

American Government—Part 1

1. A town council faces budget cuts and can no longer afford to pay for landscaping in town parks.

How could a citizen work within his or her own community to help the local government address this problem?

- A. by emailing Ohio's congressional delegation to inform them of this issue
- B. by organizing a group of residents to volunteer for weekly park maintenance
- C. by requesting that the governor supply the town with state funds for park maintenance
- D. by running for a seat in the General Assembly with a promise to increase funding for local parks

2. The Necessary and Proper Clause of the U.S. Constitution is shown.

The Congress shall have Power ... To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Why did Federalists want to include this clause in the Constitution?

- A. to protect the individual liberties of all citizens
- B. to provide a guarantee of sovereignty to individual states
- C. to allow the national government to efficiently run the country
- D. to give citizens more opportunities to select government officials



3. The following question has two parts. In the **Answer Document**, first, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

Which right allows U.S. citizens to directly participate in the electoral process?

- A. the right to vote
- B. the right to a trial by jury
- C. the right to religious freedom
- D. the right to legal representation

Part B

What is a responsibility of exercising the right that you selected in Part A?

- A. serving on a jury
- B. paying attorney fees
- C. obtaining a college degree
- D. being informed on public issues



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4. Following the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, African-American students began applying to colleges and universities that had previously been segregated. In 1963, the governor of Alabama, George Wallace, tried to physically stop three African-American students from registering at the University of Alabama. President Kennedy ordered the Alabama National Guard to force Wallace to move aside and allow the students to register.

Why did President Kennedy take this action?

- A. The state judicial branch refused to comply with an executive order.
 - B. The state executive branch refused to comply with a federal court ruling.
 - C. The federal judicial branch refused to comply with a ruling by the state judicial branch.
 - D. The federal legislative branch refused to comply with a state executive branch decision.
5. In the presidential election of 1800, there was a tie in the Electoral College vote for president.

How was the U.S. Constitution amended to change the election procedures of the Electoral College?

- A. Separate balloting was required for candidates for president and vice president.
- B. The vice president was required to belong to a different party than the president.
- C. Voters were required to vote directly for presidential candidates instead of having electors.
- D. Electors were required to vote for the candidate who received the most votes in their state.



6. Sanjay is reading a new book on Congress to see if it will work as a source for his report on the legislative branch.

In the **Answer Document**, select the letters before **two** sentences from biographical information about the author that can help Sanjay determine the author's credibility.

A Asha Torres is the best-selling author of *To Counteract Ambition: The Fights of the Founding Founders*. **B** She proudly passed out flyers for her father's school board campaign at age 16. **C** After she graduated from college, she worked for the governor as an administrative assistant. **D** She represented Ohio's 20th district in Congress from 2003 to 2015. **E** She is now the head of the political science department at State University. **F** She lives with her family in Youngstown. **G** You can sign up for her current events newsletter to read her opinion on the latest news from Washington.

7. Before the U.S. Constitution was adopted, each state held a ratifying convention to discuss and vote on the Constitution.

Alexander Hamilton attended the New York state ratification convention. A quote from one of his speeches during the convention is shown.

Here [in the U.S. House of Representatives], sir, the people govern; here they act by their immediate representatives.

Which basic principle of governance is Hamilton highlighting in this quote?

- A. federalism
- B. limited government
- C. popular sovereignty
- D. separation of powers

8.

This item cannot be rendered as a paper/pencil item.

9. In 1851, Ohio drafted a new constitution that was meant to address problems of the original state constitution. These problems included:

- An overburdened judicial branch
- A significant amount of state government debt
- An overly powerful legislative branch

In the **Answer Document**, select all of the ways that the Ohio Constitution of 1851 addressed these problems.

- A. It created district courts.
- B. It instituted debt limitations.
- C. It forgave all outstanding state debt.
- D. It allowed the judicial branch to appoint legislative officials.
- E. It required major executive officials to be elected into office.
- F. It restricted the number of cases that could be brought to trial in the state each year.



10. In the **Answer Document**, select the letter before each correct word to complete the summary of government taxation and spending policies.

The federal government controls taxation and spending policy. These are

both parts of

- | |
|-------------|
| A. fiscal |
| B. monetary |

policy. If the government were to raise taxes

and decrease spending, this would be an example of an attempt to

- | |
|--------------|
| A. encourage |
| B. slow |

economic growth.

11. Which statement accurately describes the relationship between the Ohio Constitution and the U.S. Constitution?
- A. Ohio laws overrule federal laws when there is a conflict.
 - B. All articles of the Ohio Constitution must be the same as all articles of the U.S. Constitution.
 - C. The structure of the Ohio Constitution does not resemble the structure of the U.S. Constitution.
 - D. The Ohio Constitution is consistent with the key principles of the U.S. Constitution, but contains some laws that differ from the laws of the U.S. Constitution.

