

MJ Civics End-of-Course Practice Exam

SS.7.C.1.1

The statements below are from the Declaration of Independence.

- A) All men...are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...
- B) He has...obstruct[ed] the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither...
- C) Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.
- D) The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history...having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.

Source: Public Domain

Which statement reflects the Enlightenment ideas of natural law as expressed by Locke?

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D

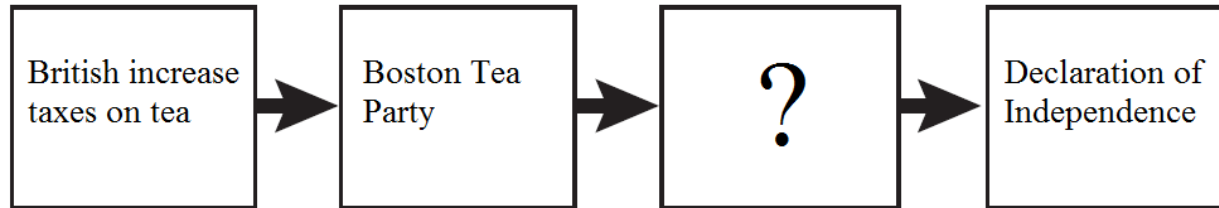
SS.7.C.1.2

What did many American colonists use Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* to justify?

- A. Acts of sabotage against British merchants
- B. Declaring independence from Britain
- C. Joining the army instead of the militia
- D. Supporting the British monarchy

SS.7.C.1.3

The diagram describes a cause that led to the writing of the Declaration of Independence.



Which action completes the diagram?

- A. Americans expel quartered troops.
- B. Americans form the Sons of Liberty.
- C. British pass the Intolerable Acts.
- D. British pass the Townshend Acts.

SS.7.C.1.4

The Declaration of Independence included these complaints:

- Taxation without representation
- Limiting judicial powers
- Dissolving local lawmaking bodies

Which two complaints should be added to this list?

- A. Keeping colonists from moving west of the Appalachian Mountains; closing Chesapeake Bay
- B. Suspending trial by jury in many cases; housing soldiers on the property of colonists
- C. Ordering colonists to move from Native American land; refusal to buy American goods
- D. Allowing the wealthy to avoid local laws; trading with hostile Native American tribes

SS.7.C.1.4

The passage below was written by John Locke in his *Second Treatise on Civil Government*.

Government being for the preservation of every man's right and property, by preserving him from the violence or injury of others, is for the good of the governed.

Source: Public Domain

Based on this passage, with which complaint in the Declaration of Independence would John Locke agree?

- A. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.
- B. He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people...
- C. He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.
- D. He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

SS.7.C.1.5

Which of the following was a weakness of the Articles of Confederation?

- A. The government did not have a separate judicial branch.
- B. The judicial branch of government was too strong.
- C. The president was able to spend taxes too freely.
- D. The government had too much power over trade.

SS.7.C.1.5

How did the U.S. Constitution address the problem under the Articles of Confederation that Congress had no power to ensure its laws were followed by the states?

- A. It created an executive branch to enforce laws.
- B. It gave each state sovereign authority over its laws.
- C. It required the president to resolve disputes between states.
- D. It required unanimous consent of states to create new laws.

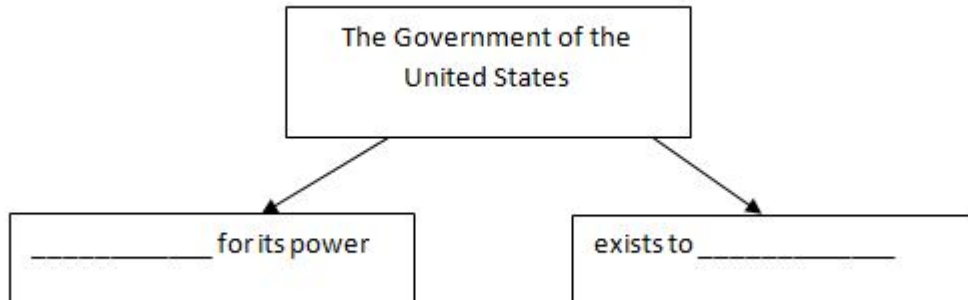
SS.7.C.1.6

What does the phrase "insure domestic tranquility" in the Preamble of the Constitution mean?

