

Unit 1 Test Study Guide

1. What is government? What is the meaning of government?
The institution through which a state maintains social order, provides public services and enforces decisions that are binding on all its residents.
2. What are the purposes of government?
 1. To maintain social order, 2. To provide public services, 3. To provide security and defense, 4. To provide for the economy
3. What are the types of government? Define each.
Autocracy- the system of government in which one person has all the authority and power to rule (two types: Monarchy and Dictatorship)

Oligarchy- any system of government in which a small group holds power

Democracy- a system of government in which rule is by the people, either through representatives or directly. (Two types: direct and representative)
4. What type of government does the United States of America have?
A Constitutional Republic
5. Who is John Locke? What was his philosophy about government? What is his main work? How did the United States incorporate his philosophies?
An enlightenment philosopher who wrote the "Second Treatise on Government." He believed that every man is created innately good. He also believed that every man is entitled to "natural rights" (life, liberty, and property). We can see evidence of Locke in our Declaration of Independence when the founders say that every man is created equal and has the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
6. Who was Thomas Hobbes? What was his philosophy about government? What is his main work? How did the United States incorporate his philosophies?
Thomas Hobbes was an Enlightenment philosopher who wrote "Leviathan." He believed that every man is created evil. He also believed that a nation only needed one single great power but that powerful people sometimes abuse their power. Therefore, the people can get a new leader to replace a bad one. We can also see his work in the Constitution because power is given to the people to replace a bad leader.

7. Who was Montesquieu? What was his philosophy about government? What is his main work? How did the United States incorporate his philosophies?
He was an Enlightenment philosopher who wrote "The Spirit Laws." He believed that the people should rule government. He also believed that government power should be separated into branches and that they should check each other so that they do not overpower each other. We can see his work in our Constitution.
8. What is the Magna Carta? What is the main idea?
Rights of the people are protected against the power of the king or queen.
9. What is the Petition of Right? What is the main idea?
The king of England had to agree that no troops could be quartered in people's homes, no taxes without Parliament's approval, and no person can be jailed without reason. This gave more rights to the people!
10. What is the English Bill of Rights?
This document gave the people more rights during a time of war. They had rights to a trial by jury, due process, no cruel punishment, no excessive fines or bails, the right to bear arms, and the right to petition the government.
11. What is the social contract? How did Locke, Hobbes and Montesquieu view it?
The social contract is the theory that by contract, people surrender to the state the power needed to maintain order and the state, in turn, agrees to protect its citizens.
12. What is the rule of law?
It states that laws apply to ALL people, even government officials.
13. What are the characteristics of a state?
Population, Territory, Sovereignty, and Government.
14. What is popular sovereignty?
Rule by the people

15. What are the sections of the Declaration of Independence? Which section is the majority of the document?

Preamble, the Statement of Human Rights, Charges Against Human Rights, Charges Against the King and Parliament, and the Statement of Separation and signatures. The majority is made up of statements of the desire to separate from England.

16. What are the main ideas of the Declaration of Independence?

People have certain natural rights, government can exist only with the people's permission, and the people may change or abolish the government.

17. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

Thomas Jefferson

18. What are the sections of the U.S. Constitution?

The preamble, the Articles, and the Amendments

19. What was the main purpose of Federalist Paper 10?

Federalist 10 was mostly concerned with factions.

20. What was the main purpose of Federalist Paper 51?

The belief that a major role of the Constitution was to protect minorities from the majority.

21. Who were the main attendees of the Constitutional Convention?

James Madison, Ben Franklin, George Washington

22. Who did not attend the Constitutional Convention?

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. Also, Rhode Island, African Americans, Native Americans and Women were not in attendance.

23. What is individual liberty?

People are free to develop their own capacities.

24. What are free elections?

Everyone's vote carries the same weight.

25. What are political parties?

A group that helps focus attention of the people and government on key issues.

26. Explain the argument between Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

Federalists wanted a strong central government with checks and balances. Anti-Federalists were afraid that individual rights would get looked over so they would not sign until a Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution.

27. What are the methods for amending the U.S. Constitution?

2/3 vote in both houses of Congress

28. What are the methods for ratifying a new Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

Legislatures in 3/4 of the states ratify an amendment.

29. Review ALL of the Amendments (Bill of Rights and 11-27) and know a short description.