

Test Review Unit 1: Constitutional Underpinnings

Directions: Use your notes, text, and class handouts to answer the following questions. Be prepared to discuss your answers in class the day before the exam as part of the review process. DO NOT TYPE YOUR ANSWERS, HANDWRITTEN WORK ONLY.

1. Understand the difference between the *Elitist*, *Pluralist*, and *Hyper-pluralist* Views of democracy.
2. What is meant by the concept of, “majority rule with minority rights”? How has this been accomplished?
3. Were the Framers typical Americans? Explain.
4. Why did the Framers choose to scrap the *Articles of Confederation* and draft a new Constitution?
5. Why did the *Articles of Confederation* fail?
6. Which constitutional plan did the larger states support? Why?
7. Which constitutional plan did the smaller states support? Why?
8. What agreement, if any, was reached?
9. What other compromises were reached during the Constitutional Convention?
10. Understand the differences between the *Federalists* and *Antifederalists*.
11. What role does social status play in each group’s (*Federalist* / *Antifederalist*) political views?
12. What restraints were placed upon government to assure that the federal government would have sufficient power to function yet would not become tyrannical?
13. Review the court case of *Marbury v. Madison*. What is significant about this case?
14. Explain how the *Constitution* is formally and informally amended.
15. Why is the formal amendment process so difficult to achieve? Was this intentional? Explain.
16. Why did the Framers choose to create a Federal System of government rather than a Unitary System?

17. Be able to explain the difference between *Dual Federalism* (Layer Cake) and *Cooperative Federalism* (Marble Cake). Which viewpoint does *New Federalism* reflect? Explain.
18. Know the difference between *expressed, implied, inherent, concurrent, and reserved powers* as it applies to the *US Constitution*.
19. What role does the *10th Amendment* play in defining the powers of government?
20. How does the *Full Faith and Credit Clause* create problems between states when one state (such as California and Massachusetts) allows same-sex marriage while other states do not?
21. How did Congress informally, get around the *Full Faith and Credit Clause* in regards to same-sex marriage?
22. Review the federal policies of privileges and immunities and extradition.
23. Be able to explain the difference between the *Centralist* and *Decentralist* views of government.
24. What is significant about the *McCulloch v. Maryland* decision?
25. What role to each of the following play in expanding federal power over the states?
 - A. The Elastic Clause
 - B. The Supremacy Clause
 - C. The Commerce Clause
 - D. Federal Mandates (funded or unfunded)
26. Know the difference between Block and Categorical Grants. Which method is favored by the political parties? Why?
27. Review the following pieces of legislation, be able to explain how each expanded, or curtailed federal power over the states.
 - A. No Child Left Behind Act
 - B. Americans with Disabilities Act
 - C. The various Clean Air / Water Acts
28. What are some of the non-constitutional reasons for America's dependence on the federal government?
29. How have states attempted to place limits on the federal government's power?