

AP REVIEW FOR THE CONSTITUTION

1. **Amendment Process** – process in which the constitution is changed through voting of congress
2. **Anti-federalists** – those who were opposed giving as much over to the national government as the constitution did favoring instead stronger states rights
3. **Bicameral** – Composed of two legislative branches.
4. **Bill of Rights** – the first 10 amendments to the US constitution. States the rights and liberties of each US citizen.
5. **Checks and Balances** – a group of people that form a minority within a larger group.
6. **Constitution** – a set of principles either written or unwritten that makes up the fundamental law of the state.
7. **Declaration of Independence** – a document written in 1776 declaring the colonists' intention to throw off British rule.
8. **Factions** – name applied by some of the founders to political parties to connote their tendency toward divisiveness
9. **Federalism** – a constitutional principle reserving separate powers to the national and state levels of government
10. **Federalist Papers (#10 and #51)** – a series of eighty five essays published in New York newspapers to adopt the newly proposed Constitution.
11. **Federalists** – Supporters of a stronger central government who advocated ratification of the Constitution and then founded a political party.
12. **Great Compromise** – a constitutional proposal that made membership in one house of congress proportional to each state's population and membership in the other equal for all states.
13. **Judicial Review** – the power of the courts to declare acts of the legislature and of the executive unconstitutional and therefore null and void
14. **Natural Rights** – rights of all human beings that all are ordained by God, discoverable in nature and history and essential to human progress.
15. **New Jersey Plan** – a constitutional proposal that would have given each state one vote in a new congress
16. **Ratification** – the passing of an amendment by 2/3 vote of congress
17. **Republic** – a form of democracy in which leaders and representatives are selected by means of popular competitive elections
18. **Separation of Powers** – a constitutional principle separating the personnel of the legislative executive and judicial branches of government
19. **Shay's Rebellion** – An armed attempt by revolutionary war veterans to avoid losing their property by preventing the courts in western Massachusetts from meeting
20. **Virginia Plan** – a constitutional proposal that the smaller states' representatives feared would give permanent supremacy to the larger states.
21. **Unalienable Rights** – rights thought to be based on nature and providence rather than on the preferences of people

22. Unicameral – One legislative branch of government

1. Describe the problems that existed with the government under the Articles of Confederation?

Under the Articles of Confederation the main problems were that the central government didn't have much power, sovereignty, one vote in congress for each state, nine of thirteen votes in congress required for any measure, delegates picked paid for by legislatures, little money coined by congress, army was small and was dependant on state militias, territorial disputes between states, no national judicial system, and all 13 states consent was necessary for any amendment.

2. Describe the major differences between the Articles and the Constitution.

The constitution divided the government into three separate branches, under the articles the states had more power, federalism, more power was given to the central government under the constitution, and basic rights were given to the people under the Bill of Rights.

3. How were the following issues addressed in the Constitution: Representation, slavery, Voting, Interstate commerce and individual rights?

The house is proportional to the population of the state, and in the senate there are two representatives for each state. Slavery is not specific, it is very vague, and does not state as legal or illegal, it is a "corrupt institution". Voters had to be white males who owned land.

4. Explain the difference between formal and informal amendments to the Constitution.

Formal amendments are amendments that have to go through the amendment process, having being passed by congress. Informal amendments is legislation that is passed through the court system, setting precedent.