

The United States Constitution – Worksheet

In your teams write short, concise common responses to each of the following questions. Send your common responses to motter@iolani.org. Factual responses can be limited to one sentence. Interpretive responses may be longer, but keep responses concise. Work together!

Article I. The Legislative Department

1. What are the age and residency requirements for both the House and the Senate? Why are they different?
2. How many Senators are up for election during each election year? Why did the Framers do this?
3. Who is the Speaker of the House and how is this position filled?
4. “Legal actions cannot be taken against congressmen for statements made on the floor of Congress...” What is the reasoning behind this provision?
5. Why was it decided that revenue legislation should originate in the House of Representatives?
6. If the President chooses to veto a bill, how many votes does it take to override his veto? Why did the Framers do this?

Article II. The Executive Department

1. What are the qualifications for the Presidency?
2. Why was the President set up as the Commander-in-Chief?
3. Why is it necessary to have a 2/3 vote of the Senate to ratify treaties (rather than a simple majority)?
4. Why is the President required to make a “State of the Union” address to Congress every year?

Article III. The Judiciary

1. Judges are appointed for life. What is the “check” on their tenure?
2. What sort of cases are tried in the federal court system?
3. Essentially the Supreme Court is an “appellate” court – what does this mean?

Article IV The States and the Federal Government

1. Which branch of government was given the right of admitting new states to the Union?
2. What form of government does the guarantee to the states?
3. Under what circumstances can the federal government send troops into a state without their state’s consent?

Article V Method of Amendment

1. What are the two basic ways in which the Constitution can be amended?
2. How did the Framers make it relatively difficult to amend the Constitution?

Article VI General Provisions

1. Why did the Framers of the Constitution make a special point of calling it “the supreme law of the land”?
2. Why did the Framers of the Constitution make a special provision that no religious qualifications could be required of government officers?

General Issues

1. Where in the Constitution do you find conflict between those who wanted a limited federal government and those who felt America needed a strong central government?