- A. Give land to the homeless.
- B. Fight wars on foreign soil.
- C. Keep the homeland at peace.
- D. Provide citizens with insurance.

SS.7.C.1.6:

This diagram shows the purpose of government according to the Preamble of the Constitution.



Which phrases complete the diagram?

- A. depends on people; serve the people
- B. depends on law; maintain the law
- C. depends on God; serve the people
- D. depends on liberty; maintain those liberties

SS.7.C.1.7

These boxes describe two events relating to the U.S. government.

Example A

The U.S. Supreme Court declares a law created by Congress unconstitutional.

Example B

Congress passes a new tax law and the Internal Revenue Service enforces it.

What constitutional principles are demonstrated in examples A and B?

- A. Example A: checks and balances; Example B: separation of powers
- B. Example A: checks and balances; Example B: judicial review
- C. Example A: separation of powers; Example B: individual rights
- D. Example A: separation of powers; Example B: checks and balances

SS.7.C.1.7

The passage below is from Federalist 51, written by James Madison in 1788.

“... the interior structure of the government as that its several constituent parts may, by their mutual relations, be the means of keeping each other in their proper places.”

Source: Public Domain

Which constitutional principle does Madison describe in the passage?

- A. Popular sovereignty
- B. Judicial review
- C. Checks and balances
- D. Separation of powers

SS.7.C.1.8

Which viewpoint was common among Anti-Federalists?

- A. There is no need for a separate Bill of Rights.
- B. The Constitution does not give enough power to the states.
- C. The Constitution will not strengthen the government.
- D. A strong national government will protect the people in times of crisis.

SS.7.C.1.9

How does rule of law affect U.S. government officials and institutions?

- A. It holds government officials and institutions accountable to the law.
- B. It requires government officials and institutions to create new laws.
- C. It prevents government officials and institutions from making their work public.
- D. It ensures government officials and institutions are exempt from laws.

SS.7.C.3.10

What is a government that is run by the people, either directly or indirectly?

- A. Democracy
- B. Oligarchy
- C. Autocracy
- D. Communism

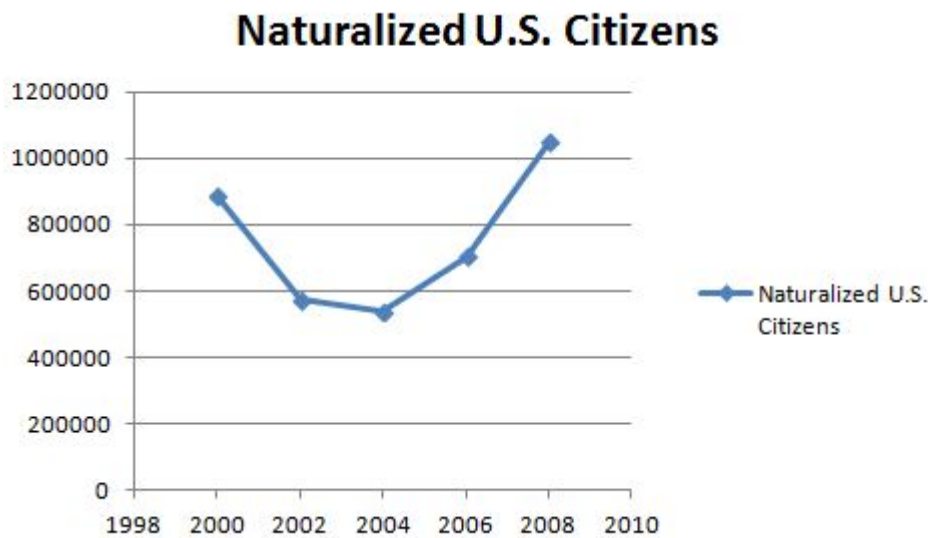
SS.7.C.2.1

What is the term used in the Fourteenth Amendment to describe persons who are born or naturalized in the United States?

