1776 – 1791

Constitutional Convention Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. What was wrong with the Articles of Confederation that led to the Constitutional Convention?

- (A) The president had so much power that he could dismiss Congress whenever he chose
- (B) The national courts had so much power that they could remove state governors
- (C) The central government was so weak it could not tax or enforce its own laws
- (D) The central government was so strong it could overrule any state law it disliked

2. What did Shays' Rebellion reveal about the government under the Articles of Confederation?

- (A) That the state governments were too weak to collect any taxes from farmers
- (B) That the national government had no money to pay troops to help a threatened state
- (C) That the national government had too large an army and used it against farmers
- (D) That the Articles needed only small changes to make the government work well

3. What was the original purpose of the Constitutional Convention when it opened in 1787?

- (A) To revise the Articles of Confederation
- (B) To approve a peace treaty with Great Britain
- (C) To write the Declaration of Independence
- (D) To elect the first president and vice president

4. What did the Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise) resolve?

- (A) The fight between northern and southern states over counting enslaved people
- (B) The fight between delegates over whether one president or three should lead
- (C) The fight between Federalists and Anti-Federalists over adding a Bill of Rights
- (D) The fight between large and small states over representation in Congress

5. What was morally problematic about the Three-Fifths Compromise?

- (A) It ended slavery in only three-fifths of the states and left it legal in the rest
- (B) It let three-fifths of the states cancel any law passed by the other states
- (C) It wrote slavery into the Constitution and gave slaveholders extra power in Congress
- (D) It gave wealthy landowners three votes for every five cast by ordinary citizens

6. Why were The Federalist Papers important?

- (A) They were letters by George Washington that urged delegates to sign the Constitution
- (B) They were essays by Anti-Federalists that argued against ratifying the Constitution
- (C) They were essays by Jefferson, Adams, and Franklin that defended the Articles
- (D) They were essays by Hamilton, Madison, and Jay that defended the Constitution

7. Why did New York and Virginia hesitate to ratify the Constitution?

- (A) They wanted the national capital placed in their state before they would agree
- (B) They feared the new government would abuse its power without a Bill of Rights
- (C) They wanted slavery abolished in every state before they would join the union
- (D) They feared the new government would be too weak to defend them from Britain

8. What freedoms does the Bill of Rights protect?

- (A) Freedom of speech, religion, and the press, and the right to a fair trial
- (B) Freedom from all federal taxes, and the right of states to cancel federal laws
- (C) The right of all adults to vote, regardless of race, sex, or property
- (D) The right to a free public education, a paying job, and basic medical care

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Constitutional Convention Quiz: Answer Key

1. **C** The central government was so weak it could not tax or enforce its own laws

2. **B** That the national government had no money to pay troops to help a threatened state

3. **A** To revise the Articles of Confederation

4. **D** The fight between large and small states over representation in Congress

5. **C** It wrote slavery into the Constitution and gave slaveholders extra power in Congress

6. **D** They were essays by Hamilton, Madison, and Jay that defended the Constitution

7. **B** They feared the new government would abuse its power without a Bill of Rights

8. **A** Freedom of speech, religion, and the press, and the right to a fair trial