

American Identity Test Review

1. What is a constitutional republic?

Government run by elected representatives who are responsible for upholding the constitution

2. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

Thomas Jefferson

3. Be familiar with the Declaration of Independence.

States that all men are created equal and have inalienable rights, gave America independence, and listed the grievances to the king

4. Explain the terms inalienable rights and what those rights include.

Life, liberty, pursuit of happiness (cannot be taken away)

5. Explain how the grievances written in the Declaration of Independence are expressed in the Constitution.

Grievances (complaints about what the king was doing wrong) are listed in the Declaration of Independence. These complaints were addressed by the founding fathers when writing the Constitution.

Examples: Trial by jury, taxation without representation, quartering troops

6. Why did the Founding Fathers create a process for amending the Constitution?

To ensure that the Constitution could change with the times

7. Describe the principles of the Constitution. Give an example of each.

Separation of powers – 3 separate branches of government (legislative, Judicial, Executive)

Checks and balances – each branch of government can “check” the other 2 to ensure that no branch becomes too powerful

Federalism – the government is divided and shared by the central (federal) government and state governments

Individual rights – people have rights such as freedom of speech, press, etc.. (Bill of Rights)

Republicanism – the people elect representatives to run the government

Popular Sovereignty – People have the power

Limited Government – Government’s power is limited by law (no one is above the law)

8. Why was the Bill of Rights added to the Constitution?

To protect individual liberty

9. List the basic rights guaranteed by the first 10 Amendments in the Bill of Rights.

1st -5 - Freedom of speech, religion, assembly, press, and protest

2nd -2 – Right to keep and bear arms

3rd -1 – People cannot be forced to quarter troops

4th -2 – protection from unreasonable search and seizure

Billington KEY

5th -4 – Due process of law, eminent domain, right to remain silent (self-incrimination), double jeopardy

6th -4 – right to a lawyer, speedy trial, try by jury, and to confront witnesses

7th -1 – Speedy civil trial

8th -2 – No cruel and unusual punishment, no excessive bail

9th -1 – unremunerated powers

10th -1 – states' rights (limit the federal government's powers)

10. Why is *Miranda v. Arizona* significant?

Miranda rights – people have to read your constitutional rights when you are arrested

11. Explain why the 1st Amendment is important to the US system of government.

Helps Americans share ideas and make informed decisions

12. Identify who Alexis de Tocqueville was and the significance of his five values.

Frenchman who traveled to America and wrote *Democracy in America* about his observations

Populism – promoting the rights of the common people

Egalitarianism – equality – no hereditary social class (people aren't born into social classes)

Liberty – freedom – power to choose

Individualism – different backgrounds/experiences

Laissez-faire – government stays out of the economy/businesses - businesses driven by profit \$

13. Why are the terms *E Pluribus Unum* and *In God We Trust* important?

E Pluribus Unum – “out of many, one” – 13 colonies came together to form 1 nation

In God We Trust – Unites and distinguishing America from other nations

14. Name the Founding Fathers we studied and their contributions to America.

John Jay – author of the *Federalist Papers* and first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

John Hancock – First to sign the DOI and President of the Continental Congress

Benjamin Rush – signed the DOI and favored educating women

Jonathan Trumbull – only colonial governor to support the Revolution

John Peter Muhlenberg – general in the Continental Army, minister who recruited soldiers, and he served in both the House and the Senate

Charles Carroll – signed the DOI

John Witherspoon – signed the DOI

15. How does the material covered in this unit, contribute to the American Identity?

This will be a short answer question on the test, come up with your own answer.