- A. Aliens
- B. Citizens
- C. Immigrants
- D. Residents

SS.7.C.2.1

This graph shows the number of naturalized U.S. citizens from 2000 to 2008.



Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Which of the following statements can be inferred from this graph?

- A. Naturalization has become less popular than it was in the past.
- B. Naturalization has steadily increased voter turnout.
- C. Naturalization laws have become increasingly strict over time.
- D. Naturalization leads to a larger pool of voters.

SS.7.C.2.2

This box lists actions that citizens can take.

- Attending public meetings
- Helping neighbors after a storm
- Following rules at landmarks
- Volunteering in the community

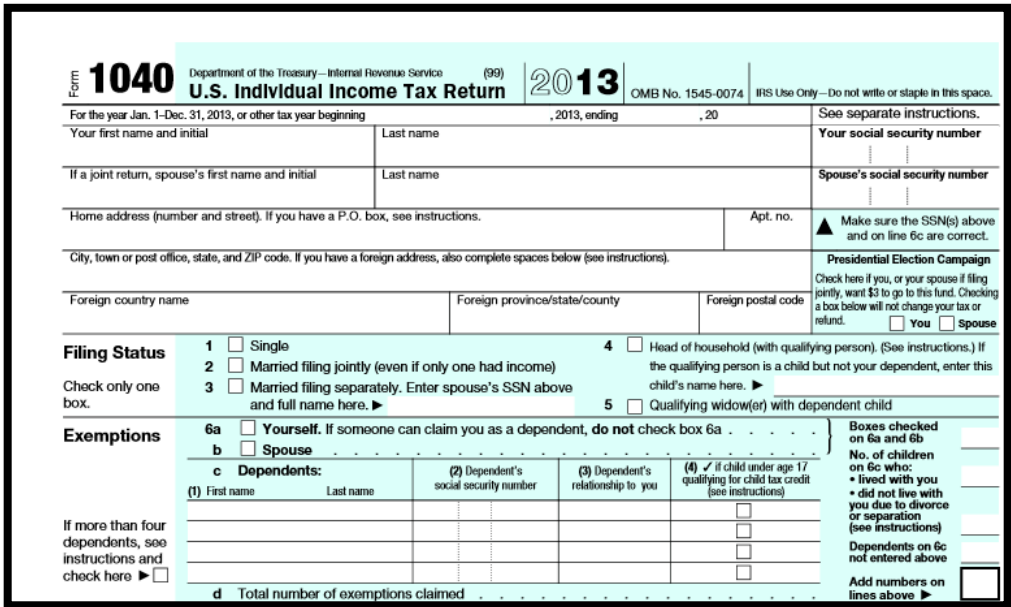
Source: Public Domain

What will happen if a citizen does NOT perform these actions?

- A. The democracy will fail.
- B. The common good will suffer.
- C. The citizen will be charged with a crime.
- D. The citizen will be fined.

SS.7.C.2.2

The illustration below shows a legal tax document.



The image shows a portion of a 2013 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return (Form 1040). The form is titled "Form 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return 2013" and includes the Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service logo. The tax year is 2013, ending in 2013. The form includes sections for Filing Status, Exemptions, and a table for dependents. The Filing Status section includes options for Single, Married filing jointly, Married filing separately, Head of household, and Qualifying widow(er). The Exemptions section includes options for Yourself, Spouse, and Dependents. The table for dependents has columns for First name, Last name, (2) Dependent's social security number, (3) Dependent's relationship to you, and (4) if child under age 17 qualifying for child tax credit. The form also includes a section for the Presidential Election Campaign and a section for the number of children on 6c who lived with you or did not live with you due to divorce or separation.

Source: Public Domain

Which of the following is one reason why citizens are required to file such documents with the government?

- A. To ensure that students can go to private schools
- B. To ensure the operation of international trade
- C. To provide a fair report of business practices
- D. To provide social programs for needy citizens

SS.7.C.2.4

Which situation does NOT involve a right protected by the Bill of Rights?

