



THE LIVING CONSTITUTION ASSESSMENT

MAIN IDEAS

Article 1. The Legislature

1. Why does the legislative branch of the government represent the people most directly? What is the principal job of this branch?
2. Why are there more members of the House of Representatives than of the Senate?
3. Name four powers Congress has.
4. What powers are denied to Congress? to the states?

Article 2. The Executive

5. What is the main function of the executive branch?
6. Who officially elects the president of the United States? Explain.
7. How can the president lose his or her job before election time?

Article 3. The Judiciary

8. How are Supreme Court justices appointed?
9. What kinds of cases go before the Supreme Court? Why is the Court's decision whether to hear a case important?

Article 4. Relations Among States

10. To extradite is to send a fugitive back to the state in which he or she is accused of committing a crime. How is this an example of relations among states?

Article 5. Amending the Constitution

11. How many states must ratify an amendment for it to become part of the Constitution? Why do you think it takes that many?

Article 6. Supremacy of the National Government

12. How does Article 6 establish the supremacy of the Constitution?

The Amendments

13. Does the First Amendment allow complete freedom of speech—the right to say anything you want at any time, anywhere? Explain your answer.
14. What is the newest amendment? What protection does that amendment give to the American people?

THINKING CRITICALLY

1. **TAKING NOTES** The powers of the federal government are separated among the three branches. Create a chart like the one below that shows how the Constitution's framers used checks and balances to ensure that no one branch of the government could become too much stronger than the others.

Executive	Legislative	Judicial

2. **MAKING INFERENCES** How does the Constitution reflect the fear of too strong a central government?
3. **EVALUATING** The Bill of Rights guarantees a defendant a speedy, public trial. Do you think it is being observed today? Explain.
4. **ANALYZING MOTIVES** Why did the framers make it so difficult to amend the Constitution? Do you agree or disagree with their philosophy? Explain.
5. **DEVELOPING HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE** The Fifteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-sixth amendments give voting rights to specific groups. Why was it necessary for Congress to spell out these groups' rights in amendments?

VISUAL SUMMARY

THE LIVING CONSTITUTION



Standardized Test Practice

Use the cartoon and your knowledge of U.S. history to answer question 1.



"It's awful the way they're trying to influence Congress. Why don't they serve cocktails and make campaign contributions like we do?"

1. In the Constitutional Convention, the framers adopted certain principles to be embodied in the Constitution. Which of the following Constitutional principles does the cartoon support?
 - A The federal government's power should be divided into separate branches.
 - B The federal government should be stronger than the state governments.
 - C The federal legislature should be responsive to the will of the people.
 - D The legislature and the president should check each other's power.

Use the quotation and your knowledge of U.S. history to answer question 2.

"[The president] shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States . . ."

—U.S. Constitution, Art. 2, Sec. 2, part 2

2. The passage describes checks on the power of—
 - F the president.
 - G the Senate.
 - H the judiciary.
 - J the states.
3. Which of the following must ratify Constitutional amendments?
 - A Congress
 - B the people
 - C the states
 - D the president

ADDITIONAL TEST PRACTICE, pages S1–S33.



TEST PRACTICE

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ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. **Journal Entry** Imagine that it is 1787, and you are a citizen of one of the original thirteen states. Your vote is necessary to ratify the new Constitution that has been approved by the convention in Philadelphia. You have studied the seven articles and listened to spirited discussions about how you and your state will be affected. Write a journal entry in which you express your views about this document that is so important for the new United States. Make sure you include references to what you have read and heard about the Constitution.

2. **Internet Activity** **CLASSZONE.COM**

Visit the links for Chapter Assessment to learn more about how bills become law. Because of the process by which bills become laws, problems may occur when the president and a majority of members of Congress are from different political parties. Using the Internet, research bills that were proposed by the president but became stalled in Congress because of party differences. Then divide into groups and do the activity.

Cooperative Learning Activity Have each group research a different bill. Try to follow the debate and see how party differences affected the discussion. Did the bill pass and become law? Present your findings to the class.