



# American Government

Test Pack

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**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT • PRETEST**

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Circle the letter of the correct answer to each of the following questions and statements.

1. Suppose a country has no leaders at all. Every citizen does as he or she pleases. This is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. democracy
  - b. dictatorship
  - c. anarchy
  - d. monarchy

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2. Suppose a country has been ruled by members of the same family for hundreds of years. This is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. democracy
  - b. dictatorship
  - c. anarchy
  - d. monarchy

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3. Suppose a country holds elections every year so that its citizens can vote on issues. This is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. democracy
  - b. dictatorship
  - c. anarchy
  - d. monarchy

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4. Suppose a country is run by a person who took power by force. This is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. democracy
  - b. dictatorship
  - c. anarchy
  - d. monarchy

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5. In a representative democracy, which leader would you expect to find?
  - a. a despot who has a huge army
  - b. a queen who has inherited power from her father
  - c. a senator who has been elected by citizens
  - d. a dictator who rules through fear

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**UNIT 2 TEST • THE CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

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Circle the letter of the correct answer to each of the following questions and statements.

1. What is the U.S. Constitution?
  - a. the country's legislative branch
  - b. the country's executive branch
  - c. the Supreme Court
  - d. the highest law of the land

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2. The Articles of Confederation \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. argued for the right to form a new country
  - b. explained the wrongs done by the English king
  - c. were the first U.S. Constitution
  - d. set up a strong national government

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3. What was the result of the Great Compromise?
  - a. a Congress with two houses
  - b. a president who could veto laws
  - c. a Supreme Court with nine justices
  - d. a Bill of Rights

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4. The Three-Fifths Compromise had to do with what issue?
  - a. the presidency
  - b. freedom of speech
  - c. slavery
  - d. inherent rights

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5. The division of power between federal and state government is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. self-government
  - b. federalism
  - c. checks and balances
  - d. separation of powers

6. Which part of the Constitution describes how the U.S. government works?

- a. the Preamble
  - b. the articles
  - c. the amendments
  - d. the Bill of Rights
- 

7. Which part of the Constitution protects citizens' freedom of speech?

- a. the Preamble
  - b. the articles
  - c. the amendments
  - d. the Bill of Rights
- 

8. A two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress is needed to \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. propose an amendment to the Constitution
  - b. ratify an amendment to the Constitution
  - c. veto a law passed by the president
  - d. send an amendment back to the Senate
- 

9. What was the problem with the Articles of Confederation?

- a. They did not give the federal government enough power.
  - b. They gave the federal government too much power.
  - c. They did not allow people to own their own property.
  - d. They gave too much power to the Supreme Court.
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10. The Constitutional Convention of 1787 decided on a legislature with two houses. What was this agreement called?

- a. the Great Compromise
- b. the Three-Fifths Compromise
- c. the Bill of Rights
- d. the Executive Compromise

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11. The Constitutional Convention of 1787 worked out a compromise on slavery. What was this agreement called?
- a. the Great Compromise
  - b. the Three-Fifths Compromise
  - c. the Bill of Rights
  - d. the Executive Compromise
- 
12. What is federalism?
- a. the division of power between different branches of government
  - b. the balancing of power between the three branches of government
  - c. the right of all people to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
  - d. the division of power between national and state governments
- 
13. What do the articles of the Constitution describe?
- a. how the U.S. government works
  - b. the reasons for writing the Constitution
  - c. the basic freedoms of all U.S. citizens
  - d. the reasons for starting a new nation
- 
14. What is the purpose of the Bill of Rights?
- a. to explain how the U.S. government works
  - b. to describe why the Constitution was written
  - c. to explain how to change the Constitution
  - d. to protect the basic freedoms of all U.S. citizens
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15. What is needed for Congress to override a presidential veto?
- a. a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress
  - b. a two-thirds vote of all senators
  - c. a three-fourths vote of states' conventions
  - d. the president's approval
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**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT • POSTTEST**

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Circle the letter of the correct answer to each of the following questions and statements.

1. In an anarchy, there is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. a dictator who took power by force
  - b. a king who inherited power
  - c. an elected senator
  - d. no ruler at all

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2. What kind of leader would you expect to find in a monarchy?
  - a. a dictator who took power by force
  - b. a king who inherited power
  - c. an elected senator
  - d. no ruler at all

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3. Which form of government gives all citizens a voice in government?
  - a. democracy
  - b. dictatorship
  - c. anarchy
  - d. monarchy

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4. In a dictatorship, what kind of leader would you expect to find?
  - a. a ruler who took power by force
  - b. a king who inherited power
  - c. an elected senator
  - d. no ruler at all

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5. Which form of government has its citizens elect representatives?
  - a. representative democracy
  - b. extreme dictatorship
  - c. moderate anarchy
  - d. direct democracy