- A. Freedom to write my opinions in the local newspaper
- B. The ability to own a gun, as long as I follow laws
- C. The guarantee of a well-paying job
- D. Freedom to join the church of my choosing

SS.7.C.2.4

Peter Brown has lived in his home since he was a child. Now the city department of parks and recreation wants to tear down his neighborhood to build a park. The city manager comes to visit Peter and offers to buy the house from him. Peter refuses. The city manager says that the city will now seize the property under the constitutional power of "eminent domain." According to the U.S. Constitution, under what circumstances would Peter win his fight to keep his home?

- A. If Peter could prove that he had paid the full price of the house already
- B. If Peter was born as a citizen of the United States, not a naturalized citizen or resident
- C. If the city did not make a reasonable effort to build the park in an uninhabited area
- D. If the city did not offer him fair market price for his home

SS.7.C.2.5

Ben was prosecuted and convicted in state court for speaking out publically against the governor. During his trial, he was denied the counsel of a lawyer. Two years later, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned his conviction, explaining that the state had not guaranteed Ben's constitutional rights. Which amendments apply to this case?

- A. Amendment I (free speech) and Amendment VI (due process)
- B. Amendment I (free press) and Amendment IV (search and seizure)
- C. Amendment IX (unenumerated rights) and Amendment VI (due process)
- D. Amendment IX(unenumerated rights) and Amendment IV (search and seizure)

SS.7.C.2.5

Anne Tracy works as a journalist for *The Daily Mouth*. She wrote a story about how Senator Jones cheated on a law school exam. She interviewed witnesses who saw the senator cheating.

The story ran on the front page. Senator Jones denied the charges. Then he resigned from office. He plans to sue *The Daily Mouth* for damages. Under what circumstances could he sue the paper and win his lawsuit?

- A. He could sue the paper for libel and could win the case if he proved that Tracy had a grudge against him.
- B. He could sue the paper for slander and could win the case if he proved that Tracy had a grudge against him.
- C. He could sue the paper for libel and could win the case if he proved that the accusations were untrue and his reputation was hurt.
- D. He could sue the paper for slander and could win the case if he proved that the accusations were untrue and his reputation was hurt.

SS.7.C.3.6

The constitutional guarantee of a free press has resulted in

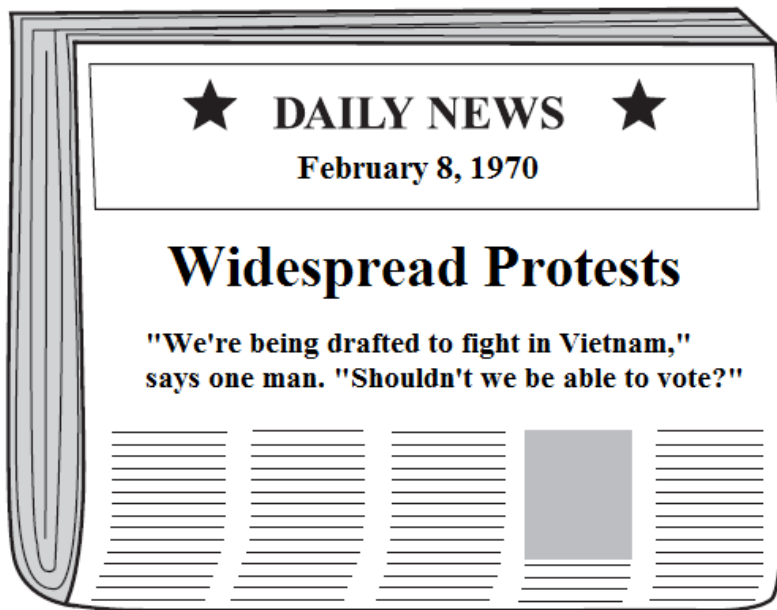
- A. a government more likely to hide its actions from the people
- B. a government more responsive to the needs of the people
- C. the establishment of English as the official language of the United States
- D. the establishment of government-run news organizations

SS.7.C.3.6

A more informed society has resulted from which constitutional protection?

