a month. The other arguments aren't supported by the information available in the charts.

SS.7.C.2.13:

38. Below are views for and against the increase of minimum wage.

1.
Small business owners will not be able to make a profit if minimum wages are increased. We cannot afford to increase minimum wage.

2.
An employee who works 40 hours a week and is paid minimum wage is still living below the poverty line. We must increase minimum wage.

Source: Public Domain

Which conclusion can be drawn from the views?

- A. **Minimum wage changes impact both small business owners and employees.**
- B. Minimum wage changes impact small-business owners more than employees.
- C. Minimum wage changes impact employees more than small-business owners.
- D. Minimum wage changes have little impact employees or small-business owners.

People have different ideas about how to address challenges. This is often the case because they approach issues from different perspectives. The first view represents the perspective of a small business owner. If the minimum wage is raised and small businesses must pay their employees more, small businesses may suffer. The second view represents the perspective of an employee making the minimum wage that works full time and is still struggling to support her family. If her wages are raised she will have more income and be better be able provide for her family's basic needs.

We can conclude from their views that both business owners and their employees are impacted by changes to the minimum wage.

SS.7.C.2.13:

39. Fred is a homeowner interested in conserving the desert surrounding his home. Michaela is a nurse at the local children's hospital with three children of her own. Carlos is the owner of a medical supply company active in the local running club. Gina is a community college student who will soon be transferring to the local university to complete her degree.

Which person would be most likely to vote “yes” to raise local taxes to pay for construction of a new hospital?

- A. Fred, because he wants the vacant lot near him to be used for construction
- B. Michaela, because public funding would be split between two hospitals
- C. Carlos, because he will profit from supplying the new business
- D. Gina, because she will need to find work when she graduates

Carlos would likely vote “yes” on public funding for the construction of a new hospital because he is an owner of a medical supply company and he would profit from supplying the new hospital with his merchandise.

SS.7.C.4.1:

40. Which example involves changing foreign policy?

- A. Congress lifting the oil embargo on a formerly communist government
- B. A Supreme Court hearing on worker discrimination based on national origin
- C. Congress voting to construct an aid center in Florida for political refugees
- D. A Supreme Court justice voting to take a case involving his country of birth

Government decisions that affect programs and people *outside* the United States are foreign policies. Lifting an oil embargo on another country is an example. The other options are all examples of domestic policy. Domestic policy includes the decisions, laws, and programs that address issues *within* a country.

SS.7.C.4.2:

41. Which action illustrates citizen participation in an international organization?

- A. Samantha teaches others about the history of the United Nations (UN).
- B. Jada volunteers to help raise funds for the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

- C. Ethan writes a report on the origins of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- D. David reads the annual report published by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Working as a volunteer for UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) is one way citizens can participate in an international organization. The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (UN) manages many programs, including UNICEF. This program helps children and families in developing countries by providing food, medical care, and education.

SS.7.C.4.3:

42. The statement below justifies an international action.

“The issue is the future of Southeast Asia as a whole. A threat to any nation in that region is a threat to all, and a threat to us.”

President Lyndon Johnson in his Message to Congress (August 5, 1964)

Source: Public Domain

Which international action is President Johnson justifying with this speech?

- A. Sending troops to stabilize a region
- B. Using sanctions against a country
- C. Sending humanitarian aid to a country
- D. Using nuclear weapons to end a war

In his speech to Congress, President Johnson declared that a threat to any nation in Southeast Asia was a threat to the people of the United States of America and the world as a whole. The use of the word “threat” is a clue that the president is talking about a military conflict. In fact, President Johnson is referring to conflict in Vietnam. The United States tried to contain communism, or keep it from spreading to other countries and threatening U.S. interests. President Johnson did send thousands of U.S. soldiers to the region in an attempt to stabilize it.

SS.7.C.3.1:

43. What is the term for a type of government in which one person possesses unlimited power?
- A. Socialism
 - B. Communism
 - C. Democracy
 - D. Autocracy

An autocracy is a government run by one person who possesses unlimited power. Saudi Arabia is an example of a modern autocratic government.

SS.7.C.3.1:

44. Kayla sat in the meeting hall and listened to the different candidates for her state's open Senate seat. The candidates debated about their positions on issues. When Election Day came along, she voted for the candidate she thought would best serve her community's interests. What form of government does Kayla have?

- A. Direct democracy
- B. **Representative democracy**
- C. Oligarchy
- D. Monarchy

In a representative democracy citizens such as Kayla have an active role in making decisions. They elect their leaders. The leaders know that they must meet people's needs to stay in office. Leaders who do not represent voters well will not win re-election. In some places, voters have the power to remove them from office before they are due for re-election.

