**“BIG IDEAS” OF THE CONSTITUTION**

**Part A**. There are six major ideas of our government found in the Constitution and listed below. Match the key term to its definition. Each term will only be used once.

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| Limited Government | Republicanism | Checks & Balances |
| Federalism | Separation of Powers | Popular Sovereignty |

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| **“BIG IDEA”** | **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?** |
|  | 1) The people are the source of all governmental power; government requires the consent of the governed |
|  | 2) Each branch of government can check, or limit, the actions of the other branches |
|  | 3) Political power should be divided between a central government and a number of regional governments |
|  | 4) A representative form of government organization |
|  | 5) Power is divided into the executive, legislative, and judicial branches; these are equal and independent parts of government |
|  | 6) Government may only do things that the people have given it the power to do |

**Part B**. Take these key terms and apply them to the different scenarios listed below. Each term will be used TWICE.

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| Limited Government | Republicanism | Checks & Balances |
| Federalism | Separation of Powers | Popular Sovereignty |

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| **SCENARIO** | **WHICH “BIG IDEA” BEST FITS?** |
| 7) The citizens of the United States do not directly make the laws; instead, they elect lawmakers to serve in Congress. |  |
| 8) The Congress can make the laws, the President can enforce the laws, and the courts can interpret the laws. |  |
| 9) The federal government can declare war; the state governments have power over healthcare and education. |  |
| 10) The Constitution begins with “We the People.” |  |
| 11) Congress passes a bill, but the President decides to veto it. |  |
| 12) The government cannot make a law taking away your freedom of speech. |  |
| 13) The President may be impeached by Congress for “high crimes and misdemeanors.” |  |
| 14) If the people do not like their leaders, they may vote them out. |  |
| 15) The government cannot search your property without a warrant or just cause. |  |
| 16) The State of Florida may make its own laws about the environment that are different than Alabama’s laws. |  |
| 17) Elected officials should be wise and have expertise to ensure that we get the best laws and the best government possible; if the people had a direct say, they may do things that are unwise. |  |
| 18) The Supreme Court cannot make a law, but it can review cases and apply the law to these cases. |  |

**Part C. Republicanism.** Think about the idea that the Founding Fathers were fearful of pure democracy, and created a republic instead. The rights and power of ordinary people have increased over time, and today, voters have a major impact on public policy (i.e. the laws and actions of the government). Read the two positions below:

**A) Public policy (i.e. laws and actions of the government) should reflect the opinion of voters.**

**B) Public policy should be created by officials who are most informed about the issues involved.**

Do you believe that our country should more reflect the ideas of republicanism (B), or the ideas of democracy (A)? Choose one of the two positions on public policy and write at least 3 sentences arguing for it. Make sure to support your argument with evidence and reasoning.

**ANSWER:**

I think that