- A. Trial by jury
- B. Free speech
- C. Right to bear arms
- D. Due process

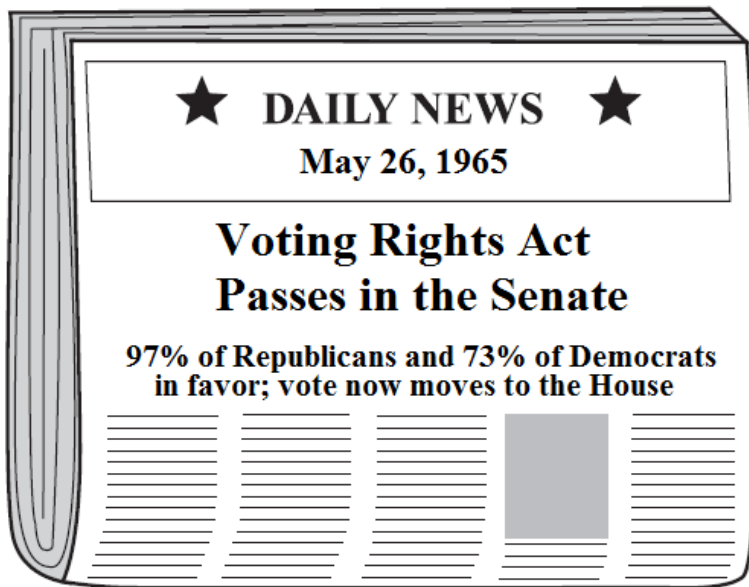
SS.7.C.3.7



How did opinions like the one shown in this news story affect the political process in the United States?

- A. It led to the Fifteenth Amendment, allowing racial minorities to vote.
- B. It led to the Nineteenth Amendment, allowing women to vote.
- C. It led to the Twenty-Sixth Amendment, allowing 18-year-olds to vote.
- D. It led to the Twenty-Sixth Amendment, allowing 21-year-olds to vote.

SS.7.C.3.7



How did passage of this legislation affect the political process in the United States?

- A. It enforced the Fifteenth Amendment, protecting the right of racial minorities to vote.
- B. It enforced the Nineteenth Amendment, protecting the right of women to vote.
- C. It extended suffrage to U.S. citizens, allowing 18-year-olds to vote.
- D. It extended suffrage to U.S. citizens, allowing 21-year-olds to vote.

SS.7.C.3.12:

What happened to American schools after the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*?

- A. States could continue segregation as long as facilities were separate but equal.
- B. Individuals of different races voluntarily stopped all forms of school segregation.
- C. The federal government ordered that states integrate classes.
- D. Segregation continued in schools below the sixth-grade level.

SS.7.C.3.12:

Following the 1966 Supreme Court decision in *Miranda v. Arizona*, police began informing people placed under arrest that they "have the right to remain silent." What basic freedom is this meant to protect, and how does it affect arrested individuals?

- A. The right to freedom of speech; it provides them with the ability to speak to their attorneys without fear of incrimination.
- B. The protection against self-incrimination; it informs them that speaking to law enforcement could incriminate them.
- C. The protection of due process; it prevents convicted offenders from receiving cruel and unusual punishments.
- D. The right to freedom of assembly; it prevents law enforcement from asking them questions without the presence of an attorney.

SS.7.C.2.8

How do modern Democrats and Republicans view taxation?

- A. Democrats tend to favor tax increases to support new social programs more than Republicans.
- B. Republicans tend to favor tax increases to support new social programs more than Democrats.
- C. Democrats tend to favor tax decreases, while Republicans tend to favor keeping tax rates the same.
- D. Republicans tend to favor tax increases, while Democrats tend to favor keeping tax rates the same.

SS.7.C.2.9:

The political campaign posters below are for two candidates running for the U.S. Senate.

★ **She Will Protect Your Rights!** ★

**VOTE PETRA FINN
FOR U.S. SENATE**

- Ten years as a public defender
- Two-term mayor and president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors
- A+ rating on women's rights

**Petra Will Fight for
a Better Tomorrow**

★ **A Job for Every Citizen** ★

**VOTE ALEKSI ALHO
FOR U.S. SENATE**

- Has a Ph.D. in economics
- Successful local entrepreneur
- Longest-serving member of the state economic advisory board

**Aleksi Will Bring Jobs Back to
Our State, Where They Belong**

According to the information on the posters, which individual would more likely vote for Aleksí Alho?