SS.7.C.3.2:

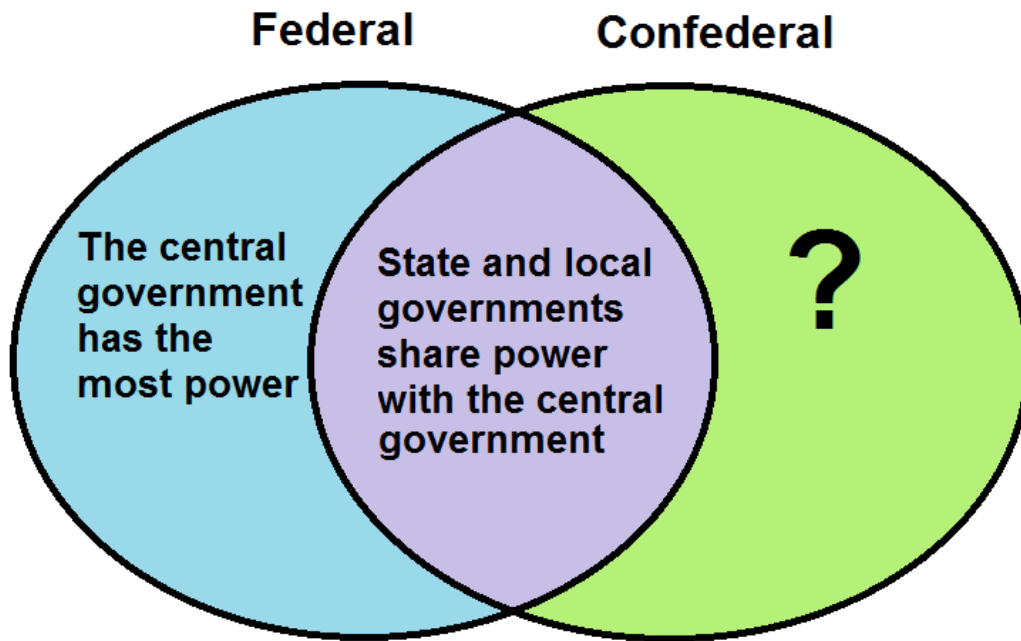
45. Who has the most power in a unitary system?

- A. **Central government**
- B. Local government
- C. State government
- D. Regional government

The central government has the most power in a unitary system. In this system, decisions are made by the central government and apply to the whole country. Local governments (if they exist) implement the policies of the central government and may have some limited powers.

SS.7.C.3.2:

46. This diagram shows two different forms of government.



Source: Public Domain

Which statement completes the diagram?

- A. In a confederal system, city governments have the most power.
- B. In a confederal system, international associations have the most power.
- C. **In a confederal system, state governments have the most power.**
- D. In a confederal system, the people have the most power.

In a confederal system of government, the local and state governments share power with the central government (like in a federal system), however the state governments have final authority.

SS.7.C.3.3:

47. How are the responsibilities of the legislative and executive branches of government different when it comes to treaties?

- A. U.S. Senate proposes treaties; the president carries out foreign treaties.
- B. U.S. Senate negotiates foreign treaties; the president approves treaties.
- C. U.S. Senate carries out foreign treaties; the president proposes treaties.
- D. **U.S. Senate ratifies treaties; the president negotiates foreign treaties.**

Presidents may meet and make agreements with foreign leaders called treaties. The Senate must ratify (or approve) these treaties. For example, in 2010 the U.S. Senate approved a treaty called

“New START.” President Barack Obama and President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia agreed in this treaty to reduce and limit the amount of nuclear weapons.

SS.7.C.3.3:

48. The newspaper headline below describes an event in U.S. history.



Source: Public Domain

Which parts of the national government participated in the process described in the newspaper headline?

- A. **Senate and president**
- B. House of Representatives and Senate
- C. Supreme Court and president
- D. Supreme Court and House of Representatives

When the president nominates someone to his cabinet, the Senate holds a hearing. In this hearing, the Senate asks the nominee questions. The Senate can approve or reject the president's appointment. For examples, President Barack Obama nominated the former First Lady Hillary Clinton to be U.S. Secretary of State. On January 21, 2009, the Senate voted in favor of Clinton for the job.

SS.7.C.3.4:

49. Which statement describes a difference between the state and federal governments under the U.S. Constitution?

- A. Only the federal government provides for public welfare.
- B. Only the federal government charters banks.
- C. Only the federal government borrows money.
- D. **Only the federal government regulates interstate trade.**

The U.S. Constitution establishes the relationship between the national and state governments. It divides the powers of the federal and state governments into three categories: delegated, reserved, and concurrent powers. Regulating trade is a power delegated to the federal government only. Providing public welfare services, chartering banks, and borrowing money are examples of concurrent powers. These are shared between the federal and state governments. Powers reserved to the states include setting up schools and conducting elections, among others.

SS.7.C.3.5

50. Which of the following accurately describes one way an amendment to the U.S. Constitution may be proposed?

- A. **Two-thirds of each house of Congress votes to propose.**
- B. Two-thirds of citizens nationwide vote to propose.
- C. Three-fourths of state legislatures vote to propose.
- D. Three-fourths of each house of Congress votes to propose.

