

CONSTITUTION STAAR QUESTIONS

8.1(A) identify the major eras and events in U.S. history through 1877, including colonization, revolution, drafting of the Declaration of Independence, creation and ratification of the Constitution, religious revivals such as the Second Great Awakening, early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, reform movements, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction, and describe their causes and effects

June

- The Continental Congress appoints a committee to prepare a document.
- The committee selects Thomas Jefferson to compose a draft.
- The draft is reviewed and revised by the committee.

July

- Congress debates and revises the document.
- Congress officially approves the document.

This sequence of events resulted in the adoption of the —

- A** Articles of Confederation
- B** Bill of Rights
- C** Treaty of Paris
- D** Declaration of Independence

8.1(C) explain the significance of the following dates: 1607, founding of Jamestown; 1620, arrival of the Pilgrims and signing of the Mayflower Compact; 1776, adoption of the Declaration of Independence; 1787, writing of the U.S. Constitution; 1803, Louisiana Purchase; and 1861– 1865, Civil War

2013 – Q34

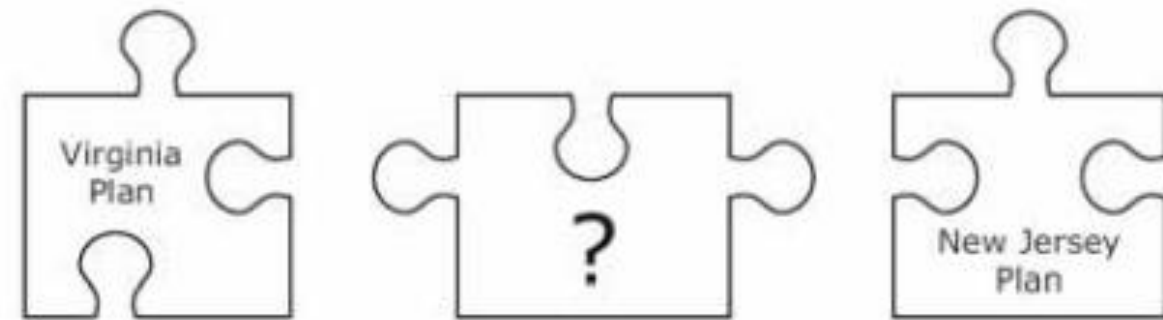
- 34** In 1787 the United States was at a crossroads. Farmers in western Massachusetts had rebelled the year before over property taxes. The state struggled to end the rebellion. Events such as this one contributed to the decision to —
- F** sign the Treaty of Paris
 - G** repeal the Intolerable Acts
 - H** declare an embargo on imported goods
 - J** restructure the federal government

8.4(D) analyze the issues of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, including the Great Compromise and the Three-Fifths Compromise

Which of the following correctly describes the Three-Fifths Compromise?

- F** A portion of the slave population was counted for legislative representation.
- G** A federal law enforcing the return of fugitive slaves was passed.
- H** The census bureau was established to help apportion representation.
- J** The election of senators was delegated to state legislatures.

Constitutional Convention Puzzle



Which of the following should replace the question mark in this diagram?

- A** Direct democracy
- B** Great Compromise
- C** Checks and balances
- D** Missouri Compromise

8.4(E) analyze the arguments for and against ratification

Speaker 1: A strong central government will provide order and stability.

Speaker 2: We have just left the control of one tyrant; let us avoid an American tyrant.

Speaker 3: The strength of our union lies in the independence of our states.

Speaker 4: We were led into a war by a minority who desired independence.

Which speaker is in favor of ratifying the Constitution?

- A Speaker 1
- B Speaker 2
- C Speaker 3
- D Speaker 4

In the debate over the ratification of the U.S. Constitution, which point would have been made by a Federalist?

- A "The existing national government lacks the ability to add new states to the union."
- B "The states are in danger of losing the ability to raise revenue."
- C "The existing national government lacks the power to perform essential functions."
- D "The states are unable to protect the rights of the people."

- 5** Why did the Anti-Federalists demand that a bill of rights be added to the U.S. Constitution?
- A** To strengthen the authority of the federal government
 - B** To improve the organization of the judiciary
 - C** To give each state an equal amount of power
 - D** To protect individual freedoms from the federal government

Patrick Henry opposed ratifying the U.S. Constitution because he believed that under it —

- F** the states would surrender too much power to the federal government
- G** alliances could not be formed with other countries
- H** the courts would not be able to hold government officials accountable
- J** individuals would exercise too much power over the federal government

8.15(A) identify the influence of ideas from historic documents, including the Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights, the Mayflower Compact, the Federalist Papers, and selected Anti-Federalist writings, on the U.S. system of government

No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land.

