

5th Grade Civics Integration Pre/Post Test

1. Which document was written to let the world know that the colonists wanted to be free to make their own decisions in their own nation?
 - a. The Citizenship Document
 - b. The United States Constitution
 - c. The Bill of Rights
 - d. The Declaration of Independence

2. Who was the author of the Declaration of Independence?
 - a. Abraham Lincoln
 - b. George Washington
 - c. Bill Clinton
 - d. Thomas Jefferson

3. What was the name given to people in the thirteen colonies who supported independence?
 - a. Tories
 - b. Patriots
 - c. Loyalists
 - d. pacifists

4. Why did the colonists have so little success in protesting their many grievances to government officials in the colonies?
 - a. The colonists were not very good at protesting.
 - b. The colonists were not well organized and didn't get along with one another.
 - c. The judges and government officials were appointed and paid by the king.
 - d. The judges and government officials were appointed and paid by the patriots.

5. Amendment III (3) in the Bill of Rights states that “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 prescribed by law.”

Why did the people think this was important enough to be included as an amendment to the United States Constitution?

- a. Some colonists had been forced to feed and provide shelter for the patriots.
- b. Some colonists were forced to raise quarter horses for the British army.
- c. Some colonists had been forced to feed and provide shelter for British soldiers.
- d. Some colonists had been forced to pay larger taxes on their homes.

6. The beginning of the Declaration of Independence states:

“We hold these truths to be self evident; That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;...”

By putting this statement at the beginning of the Declaration, what does it suggest that the authors thought the most basic function of government should be?

- a. To make sure that all of the people vote
- b. To make sure that all of the people’s rights are guaranteed
- c. To make sure that everyone is protected by a strong military
- d. To make sure that all of the people have jobs

7. What was the main reason the Bill of Rights was added to the United States Constitution?

- a. To give citizens rights and protect them from too much power from the Federal Government.
- b. To give citizens rights and make sure they all had equal wealth.
- c. To give the states increased responsibilities so they would have more power than the Federal Government.
- d. To give citizens jobs and make sure they all served at least four years in the military.

8. Why is the Constitution of the United States referred to as a “living” document?

- a. It can never be amended (changed).
- b. It can be amended (changed).
- c. It is very old.
- d. A copy of it is preserved in the National Archives.

9. What does the United States Constitution define?

- a. How the Federal Government is structured
- b. How local officials are elected
- c. How each state must organize its’ paperwork
- d. How city leaders are elected

10. What is the purpose of the Preamble?

- a. It doesn’t have a specific purpose; it was the accepted writing style of the time.
- b. To show the strength of the Articles of Confederation
- c. To make sure that George Washington was elected President
- d. To set forth the general goals and descriptions of the Constitution

11. The preamble to the Constitution mentions “a more perfect Union.” What is meant by “a more perfect Union”?

- a. A better government that united the Confederate States and the Union
- b. A better government that united the 13 separate states into one nation
- c. A more united government that would join the colonies to Great Britain
- d. A more united government joining the United States to Europe

12. Which of the following is an example of a natural right?

- a. The right to have paid vacations
- b. The right to own property
- c. The right to vote in elections
- d. The right to live in the United States

13. Which of the following documents was influenced by the ideas of the Enlightenment?

- a. The Declaration of Independence
- b. The United States Revenue Document
- c. The United States Rules Document
- d. The Declaration of the Confederacy

14. Which of the following statements from the Declaration of Independence best reflects the ideas of John Locke?

- a. “He has forbidden his Governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance...”
- b. “For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments.”
- c. “In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for redress in the most humble terms.”
- d. “All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

15. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

The above excerpt from the Declaration of Independence best reflects which of the following?

- a. George Washington's idea of defeating the British
- b. Baron de Montesquieu's ideas balancing power to ensure individual rights
- c. John Locke's idea of natural rights
- d. King George's ideas on granting rights to the colonists

16. What are the three parts of the Declaration of Independence?

- a. The legislative, executive, and judicial parts
- b. The Preamble, Outline of Ideas, and List of Grievances
- c. The Preamble, List of Grievances, and Amendments
- d. The Federal courts, State Courts, and Local Courts

17. Which of the following was one of the major purposes of the Declaration of Independence?

- a. To declare independence from France
- b. To state grievances against the Continental Army
- c. To state grievances against the British King and Parliament
- d. To state the case for religious freedom

18. What political idea is evident in the Declaration of Independence?

- a. All governments are created equal.
- b. A government can be overthrown if it denies people their basic rights.
- c. A government should never be overthrown.
- d. All governments guarantee citizens their basic rights and freedoms.

19. The statement below is from the grievances of the Declaration of Independence.

“For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences”

Which of the laws imposed by the King and Parliament is being referred to in the above grievance?