- A. A voter concerned with about leadership experience
- B. A voter concerned about women’s rights
- C. A voter concerned about protecting the rights of the accused
- D. A voter concerned about rising unemployment in the state

SS.7.C.2.9

The political campaign posters below are for two candidates running for the U.S. Senate.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>★ She Will Protect Your Rights! ★</p> <p>VOTE PETRA FINN FOR U.S. SENATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten years as a public defender • Two-term mayor and president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors • A+ rating on women’s rights <p>Petra Will Fight for a Better Tomorrow</p> | <p>★ A Job for Every Citizen ★</p> <p>VOTE ALEKSI ALHO FOR U.S. SENATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a Ph.D. in economics • Successful local entrepreneur • Longest-serving member of the state economic advisory board <p>Aleksí Will Bring Jobs Back to Our State, Where They Belong</p> |
|---|---|

According to the information on the posters, what is one reason Petra could be considered more qualified than Aleksí to be elected to the U.S. Senate?

- A. Her business experience
- B. Her educational experience
- C. Her political experience
- D. Her lobbyist experience

SS.7.C.2.10

| Method | Cost | Minimum Time Needed |
|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Online Petition | Low | Three Weeks |
| Calling Citizens by Phone | Moderate | Five Weeks |
| Letters to Citizens | Moderate | One Month |
| Group Rally Event | High | Two Weeks |
| Emailing the Representative | None | One Hour |

Lela wants to show her district’s representative in Congress that there is a lot of popular support of an upcoming bill. She has drawn up a chart of lobbying methods. She wants to lobby

indirectly, but she does not have much money, and her deadline is a month from now. Which are her best options?

- A. An online petition and letters to citizens
- B. Calling citizens by phone and letters to citizens
- C. Emailing the representative and an online petition
- D. Group rally event and emailing the representative

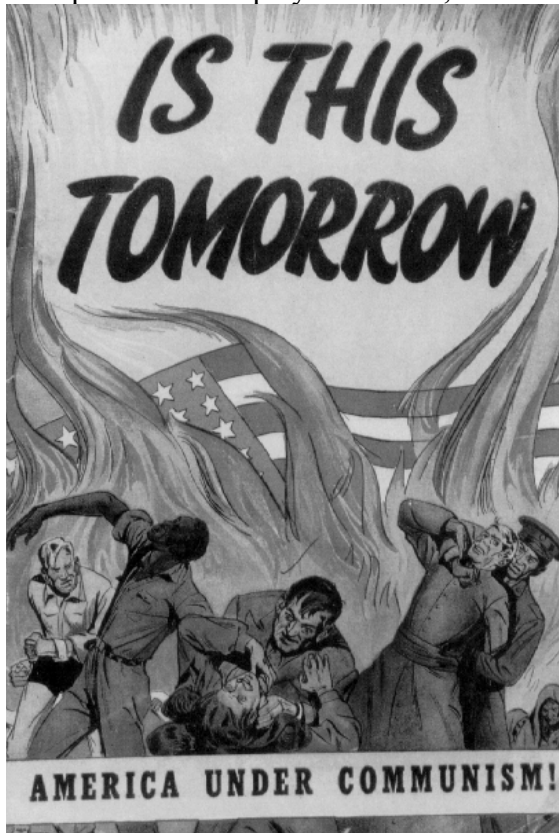
SS.7.C.2.10

James Madison wrote that “liberty is to faction what air is to fire.” After reading this, Jack points out that the Founders would have wanted more restrictions on lobbyists, special-interest groups, and media influencing the government. Based on what you know, what would be a good counterargument?

- A. Elected officials are better able to measure public opinion if there are no interfering factions.
- B. Lobbyists will balance one another in government influence if they are subject to fewer laws.
- C. Political ads, despite their biases, are best able to inform citizens when there are no regulations.
- D. The media, despite its biases, are best able to watchdog the government when they are free.

SS.7.C.2.11:

This poster was displayed in 1947, at the beginning of the Cold War.



