

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview – Test 2
(“England and America” – “Article I”)

- _____ 1. The main purpose of the Magna Carta was to ____.
- A. limit the king’s power and ensure fair trials C. stop kings from waging wars
B. create a national legislature D. abolish all forms of taxation
- _____ 2. What is “habeas corpus”?
- A. A law requiring both citizens and non-citizens to pay taxes
B. An order requiring a prisoner to be charged with a crime or released
C. A set of laws regulating trade between states
D. A rule for the appointment of judges
- _____ 3. How does “common law” differ from “statutory law”?
- A. Common law is passed by a legislature; statutory law is found by judges.
B. Common law is often unjust; statutory law is usually more fair.
C. Common law is “found” or discovered; statutory law is enacted by a legislature.
D. Common law was only used in ancient Israel, while statutory law was unknown there.
- _____ 4. What is the primary purpose of circuit riding for judges?
- A. To tax the citizens of distant territories
B. To spread justice by applying precedents to cases
C. To collect soldiers for the king’s army
D. To write new laws for the legislature
- _____ 5. What does George Pinckney identify as an advantage of a republic?
- A. Chances for all individuals to serve in government C. The absence of debate or contention
B. The ability to wage war quickly and secretly D. All of these
- _____ 6. Early American statesmen objected to a pure democracy because ____.
- A. it allowed the majority to oppress the minority
B. it was too expensive to operate as a form of government
C. it required too many representatives to be effective
D. it gave too much power to the King
- _____ 7. What is the primary purpose of the Declaration of Independence?
- A. To regulate trade with foreign nations
B. To list all the laws of the colonies
C. To spell out the powers and limitations of the proposed U.S. government
D. To explain why it was necessary to dissolve political bonds with England
- _____ 8. According to the Declaration of Independence, from whom do governments derive their just powers?
- A. The King of England
B. The Supreme Judge of the world (God)
C. The consent of the governed
D. None of these
- _____ 9. What was a major “fault” of the Articles of Confederation, according to its critics?
- A. It gave the President too much power.
B. Congress had no power to tax or raise a permanent army.
C. It allowed the national government to control all trade.
D. It prevented the states from signing treaties.
- _____ 10. What did the Constitutional Convention delegates promise to do before meeting in Philadelphia?
- A. Revise the Articles of Confederation
B. Write a constitution creating a new central government
C. Both A & B
D. Neither A nor B

- ____ 11. What was a primary reason for the “Federalist” (Nationalist) desire for the Constitution?
A. to maintain the independence of states C. to return to British rule
B. to create a powerful centralized government D. to create a Bill of Rights
- ____ 12. Who was the principal author of the U.S. Constitution?
A. George Washington B. Alexander Hamilton C. Thomas Jefferson D. James Madison
- ____ 13. Why are the labels “Federalist” and “Antifederalist” considered misleading because ____.
A. the Antifederalists were the true supporters of federalism
B. both groups wanted the same things in regard to government
C. the names were chosen by the British, not Americans
D. Any of these
- ____ 14. What about the Constitution did Elbridge Gerry object to?
A. It lacked a bill of rights.
B. It was unclear about the proposed new government’s powers.
C. Both A & B
D. Neither A nor B
- ____ 15. How does the “Necessary and Proper” clause function properly?
A. It gives Congress any power it deems useful.
B. It limits Congress to laws necessary to execute its specific listed powers.
C. It allows the President to override the legislature.
D. is an optional guideline that Congress can ignore.
- ____ 16. What is the “general welfare” clause often used for?
A. To limit the power of the President
B. To justify power grabs that aren’t specifically in the Constitution
C. To protect the states from the federal government
D. All of these
- ____ 17. What was the “three-fifths” clause actually doing?
A. Promoting slavery
B. Encouraging the import of slaves
C. Giving more power to the North
D. Reducing the representation of slave states in Congress
- ____ 18. What is the purpose of the Bill of Rights?
A. To explain how to collect taxes
B. To define the role of the President
C. To limit government and protect the people’s rights
D. To give the states more power to tax
- ____ 19. Why does the “elastic clause” not give unlimited power?
A. Because it only allows laws “necessary and proper” to execute the listed powers
B. Because the President can veto it
C. Because it hasn’t been ratified
D. None of these
- ____ 20. Which statement best describes the Bill of Rights being added later to the Constitution?
A. It was unnecessary, because the original version was accepted by all “sides.”
B. It was always part of the plan.
C. It was a promise made to satisfy doubters, suggesting it was important all along.
D. It was designed to help the President exercise his powers.

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