—*Magna Carta*, 1215

Which political idea was influenced by this provision of the Magna Carta?

- A** Federalism
- B** Due process
- C** A bicameral legislature
- D** The social contract

And excessive bail hath been required of persons committed in criminal cases to elude the benefit of the laws made for the liberty of the subjects;

And excessive fines have been imposed;

And illegal and cruel punishments inflicted . . .

—*English Bill of Rights, 1689*

Which U.S. document guarantees protection against these injustices?

- F** The Constitution
- G** The Declaration of Independence
- H** The Articles of Confederation
- J** The Mayflower Compact

With which of the following arguments would the authors of *The Federalist Papers* most likely have agreed?

- F** A bill of rights should be included in the Constitution before it is ratified.
- G** Having a stronger central government will make the country more stable and prosperous.
- H** The Three-Fifths Compromise will result in fair and equal representation.
- J** Universal suffrage should be constitutionally guaranteed.

8.15(B) summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation

This information was included in a slide-show presentation to a high school history class.

Strengths

- Ability to declare war
- Ability to make treaties
- Authority to operate post offices

Which document was the focus of this presentation?

- A** The Mayflower Compact
- B** The Articles of Confederation
- C** The Virginia Declaration of Rights
- D** The Declaration of Independence

The Articles of Confederation allowed each state only one vote in Congress. Which question reflects a major concern states had about this arrangement?

- F** Should states attempt to resolve conflicting claims to territory?
- G** Should states change their procedure for selecting representatives?
- H** Should unanimous state approval for national laws be required?
- J** Should more populous states receive greater representation?

8.15(C) identify colonial grievances listed in the Declaration of Independence and explain how those grievances were addressed in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States. . . .

—U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 1

This provision is a response to which grievance from the Declaration of Independence?

- A "For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever . . ."
- B "For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government . . ."
- C "He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records."
- D "He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners."

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

—Declaration of Independence, 1776

Which provision of the U.S. Constitution reflects this grievance?

- F The president can appoint justices with the advice and consent of the Senate.
- G Congress has the power to establish federal courts.
- H The commerce clause allows Congress to regulate trade among the states.
- J Congress can override a presidential veto with a two-thirds majority vote in both houses.

8.15(D) analyze how the U.S. Constitution reflects the principles of limited government, republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights

Which excerpt from the U.S. Constitution best illustrates the principle of popular sovereignty?

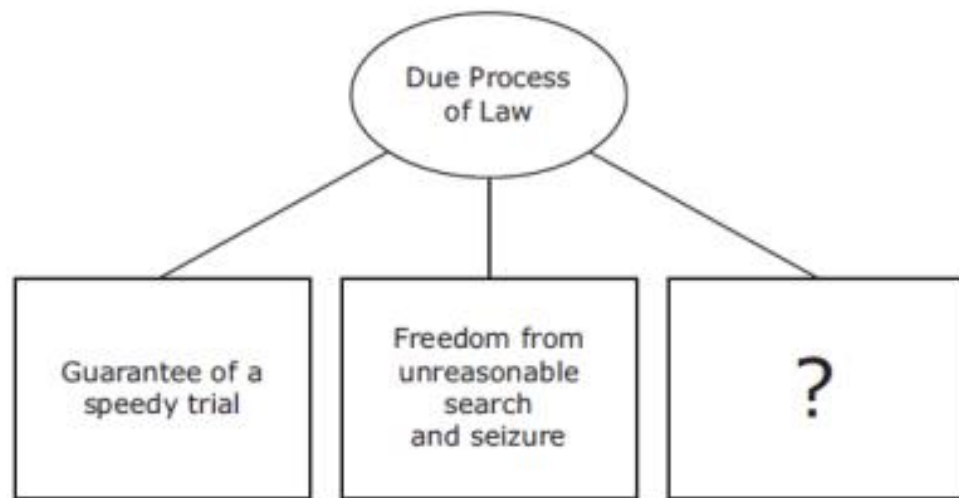
- F** "Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members. . . ."
- G** "The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States. . . ."
- H** "The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore. . . ."
- J** "The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof."