Article V (Five) of the Constitution describes two main steps to amend the Constitution. The first is "proposal." If two-thirds of each house of Congress votes to propose the amendment idea, that means lawmakers will officially research and debate the idea. They will agree on official wording for the amendment. Congress proposed the first 27 amendments this way, but there is another method for proposal. Two-thirds of state legislatures can request a national convention. Then, two-thirds of attendees to that convention can vote for proposal. This method has not been used.

SS.7.C.3.5

51. Why is a formal amendment process important?

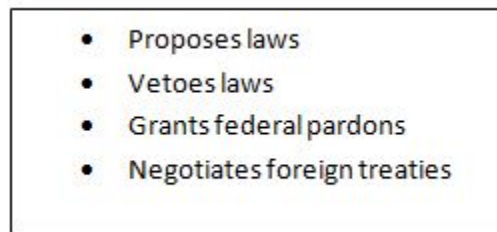
- A. To prevent the Supreme Court from being eliminated
- B. To keep some states from being too powerful
- C. **To allow the Constitution to be adjusted as times change**

D. To give the president a role in changing the government

The Founding Fathers knew it would be important for the Constitution to endure over time. People and societies change and the Constitution needed to be able to meet the country's needs as it grew. For example, amendments to the Constitution have expanded voting rights to ensure all citizens have a voice in government.

SS.7.C.3.8:

52. The chart below lists some powers of the executive branch.



Source: Public Domain

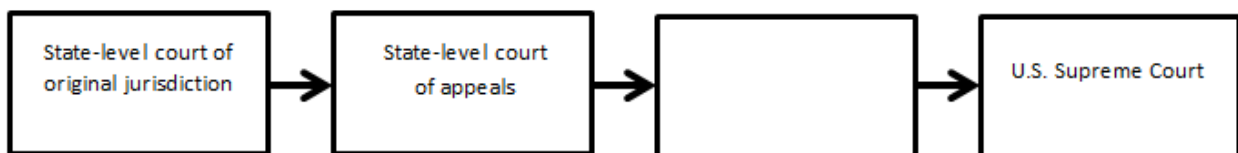
Which of the following is also a power of the executive branch?

- A. **Appoints federal judges**
- B. Declares acts of Congress unconstitutional
- C. Ratifies treaties
- D. Impeaches and removes judges

The executive branch has many powers and duties outlined in the U.S. Constitution, including appointing federal judges. Declaring acts unconstitutional is a power of the judicial branch. The powers to ratify and impeach judges belong to the legislative branch.

SS.7.C.3.11

53. The diagram below outlines the appeals path through a state court system.



Source: Public Domain

Which court completes the diagram?

- A. Court of Veterans Appeals
- B. **Florida Supreme Court**
- C. U.S. court of appeals
- D. State-level court of claims

The structure of the federal and state court systems is very similar. At both levels, trials will begin in the court of original jurisdiction. An appeal of the trial decision would go to an appellate court, or court of appeals. After the state-level court of appeals comes the state-level court of last resort. Many states name their highest court a "supreme court," but not all. The U.S. Supreme Court is the highest court, or the court of final authority over all other courts, state or federal. This court may hear not only cases from federal courts of appeal, but also cases appealed from a state's supreme court.

SS.7.C.3.11

54. Claude runs a chain of tourist businesses in Florida. He imports T-shirts from Haiti to sell in his stores. One day, student protesters damage several of his shops, demanding that he pay his workers in Haiti a fair wage. Claude estimates the damage at \$4,000. Claude sues the protestors for the damage they cause. Where is the original jurisdiction of this case?

- A. **This is a local small-claims case.**
- B. This is a local challenge to international trade.
- C. This is a federal small-claims case.
- D. This is a federal challenge to international trade.

In Florida, small-claims courts resolve civil disputes for amounts less than \$5000. Claude's case against the protestors would be heard first in his local small-claims court.

SS.7.C.3.13

55. Taylor took notes during his civics class comparing the U.S. Constitution with the state of Florida's Constitution. However, he forgot to write down which set of features applied to which constitution. How can he tell the difference between them?

- A. He remembers that the Florida Constitution does not have a bill of rights, but the U.S. Constitution does.
- B. He remembers that the Florida Constitution does not allow for the executive branch to establish a cabinet, but the U.S. Constitution does.
- C. **He remembers that the Florida Constitution has five methods to propose an amendment, but the U.S. Constitution only has two.**

- D. He remembers that the Florida Constitution gives the executive branch power over military forces, while the U.S. Constitution does not.

The Florida Constitution is very similar to the U.S. Constitution, but differs in several ways. For example, the Florida Constitution has five methods to propose an amendment to its constitution while the U.S. Constitution only has two.

SS.7.C.3.14:

56. Which service is performed by local government?

- A. Delivering mail
- B. Granting teacher certificates
- C. Minting quarters
- D. Providing fire protection

Nearly 40,000 counties, municipalities, and townships exist across the United States. Their services vary according to state laws and the needs and desires of the community. In general, they arrange law enforcement, waste management, fire protection, local infrastructure, and other services important to our daily lives. Delivering mail and minting coins are roles of the federal government. State governments determine the requirements for professional workers, like doctors and teachers and grant their licenses.