- a. The Intolerable Acts
- b. The Writs of Assistance
- c. The Quartering Act
- d. The Stamp Act

20. The picture below shows a scene in New York following the reading of the Declaration of Independence. The statue in the center of the picture is King George.



What is symbolic about what is happening in the picture?

- a. People are displaying unhappiness towards King George III.
- b. People are protesting the Declaration of Independence.
- c. People are honoring King George III.
- d. People are repairing the statue.

21. What were the feelings of those who opposed the United States Constitution when it was completed in 1787?

- a. They felt that the Constitution made the federal government too weak.
- b. They felt that the Constitution made the federal government too strong.
- c. They felt that the Constitution did not organize a federal government at all.
- d. They felt that the Constitution created a federal government which gave individuals too much power.

22. Which group from the list below favored ratification of the Constitution?

- a. The Federalists
- b. The Nationalists
- c. The Conservatives
- d. The Anti-Federalists

23. Why was the Bill of Rights added to the United States Constitution??

- a. To ensure a strong federal government
- b. To reduce the rights of states
- c. To protect individual liberties
- d. To protect the voting rights of immigrants

24. Which statement best expresses the theme of the cartoon below?



- a. The Statue of Liberty is the symbol of the power of the United States.
- b. Many immigrants have been inspired by the Statue of Liberty.
- c. The rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights have always been a source of controversy in the United States.
- d. The rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights are an important part of the rights and freedom enjoyed by Americans.

25. One of the major weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation was that most of the power was given to which of the following?

- a. The legislative branch of the government
- b. The states
- c. The chief executive
- d. The Federal courts

26. Which group felt that a bill of rights was necessary to guarantee individual rights and freedom?

- a. The Federalists
- b. The Nationalists
- c. The Conservatives
- d. The Anti-Federalists

27. What does the statement below describe?

“The national government could not tax or regulate commerce among the states.”

- a. A weakness of the Articles of Confederation
- b. An opinion of a Federalist
- c. A weakness of the Constitution
- d. A strength of the Articles of Confederation

28. During the years 1788 through 1791, Americans debated whether to ratify the Constitution. During this time, the Anti-Federalists engaged in many activities to express their viewpoint on the Constitution. Which of the following is a direct outcome of the Anti-Federalist's activities?

- a. The Articles of Confederation were revised.
- b. Women were given the right to vote.
- c. A bill of rights was added to the Constitution.
- d. New amendments were added to the Magna Carta.

29. Which of the following statements is true about the Federalists?

- a. They opposed the ratification of the Constitution
- b. They thought that a strong national government would reduce the rights of states
- c. They thought a strong national government would take away individual rights
- d. They supported the ratification of the Constitution

30. The statement below is an historical quote by Alexander Hamilton. The statement clearly demonstrates Hamilton's position as what?

Quote: "Yes, my countrymen . . . I am clearly of the opinion it is in your best interest to adopt it [the Constitution]. I am convinced that this is the safest course for your liberty, your dignity, and your happiness."

- a. An Anti-Federalist
- b. A radical
- c. A Federalist
- d. A right's activist

31. The statement below is an historical quote by Patrick Henry. The statement clearly demonstrates Henry's position as what?

Quote "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, Give me Liberty, or give me Death!"

- a. An Undecided
- b. A Conservative
- c. A Patriot
- d. A Loyalist

32. Which idea from the Magna Carta influenced the Patriots?

- a. The nobles have a right to their property.
- b. The Mayflower Compact was an illegal document.
- c. The kings, as well as the people, had to obey the law.
- d. Only the people had to obey the laws (kings and nobles were exempt).

33. What did the Federalists believe about the government?

- a. It should give more rights to the states.
- b. It should be limited.
- c. It should be strong.
- d. It should help the individual.

34. How do you think the Republican and Democratic parties appeal to the independent voter?

- a. By ignoring them
- b. By taking a hard core stand on extreme issues
- c. By taking a moderate stand on issues of importance
- d. By trying to get them to pay to join their political party

35. Why is it important to have a two party system of political participation in the United States?

- a. To give people a choice and make government more fair
- b. To streamline the voting process
- c. To give people the chance to nominate federal court judges
- d. To help voters get to the polls

36. Amendment XXIV of the constitution reads:

AMENDMENT XXIV

Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.

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 poll tax or other tax.

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

What is the purpose of this amendment?

- a. To give everyone access to voting
- b. To limit the access to voting
- c. To allow only certain groups of people the ability to vote
- d. To stop government workers from making money from the poll taxes

37. Amendment XV of the constitution reads:

AMENDMENT XV

Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.

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.

How does this amendment and the changes it brought to voting reflect the importance of individual rights?

- a. It gave the African Americans that had been freed the right to vote.
- b. It gave African Americans the right to vote only if their state allowed them to vote.
- c. It gave African Americans the right to vote if they were sponsored by another person.
- d. It gave African Americans the right to vote only if they had never been a slave.