The President . . . shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur.

—*U.S. Constitution, Article II, Section 2*

This excerpt provides one example of which constitutional principle?

- F** Federalism
- G** Checks and balances
- H** Popular sovereignty
- J** Individual rights



Which right best completes the diagram?

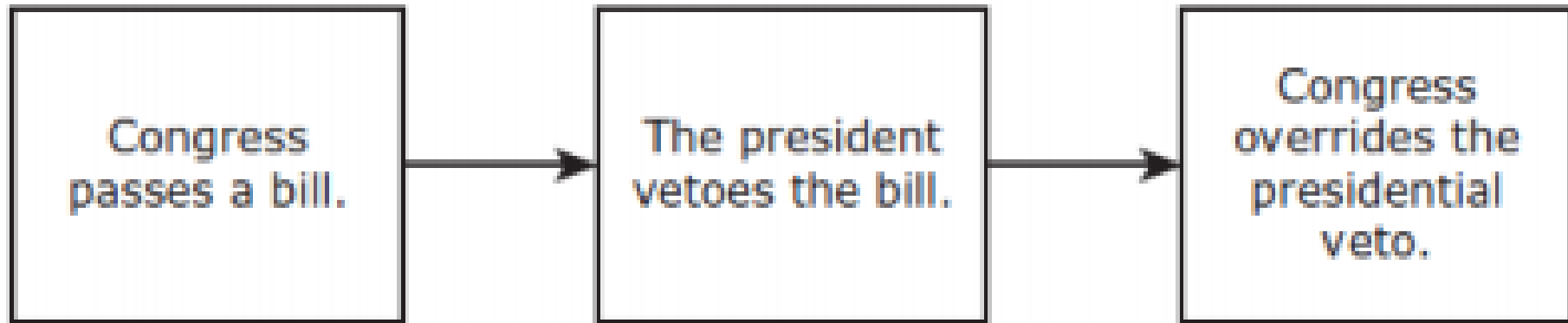
- A The right to bear arms
- B Freedom to speak without fear of punishment
- C Protection from cruel and unusual punishment
- D Freedom of the press to report on court proceedings

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

—Tenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution

26 Which principle of U.S. government is most clearly reflected in the amendment above?

- F Checks and balances
- G Federalism
- H Separation of powers
- J Due process



Which principle of U.S. government is illustrated in the sequence shown above?

- A** Judicial review
- B** Checks and balances
- C** Popular sovereignty
- D** Federalism

8.16(A) summarize the purposes for and process of amending the U.S. Constitution

The Constitution describes two ways to propose an amendment. Which of the following gives an example of one way?

- A** The president officially requests that Congress propose the amendment.
- B** Three-fourths of state governors sign a petition in favor of proposing the amendment.
- C** A majority of citizens vote in favor of proposing the amendment.
- D** Two-thirds of both congressional houses vote in favor of proposing the amendment.

8.17(A) analyze the arguments of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists, including those of Alexander Hamilton, Patrick Henry, James Madison, and George Mason

During the Constitutional Convention of 1787, George Mason argued —

- F** against increased power for the national government
- G** for the dissolution of state governments
- H** against the passage of a bill of rights
- J** for the creation of a strong executive branch

Your President may easily become king. Your Senate is so imperfectly constructed that your dearest rights may be sacrificed by what may be a small minority. . . . Your strongholds will be in the hands of your enemies. . . .

—Patrick Henry, speech at the Virginia Ratifying Convention, 1788

Patrick Henry was criticizing which aspect of the Constitution in this excerpt?

- A** The eligibility requirements for congressional office
- B** The power granted to the central government
- C** The establishment of a separate judicial branch
- D** The difficulty of the amendment process

The plan of government now proposed is evidently calculated totally to change, in time, our condition as a people. Instead of being thirteen republics, under a federal head, it is clearly designed to make us one consolidated government. . . .

—*Federal Farmer No. 1, 1787*

Those in favor of ratifying the Constitution would most likely respond to this concern by pointing out that —

- F** elected representatives are accountable to individual voters
- G** courts have the right to resolve disputes between states
- H** each branch of government can serve as a check on the other branches
- J** power is divided between the federal government and state governments

George Mason refused to sign the Constitution and opposed its ratification because he believed that it —

- A** did not adequately protect individuals from potential government abuse
- B** did not give the executive branch enough power to oversee the military
- C** prevented the legislative branch from effectively governing the states
- D** prevented the judicial branch from using judicial review to overturn acts of the legislature

8.19(B) summarize rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights

- Unreasonable searches and seizures are illegal.
- Search warrants may not be issued without probable cause.
- The place to be searched and the people or items to be seized must be described in a warrant.

