Liberty High School

AP American Government

Mr. Lopez

Chapter Two

The Constitution

Study Guide

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

{Part 1 – Key Terms:

1. Advise and consent:
2. Anti-Federalists:
3. Bill of Rights:
4. Checks and balances:
5. Confederation:
6. Connecticut or Great Compromise:
7. Constitution:
8. Dual sovereignty:
9. Electoral College:
10. Federalists:
11. Judicial review:
12. Marbury versus Madison:
13. New Jersey Plan:
14. Virginia Plan:
15. Veto:
16. Separation of powers:
17. Republic:
18. Three-Fifths Compromise:
19. Supremacy Clause:
20. Articles of Confederation:

Part 2 – Class notes

1. What was the Articles of Confederation and what were several of its flaws?
2. What are the first three words in the preamble to The Constitution and what is their significance?
3. What is the preamble?
4. What do Articles I, II, and III establish?
5. What is the nature of Articles IV, V, and Vi?
6. What does Article VII provide for?
7. Which branch of government was established first and why?
8. What are the basic principles of the US?
9. What is the Rule of Law and what special circumstances exist with regards to this concept?
10. What are examples of separation of powers illustrated in the figure on page 45 of your text?
11. What are examples of checks and balances?
12. What are the four formal ways that The Constitution can be amended? Which two have been used?
13. How has the Constitution been informally amended?
14. Why did the US select Federalism?
15. What are the Expressed powers granted congress?
16. What is the “necessary and proper clause”?
17. Why do our political parties disagree with regards to the necessary and proper clause?
18. What is the difference between “exclusive powers and concurrent one? What are examples of each?
19. What does the 10th Amendment of The Constitution provide and how does it reflect Federalism?
20. What was Shay’s rebellion and why did it increase support for those seeking to make changes to the government?
21. Which colonists were generally federalists?
22. Which colonists were generally anti-federalists?
23. What advantages did the federalists have during the ratification process?
24. How did the ratification process establish the two party system in the US?
25. Who is considered the “father” of the Constitution?
26. What was the 3/5ths compromise?
27. Why can it be argued that the 3/5ths compromise ultimately in the best interest of slaves and those opposed to slavery?
28. When was the US Constitution adopted?
29. When was the current Spanish Constitution adopted?
30. According to the preamble, what are the general purposes of government?
31. What are some of the stated purposes of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Spain?
32. What is the significant difference between the US Constitution and those adopted recently?
33. Why can it be argued that Parliamentary systems of government are more democratic than presidential systems such as ours?
34. What is Prime Minister’s questions and why is it an example of an important democratic feature of parliamentary systems?
35. What is an important advantage of Presidential systems?
36. According to the table on page 54 of your text, how can the amendments to the Constitution be divided into three categories?
37. Use your cell phone or computer to research some of the proposals to amend the constitution submitted during the recent 114th Congress of The United States. What was the nature of these proposal and were any of them similar?

Part 3 – Critical Thinking

1. What similarities are there in the first state constitutions and The U.S. Constitution, which was written more than a decade later, with regard to mission, foundational structures, and essential operating procedures?
2. Think about important debates in American society today. Describe one that you think is linked in some way to the compromise upon which the Constitution is based and its often vague and ambiguous language.
3. Imagine that you are living during the Revolutionary era and writing an article for a newspaper in England. You are trying to explain why the colonists have destroyed thousands of pounds of British Tea at The Boston Tea Party. How might you, as an English citizen living in England, characterize the colonists’ motives? How might you, as an English citizen living in the colonies, characterize the colonists’ motives?
4. What do you think would have happened had the Anti-Federalists, rather than the Federalists, prevailed in the ratification process of The Constitution? What kind of government would they have shaped? How would that government have dealt with the difficult issues facing the republic – slavery, concerns about mob rule, and continuing hostility in the international community?