
Material Covered
• Chapter 5 & Chapter 6, Sections 1 & 2
• Powerpoint Presentations: The Critical Period; The Constitution; The Federalist Era

Mother of All Review Sheets:
• Review Unit II from “New Nation” through “John Adams’ Presidency”
• Suggestion: make flashcards for all bolded terms on the MOARS sections

Study Questions:
1. What type of gov’t did the Articles of Confederation form?
2. What were the major weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?
3. Why was it so difficult for the government to pass laws under the Articles? Why couldn’t they amend the Articles to change this?
4. Why did the authors of the Articles of Confederation create such a weak national government?
5. How did Spain & Britain create problems for the US after the Revolution?
6. How did the Land Ordinance of 1785 divide and settle the lands won after the Revolution?
7. Why was public education considered so important to a democracy?
8. How did the Land Ordinance encourage the development of public education?
9. What process did the Northwest Ordinance develop for becoming a state?
10. What did the NW Ordinance do with the problem of slavery in the new territories?
11. Why was the Annapolis Convention called? Why was it ineffective?
12. What led to Shays Rebellion?
13. Why was Shays Rebellion so alarming to many Americans?
14. At the Constitutional Convention in 1787, the delegates voted to keep all their discussions secret. Why?
15. Why were many radical leaders of the Revolution (Sam Adams, Patrick Henry, Thomas Paine) NOT in attendance at the Constitutional Convention?
16. What were the basic elements of the Virginia Plan, the New Jersey Plan, and the Great Compromise?
17. What led to the Three-Fifths Compromise?
18. During the Constitutional Convention, the Congress was given the power to regulate all interstate trade. What had to be done to encourage southerners to go along with the Constitution?
19. Many of the founders recognized that slavery was bad for the new nation. Why then, did The Founding Fathers fail to eliminate slavery in the newly formed United States?
20. Under the new constitution, the stability of the government was protected from the “passions of the people” by avoiding direct elections for the President, the Senate, and the Supreme Court. How did the Constitution specify that these positions would be filled? (NOTE: We now elect senators directly…the 17th amendment changed the process).
21. Describe the process established for ratifying the Constitution. How many states were needed to ratify? Why did supporters of the Constitution want to get all 13 to approve?
22. During the debate over ratification in the states, what were the primary objections made by the Anti-Federalists, or opponents of the new Constitution?
23. Why was a Bill of Rights so important to citizens?
24. How did the Federalist Papers help change public opinion in New York?
25. The Constitution is divided into three main sections: the Preamble, the Articles, and the Amendments. What is the purpose of each?
26. Explain the following principles of our government: federalism; popular sovereignty; separation of powers; republicanism.
27. What is the distinction between a “democracy” and a “republic?” Is the US a democracy or a republic or both?
28. One of the most important powers of the Supreme Court is the power of “judicial review.” What is this power?
29. What do we mean by delegated, reserved, and shared (concurrent) powers?
30. What were some of the new powers given to the national government in the Constitution of 1787?
31. What was the impact of the 15th, 19th, and 26th amendments?
32. What are the qualifications for members of the House? The Senate? The President?
33. How many House members are there? Senators?
34. What are the term lengths for members of the House? The Senate? The President?
35. The Senate is considered a “continuous body.” What does this mean?
36. What important precedents did George Washington establish as the first President?
37. Why did Alexander Hamilton believe a national debt was “a national blessing?”
38. What new sources of funding did Alexander Hamilton want to use to help pay the national debt?
39. Why did some oppose Hamilton’s proposal to create a National Bank?
40. What led to the Whiskey Rebellion, and how did the US Gov’t respond to it?
41. If Shay’s Rebellion (1786) symbolized the weakness of the United States under the Articles of Confederation, than what did the Whiskey Rebellion suggest about the new United States government under the Constitution of 1787?
42. Why did the French Revolution create problems for the United States? How did George Washington respond?
43. How did Edmond Genet challenge American neutrality?
44. What two political parties formed during the 1790s?
45. Describe these parties views on the following issues: How to interpret the Constitution (loose or strict); whether to support Britain or France; should the gov’t actively promote business/industry; should we be a nation of commerce or of agriculture; more power to the national gov’t or to the states.
46. What was significant about George Washington voluntarily stepping down after two terms?
47. In his Farewell Address, George Washington advised the nation to “avoid entangling alliances” with foreign nations. Why?
48. How did political rivals John Adams and Thomas Jefferson end up being President and VP in the Election of 1796?
49. What was the XYZ Affair? Why did it anger Americans so much?
50. Why did John Adams choose to negotiate an end to the Quasi-War (undeclared war) with France rather than continue fighting?
51. What did the Alien and Sedition Acts attempt to do? Why were they enacted?