Use the following information to answer questions 12 and 13.

Ratifying a treaty

The president is trying to secure approval of a treaty he was instrumental in drafting. A treaty must be approved by two-thirds (67 members) of the U.S. Senate. The president's advisors have prepared an analysis of the Senate's position on the treaty. Their analysis is shown.

Analysis of Senate Position on the Treaty

The Senate is divided into several groups with respect to opinions regarding approval of the treaty. If the treaty were to be voted on in its present form, 50 senators would vote for it and 50 would vote against it. A breakdown of the groups' positions is listed.

- **Opposition party group (15 members):** opposes the treaty because they disagree with the president's policies in general.
- **Moderate opposition party group (35 members):** supports most of the provisions of the treaty but strongly opposes one of the provisions. This group will vote for approval if that provision is not implemented.
- **Moderate members of the president's party (40 members):** support the treaty as it appears; members mainly follow the president's leadership and will vote the way the president wants them to.
- **Strongly ideological members of president's party (10 members):** want stronger language in the treaty and will not vote for approval if the provisions of the treaty are weakened.

The president's advisors have also prepared several strategies using the tools of consensus building, compromise and persuasion to target groups within the Senate.

Strategies to Achieve Ratification of the Treaty

- **Consensus building:** meet with the leadership of each group of senators to find provisions of the treaty on which they all can agree.
- **Compromise:** make concessions to meet a group's demands; alter language of the bill to address the concerns of a particular group.
- **Persuasion:** the president should use his political influence by traveling across the country to build popular support for the bill with the people, in the hope that they will pressure their senators to support it.



The president chooses to use the persuasion strategy, targeting the moderate members of the opposition party. The president's cross-country trip takes a great deal of time and distracts him from other public policy objectives. Despite this drawback, the trip builds enough support across the country to convince some senators to support the treaty. The treaty is approved by a vote of 69 to 31.

"Ratifying a treaty" written for the Ohio Department of Education.

12. Factors outside of constitutionally established governmental processes often affect public policy.

In the **Answer Document**, select the boxes to identify whether each factor would increase, decrease or have little impact on the likelihood of approval of a treaty by the Senate.

	Increase	Decrease	Little or No Impact
The president is a close friend of the chief justice of the Supreme Court.	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C
There is little public interest in the treaty, but a vocal minority of the public is highly opposed to it.	<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> F
Interest groups that favor the treaty are contributing large sums of money to lawmakers' campaign funds.	<input type="checkbox"/> G	<input type="checkbox"/> H	<input type="checkbox"/> I
Political parties are encouraging their members to hold to their original positions in order to appear decisive and unified ahead of an upcoming election.	<input type="checkbox"/> J	<input type="checkbox"/> K	<input type="checkbox"/> L



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13. Suppose the President decided that none of the proposed strategies will work and directed his advisors to develop negotiation based strategies.

In the **Answer Document**, select the **two** strategies that the president's advisors could propose that represent forms of negotiation.

- A. threaten to veto all bills until the Senate approves the treaty
- B. conduct media interviews about the treaty and why it should be approved
- C. meet with a group of senators opposed to the treaty to discuss their concerns
- D. give a speech to the Senate outlining reasons that they should approve the treaty
- E. hold meetings with members of both parties to settle differences on aspects of the treaty

American Government—Part 2

1. Citizens must choose between a plan to build a new city auditorium or a plan to restore the old one. Supporters of the new auditorium claim that building a new auditorium would be more economical than restoring the old one.

In evaluating the credibility of this claim, citizens should pay particular attention to

- A. the number of performances held in the auditorium each year.
- B. the amount of money the supporters spend on promoting their position.
- C. the popularity of the supporters as community leaders.
- D. the projected cost data provided by architects and accountants.

2. Cannot be done via paper

3. How can a citizen become involved in addressing problems that affect the entire state?
- A. by joining a community watch group
 - B. by volunteering for the fire department
 - C. by signing petitions to place issues on the ballot
 - D. by attending a meeting of the local school board
4. Two constitutional amendments are shown.

15th Amendment

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

24th Amendment

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

What was the result of the addition of these amendments to the U.S. Constitution?

- A. The requirements for citizenship were revised.
- B. Civil rights were extended to disenfranchised groups.
- C. New powers were granted to states to regulate election rules.
- D. Strict restrictions were placed on federal campaign fundraising.

American Government—Part 2

5. This question has two parts. In the **Answer Document**, first, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

An excerpt from the U.S. Bill of Rights is shown.

Amendment 3: No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

What was the effect of this amendment?

- A. the protection of individual rights
- B. the establishment of a standing army
- C. the outlawing of mandatory military service
- D. the strengthening of state and local governments

Part B

How was the effect in Part A brought about?

- A. by expanding the role of citizens in government
- B. by formalizing the federal system of government
- C. by defining the separation of powers in government
- D. by placing limits on the power of the federal government



6.

