

4. There is continued debate over how to best preserve the democratic ideal of limited government.

Develop an argument as to whether an elected legislature or an independent judiciary is more effective in preserving limited government.

Use at least one piece of evidence from one of the following foundational documents:

- *Federalist* No. 51
- *Federalist* No. 78
- Article I of the Constitution of the United States

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning.
- Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of specific and relevant evidence.
  - One piece of evidence must come from one of the foundational documents listed.
  - A second piece of evidence can come from any other foundational document not used as your first piece of evidence or it may be from your knowledge of course concepts.
- Use reasoning to explain why your evidence supports your claim or thesis.
- Respond to an opposing or alternate perspective using rebuttal or refutation.

**STOP**  
**END OF EXAM**

**Question 4: Argument Essay****6 points**

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
<b>Row A</b> <b>Claim/Thesis</b>  <b>(0–1 points)</b>	<b>0 points</b> Does not meet the criteria for one point.	<b>1 point</b> Responds to the prompt with a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning.
	<b>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</b>	
	<b>Responses that do not earn this point:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only restate the prompt.</li> <li>Do not make a claim that responds to the prompt.</li> </ul>	<b>Responses that earn this point:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respond to the prompt rather than restating or rephrasing the prompt and establish a line of reasoning.</li> <li>Provide a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning as to whether an elected legislature or an independent judiciary is more effective in preserving limited government.</li> </ul>
	<b>Examples that do not earn this point:</b>  <b>Restate the prompt</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“There are debates about whether an elected legislature or an independent judiciary is more effective in preserving limited government.”</i></li> </ul> <b>Do not respond to the prompt</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“The executive branch best protects limited government.”</i></li> </ul>	<b>Examples that earn this point:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“An elected legislature is more effective at preserving limited government because they are elected by the majority and are held accountable to the will of the people.”</i></li> <li><i>“An elected legislature is better able to preserve limited government because checks and balances allow the legislature to limit the other branches of government.”</i></li> <li><i>“An independent judiciary is better able to preserve limited government because checks and balances allow the judiciary to limit the other branches of government.”</i></li> <li><i>“The independent judiciary is more effective at preserving limited government because they are not accountable to the wishes of the majority.”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Additional Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The claim or thesis must consist of one or more sentences that may be located anywhere in the response.</li> <li>A claim or thesis that meets the criteria can be awarded the point whether or not the rest of the response successfully supports that line of reasoning.</li> </ul>		

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria			
Row B Evidence  (0–3 points)	<b>0 points</b> Does not meet the criteria for one point.	<b>1 point</b> Provides one piece of evidence that is <u>relevant to the topic</u> of the prompt.	<b>2 points</b> Uses <u>one</u> piece of specific and relevant evidence to <u>support the claim or thesis</u> . <b>OR</b> Provides two pieces of evidence that are relevant to the topic of the prompt.	<b>3 points</b> Uses <u>two</u> pieces of specific and relevant evidence to <u>support the claim or thesis</u> .
Decision Rules and Scoring Notes				
<b>Responses that do not earn points:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Do not provide any accurate evidence.</li><li>Provide evidence that is not relevant to the topic.</li></ul>	<b>Responses that earn 1 point:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Must provide one piece of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt. This evidence can come from one of the foundational documents listed in the prompt, any other foundational document, or from knowledge of course concepts.</li></ul>	<b>Responses that earn 2 points:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provide one piece of specific and relevant evidence that supports the claim or thesis.</li></ul> <b>OR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Must provide two pieces of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt. This evidence can come from one of the foundational documents listed in the prompt, any other foundational document, or from knowledge of course concepts.</li></ul>	<b>Responses that earn 3 points:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provide two pieces of specific and relevant evidence that support the claim or thesis. One of these pieces of evidence <b>must</b> come from a foundational document listed in the prompt. The other piece of evidence can come from a different foundational document or from knowledge of course concepts.</li></ul>	
<b>Examples that do not earn points:</b>  <b>Provide evidence that is not specific</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>“Legislatures have representatives.”</li></ul> <b>Provide evidence that is not relevant to the topic of the prompt</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>“The Constitutional Convention of 1787 was held in Philadelphia.”</li></ul>	<b>Examples of evidence that are relevant to the <u>topic</u> of the prompt:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>“The principle of republicanism is found in the design of our government.”</li><li>“Article III of the Constitution establishes the judicial branch of government.”</li></ul> <b>Examples of acceptable specific and relevant evidence that support the claim or thesis (one example is one piece of evidence):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>“Legislative processes are conducted by officials who are directly elected by a majority of citizens.”</li><li>“Article III establishes that federal judicial officials serve for a term of good behavior.”</li><li>“Federalist No. 51 discusses how each branch can check the power of the other branches.”</li><li>“Federalist No. 78 explains that the judicial branch is not elected and holds lifetime appointments.”</li><li>“Article I establishes the legislative branch as well as qualifications for holding office, elections to the office, and the powers of the office.”</li></ul>			
<b>Additional Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To earn one or two points in Row B, the response does not need to have earned the point for claim/thesis in Row A.</li><li>To earn three points in Row B, the response must have a defensible claim/thesis (earned the point in Row A).</li><li>To earn three points in Row B, the response must use one of the foundational documents listed in the prompt.</li></ul>				

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
<b>Row D</b> <b>Responds to Alternate Perspectives</b>	<b>0 points</b> Does not meet the criteria for one point.	<b>1 point</b> Responds to an opposing or alternate perspective using rebuttal or refutation.
<b>(0–1 points)</b>	<b>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</b>	
	<b>Responses that do not earn this point:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restate the opposite of the claim or thesis.</li> <li>May identify or describe an alternate perspective but do not rebut or refute that perspective.</li> <li>Rebut or refute a foundational document rather than an alternate perspective.</li> </ul>	<b>Responses that earn this point:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must describe an alternate perspective AND rebut or refute that perspective.</li> </ul>
	<b>Examples of responses that do not earn the point:</b> <b>Restate the opposite of the claim or thesis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“An elected legislature is also a strong way to protect limited government.”</i></li> </ul> <b>Describe an alternate perspective but do not rebut or refute that perspective</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“Some may argue the executive branch is the best protector of limited government, which I would agree.”</i></li> </ul>	<b>Examples of acceptable responses to an alternate perspective may include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“Some people might say that an independent judiciary would best preserve limited government because they are not influenced by public opinion. However, an elected legislature better protects limited government because elections make them responsive to the will of the people.”</i></li> <li><i>“It can be argued that an elected legislature is more likely to preserve limited government because they are elected by their constituents. However, since an independent judiciary is not elected, they are not subject to the will of the people and therefore more likely to preserve limited government.”</i></li> </ul>
	<b>Additional Notes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To earn this point, the response must have a defensible claim or thesis (earned the point in Row A).</li> <li>Responses that demonstrate an incorrect understanding of the alternate perspective do not earn this point.</li> </ul>	