38. What is the purpose of government?

- a. To know citizens have rights and responsibilities
- b. To learn about democracy and the Constitution
- c. To protect citizens' rights and the general welfare
- d. To participate and to make informed decisions

39. What is the difference between native citizens and naturalized citizens?

- a. Native citizens cannot vote but naturalized citizens can.
- b. Native citizens cannot hold public office but naturalized citizens can.
- c. Native citizens can vote but naturalized citizens cannot.
- d. Naturalized citizens cannot be president but the native citizens can.

40. Which of the following powers does the US Constitution give the national government to deal with other countries?

- a. It allows Congress to regulate commerce.
- b. It allows the President to declare war and approve treaties.
- c. It allows Congress to hear cases involving foreign citizens.
- d. It allows the President to punish piracies and crimes committed in the high seas.

41. Why was the United Nations created?

- a. So that peace and security could be maintained for its members.
- b. To declare war on other countries and approve treaties.
- c. To pass international laws which all countries must follow.
- d. So that all people in the United States would have equal political rights.

42. Why is it important for the United States to trade with other countries?

- a. They are independent.
- b. Transportation and communication has made it easy.
- c. It is important that we trade products and learn about each other's advances.
- d. Products from the United States are exported to other countries.

43. What is the purpose of a constitution?

- a. To pass bills affecting all three branches of government.
- b. To provide ideas for all citizens to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
- c. To provide a set of rules and laws explaining how government is organized.
- d. To settle differences among all citizens of the U.S.

44. Which of the following illustrates why the Framers included the separation of powers in the U.S. Constitution?

- a. This would guarantee justices an appointment for life.
- b. The president could always veto an undesirable bill.
- c. No branch would become more powerful than the others.
- d. Congress would always be able to create new laws.

45. What is the meaning of “the power lies with the people?”

- a. Government tells us what to do.
- b. Popular Sovereignty
- c. Rule of Law
- d. Separation of powers

46. Which branch of Government can veto laws?

- a. The Executive branch, which is represented by the president.
- b. The Legislative branch, which is represented by Congress.
- c. No branch of government can veto laws.
- d. The judicial branch, which is represented by the Courts.

47. What is an example of a power that the federal and state governments share?

- a. Establish a postal service
- b. Establish public school
- c. Coin money
- d. Enforce laws

48. Which statement is true about the concept of federalism?

- a. Americans must obey only state laws.
- b. Federalism was designed to give the President more power.
- c. It does not put a limit on government.
- d. The power is shared by the national and states' governments.

49. In addition to their exclusive powers, both the national government and state governments share powers. Shared powers between the national government and state governments are called **concurrent powers**.

Which of the items below is an example of concurrent powers?

- a. Make treaties with foreign governments
- b. Regulate trade between the states
- c. Establish trash collection services
- d. Establish courts and prisons

50. What is the best interpretation of the following statement?

"In two hundred plus years we have only added twenty seven amendments to the US Constitution"

- a. Amendments can only be added every fifty years.
- b. The process of amending the Constitution is long and difficult.
- c. New amendments were added to the Magna Carta.
- d. People are very uncommitted and do not want to amend the Constitution.

51. *“This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or exercise their revolutionary right to overthrow it.”* Abraham Lincoln

In the statement above what is President Lincoln implying?

- a. Amending the Constitution is not an option.
- b. People who amend the Constitution are revolting.
- c. By amending the Constitution we are exercising our constitutional right.
- d. People don't have that option.

52. Which of the following is protected by the First Amendment?

- a. Freedom of religion, speech, press, the right to assemble and petition the government
- b. Protect citizens from unreasonable search and seizures
- c. Protect Citizens' rights to a speedy trial and fair jury
- d. Freedom from debts and voting rights for women

53. *“The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government”*

In this quote, Thomas Jefferson refers to the right to bear arms as a last resort. What can you conclude?

- a. Thomas Jefferson was against the 2nd Amendment.
- b. He believed that this amendment might be used to defend ourselves against bad governments.
- c. People can use the second amendment in any circumstance.
- d. Thomas Jefferson believes that freedom of speech is essential.

54. Former Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes described the great power of judicial review in the following statement:

"We are under a Constitution, but the Constitution is what the Supreme Court says it is"

What was the meaning of Chief Justice Hughes statement?

- a. The power of judicial review means that the Constitution is not the law.
- b. The power of judicial review means that the Supreme Court has the power to interpret the Constitution and has the final say in the U.S. Court System.
- c. The Constitution has to follow the Supreme Court.
- d. The power of judicial review does not exist.

55. The President of the United States nominates the Supreme Court Justices but Congress has the power to approve it.

This is an example of what principle of democracy:

- a. The rule of law.
- b. The three branches of government.
- c. The system of checks and balances.
- d. The system of the federal courts.