This item cannot be rendered as a paper/pencil item.

7. How did a constitutional amendment alter an aspect of the Electoral College?
- A. The District of Columbia was granted electoral votes despite not being a state.
 - B. States were granted additional electoral votes based on the size of their economies.
 - C. Electoral votes from the home states of presidential nominees were redistributed to other states.
 - D. Citizens living abroad were granted their own block of electoral votes despite not living in a state.

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8. What was one change made by the 1851 Ohio Constitution that affected how the state was governed?
- A. The 1851 Ohio Constitution increased the power of the General Assembly.
 - B. The 1851 Ohio Constitution limited the amount of debt the state could accumulate.
 - C. The 1851 Ohio Constitution permitted the General Assembly to enact retroactive laws.
 - D. The 1851 Ohio Constitution lifted a restriction on how the state could spend its tax funds.

9 cannot be done via paper

American Government—Part 2

10. The following question has two parts. In the **Answer Document**, first, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

In the United States, rights carry responsibilities.

Which is a civic responsibility of citizens?

- A. serving on a jury
- B. attending college
- C. donating money to charity
- D. being active in a political party

Part B

Which right of U.S. citizens does the civic responsibility that you selected in Part A safeguard?

- A. right to an education
- B. right to an impartial jury
- C. right to be mayor of a city
- D. right to read the newspaper



American Government—Part 2

11. Your city is debating whether to install a skateboard park on city-owned land. You want to support the park.

Which method would be effective in helping to determine public policy on this decision?

- A. Participate in the governor's re-election campaign.
 - B. Send an email to your U.S. senators expressing your point of view.
 - C. Attend the meeting of the city council and present the benefits of a park.
 - D. Organize a letter-writing campaign to members of the Ohio General Assembly.
12. What was one way the Constitution was amended to address African American inequality during Reconstruction?
- A. by extending citizenship to former slaves
 - B. by prohibiting the segregation of public facilities
 - C. by providing financial compensation to former slaves
 - D. by appointing African American governors in Southern states
13. Which statement summarizes the original Federalist position on the Bill of Rights?
- A. Additional amendments were needed, given the Constitution's lack of individual protections.
 - B. Adopting the Bill of Rights was too risky because it might threaten ratification of the Constitution.
 - C. The Bill of Rights should be adopted because national sovereignty should always come before states' rights.
 - D. No amendments were needed, as the Constitution already had protections against excessive government power.



American Government Practice test answers

Part 1

- 1- B
- 2- C
- 3- A, D
- 4- B
- 5- A

6- For this item, a full-credit response includes:

- "She represented Ohio's 20th district in Congress from 2003 to 2015." selected;
- AND
- "She is now the head of the political science department at State University." selected (1 point).

7- C

8- Scoring Guidelines

For this item, a full-credit response includes:

- "Legislative" AND "Federal" selected in the first column;
- AND
- "Executive" AND "State" selected in the middle column;
- AND
- "Judicial" AND "State" selected in the last column (2 points).

For this item, a partial-credit response includes:

- at least three boxes correct (1 point).

9- A, B, E

10- Scoring Guidelines

For this item, a full-credit response includes:

- "fiscal" selected for the first blank box;
- AND
- "slow" selected for the second blank box (1 point).

11- D

12- For this item, a full-credit response includes:

- "Little or No Impact" selected for "The president is a close friend of the chief justice of the Supreme Court.";
- AND
- "Decrease" selected for "There is little public interest in the treaty, but a vocal minority of the public is highly opposed to it.";
- AND
- "Increase" selected for "Interest groups that favor the treaty are contributing large sums of money to lawmakers' campaign funds.";
- AND
- "Decrease" selected for "Political parties are encouraging their members to hold to their original positions in order to appear decisive and unified ahead of an upcoming election." (2 points).

For this item, a partial-credit response includes:

- at least two correct selections (1 point).

13- C, E

Part 2

1- D

2-

Scoring Guidelines

For this item, a full-credit response includes:

- "Federalist" selected for the first quote;
AND
- "Anti-Federalist" selected for the second quote (1 point).

3- C

4- B

5- A, D

6-

For this item, a full-credit response includes:

- "Decrease" selected for "People buy more houses";
AND
- "Increase" selected for "People pay more for loans";
AND
- "Decrease" selected for "Inflation increases" (2 points).

For this item, a partial-credit response includes:

- two arrows correctly selected (1 point).

7- A

8- B

9-

The U.S. Constitution establishes several basic principles of government.

Move the principles of government into the blank boxes to match them with their descriptions.

Principles of Government in the United States	
Description	Principle of Government
Government authority is derived from the people.	Popular sovereignty
Power is divided between the national and state governments.	Federalism
The branches of government have the ability to limit the other branches.	Checks and balances

Federalism Popular sovereignty Checks and balances

10- A, B

11- C

12- A

13- D