

CONSTITUTION TEST REVIEW PACKET 200

Principal author of the Declaration of Independence: **Thomas Jefferson**

Be able to identify important wording from the Declaration of Independence and Constitution Preamble:

Declaration of Independence: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Preamble: We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice.....

Origin of natural rights idea: **John Locke**

Strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation:

Main strength was establishment of Land Ordinances

Weaknesses: Congress had to borrow or ask states for money, there was no executive, no national court system

Constitutional Convention—when, where, why called: **1787, Philadelphia, to revise the Articles of Confederation**

“Father of the Constitution”: **James Madison**

New Jersey Plan, Virginia Plan, Connecticut Plan (Great Compromise); know main ideas:

NJ Plan: One house in Congress, one vote per state

VA Plan: Two houses in Congress, both based on population; lower house elects the Upper House

CT Plan: Two houses in Congress, one based on population and one based on equal representation for all states

This CT Plan was called the Great Compromise because the large and small states could finally agree on something

The three branches of government, and what each branch does:

Legislative branch makes laws, executive branch enforces laws, judicial branch interprets laws

of Articles in the US Constitution, # of Amendments: **7, 27**

Origin of the “separation of powers” idea: **Montesquieu**

Know what separation of powers and checks and balances are:

Separation of powers: powers of government should be divided between and given to different branches

Checks and balances: the power of one branch of government can be blocked by the power of another branch

Purpose of the Constitution Preamble: **to tell the purposes of the new government**

Bicameral=2 houses (in Congress)

Total # of senators and representatives; how determined per state: **2 senators per state (100 total) and the state’s # of representatives in the US Congress is based on the population of the state (435 representatives total)**

All requirements for becoming a US Senator; all requirements for becoming a US Representative:

US Senator: at least 30 years old, US citizen for 9 years, live in state represented

US Representative: at least 25 years old, US citizen for 7 years, live in state/district represented

Congressional terms of office: **US Senators have 6 year terms, US Representatives have 2 year terms**

How senators were originally chosen: **by state legislatures**

Presiding officers in both houses:

Senate leader is US Vice-President; when Vice-President is away, the President Pro Tempore presides

House leader is the Speaker of the House

Responsibilities of the two houses in the impeachment process; know two impeached presidents:

House of Representatives impeaches an official (impeach=to accuse of wrongdoing)

Senate tries the impeached person; 2/3 vote in the Senate will remove the official from office

Two impeached Presidents are Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton; neither was removed from office