Which amendment provides for the protections described in this list?

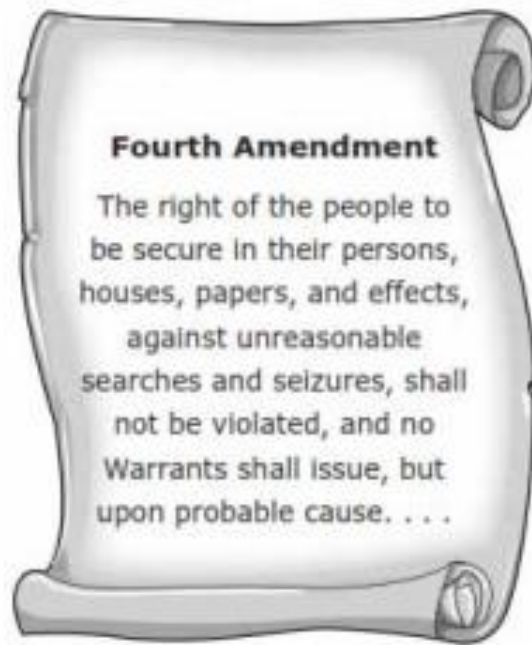
- F** First Amendment
- G** Fourth Amendment
- H** Fifth Amendment
- J** Tenth Amendment

That if any person shall write . . . any false, scandalous and malicious . . . writings against the government of the United States, or . . . stir up sedition within the United States . . . then such person . . . shall be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars, and by imprisonment not exceeding two years.

—An Act of the Fifth Congress of the United States, 1798

Which constitutional guarantee did this act violate?

- F** Freedom of assembly
- G** The right to due process
- H** Freedom of the press
- J** The right to a jury trial



The constitutional amendment excerpted above protects people in the United States from —

- F** excessive fines for traffic violations
- G** imprisonment for life without a jury trial
- H** excessive surveillance by the government
- J** conscription by the armed forces

When citizens report for jury duty, they are helping uphold a constitutional right guaranteed by the —

- A** First Amendment
- B** Second Amendment
- C** Sixth Amendment
- D** Ninth Amendment

8.19(D) identify examples of responsible citizenship, including obeying rules and laws, staying informed on public issues, voting, and serving on juries

Which headline provides the best example of a civic duty?



8.25(A) trace the development of religious freedom in the United States

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall . . . otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinion in matters of religion. . . .

—*The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom*

Which document was most influenced by this statute?

- F** The Declaration of Independence
- G** The Articles of Confederation
- H** The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
- J** The Bill of Rights

8.25(C) analyze the impact of the First Amendment guarantees of religious freedom on the American way of life

Which of these is a guarantee in the First Amendment?

- A** States have the power to regulate public education.
- B** People can choose whether and how to participate in religious services.
- C** Persons accused of a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty.
- D** Citizens have the right to be judged by a jury of their peers.

A certain small town has many choices for people who want to attend religious services, including two churches, a synagogue, a cathedral, a mosque, and a temple. These choices are protected by the —

- F** First Amendment
- G** Third Amendment
- H** Sixth Amendment
- J** Eighth Amendment

Which headline provides the best example of a First Amendment guarantee in action?

- F** "Religious University Forced to Close by State"
- G** "Mormons Hold State Convention Downtown"
- H** "Congress Declares a National Day of Remembrance"
- J** "Protesters Arrested at Antiwar Rally"

BERWYN, Pennsylvania: A new mosque recently opened in this . . . suburb of Philadelphia. . . .

[The] leaders . . . did not seek publicity for the happy occasion, only continued peace with their neighbors: a Jewish synagogue next door and Baptist church across the street.

—Kathy Matheson, *Associated Press*, September 10, 2010

This event best demonstrates which feature of the American way of life?

- F** The First Amendment guarantees personal freedoms.
- G** The Declaration of Independence asserts the principle of popular sovereignty.
- H** The U.S. Constitution establishes the structure of the federal government.
- J** The Fifth Amendment protects the rights of the accused.