Source: Public Domain

How can the information on this poster **best** be categorized?

- A. Advertisement
- B. Entertainment
- C. Informational
- D. Propaganda

SS.7.C.2.11

This poster was displayed in 1876.



Source: Public Domain

What is primary goal of this propaganda poster?

- A. To encourage people to move to government lands
- B. To discourage people from moving to government lands
- C. To encourage people to move to California
- D. To discourage people from moving to California

SS.7.C.2.12:

Flora is concerned because her little brother became ill at school. The doctor explains he has the flu. "I've seen an increase in flu cases among children the past few years," says the doctor. "Many children need flu shots, but their parents can't afford them." Flora decides to take action. Which should be Flora's final step in attempting to encourage her community to provide low-cost flu shots?

- A. Identify public policy alternatives by talking to her doctor about options to locate funding for shots.
- B. Outline her citizen-action plan to the county department of public health proposing it offer a low-cost vaccination clinic.
- C. Evaluate public policy alternatives by speaking to the Surgeon General's office about similar efforts in other communities.
- D. Conduct background research by visiting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's web site to read about side effects of flu shots.

SS.7.C.2.12

These charts compare public and private trash-collection services.

| City Department of Sanitation Trash Service |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cans in use for 10 years • Average base monthly bill for residents: \$30 • Currently does not offer recycling • Employs 5 full time workers |

| The Refuse Company |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will bring in new cans • Average base monthly bill for residents: \$32 • Recycling an average of \$7 more per month, per resident • Will add 2 full time workers to staff |

Evelyn is preparing to speak to her fellow city council members about trash collection in the city. She looks at a chart made by her aide. Which argument could she make in favor of using the current city trash-collection service instead of a private service?

- A. Can replacement will be easier if the city service collects trash.
- B. Recycling will increase if the city service collects trash.
- C. Residents will pay less if the city service collects trash.
- D. There will be more jobs available if the city service collects trash.

SS.7.C.2.13:

Below are views for and against the increase of minimum wage in a slow economy.

1.

Small business owners will not be able to make a profit if minimum wages are increased. We cannot afford to increase minimum wage.

2.

An employee who works 40 hours a week and is paid minimum wage is still living below the poverty line. We must increase minimum wage.

Which conclusion can be drawn from the views?

- A. A slow economy puts strains on both small business owners and employees.
- B. A slow economy puts more strains on small-business owners than on employees.
- C. A slow economy puts more strains on employees than on small-business owners.
- D. A slow economy put less strain on employees and small-business owners.

SS.7.C.2.13:

Fred is a homeowner interested in conserving the desert surrounding his home.
Michaela is a nurse at the local children's hospital with three children of her own.
Carlos is the owner of a medical supply company active in the local running club.
Gina is a community college student who will soon be transferring to the local university to complete her degree.

Which person would be most likely to vote yes on the construction of a new hospital?

- A. Fred, because he wants the vacant lot near him to be used for construction
- B. Michaela, because public funding would be split between two hospitals
- C. Carlos, because he will profit from supplying the new business
- D. Gina, because she will need to find work when she graduates

SS.7.C.4.1:

Which example involves changing foreign policy?

- A. Congress lifting the oil embargo on a formerly communist government
- B. A Supreme Court hearing on worker discrimination based on national origin
- C. Congress voting to construct an aid center in Florida for political refugees
- D. A Supreme Court justice taking on a case involving his country of birth

SS.7.C.4.2:

Which action involves citizen participation in the United Nations?

- A. Volunteering to give tours of the grounds
- B. Working as a member of UNICEF
- C. Reading about current international issues
- D. Teaching international relations at the local university

SS.7.C.4.3:

The statement below is justification for an international action.

“The issue is the future of Southeast Asia as a whole. A threat to any nation in that region is a threat to all, and a threat to us.”

President Lyndon Johnson in his Message to Congress (August 5, 1964)

Source: Public Domain

Which international action is President Johnson justifying with this speech?

- A. Initiating a war to stabilize a region
- B. Initiating sanctions against a country
- C. Sending humanitarian aid to a country
- D. Using nuclear weapons to end a war

SS.7.C.3.1:

What is the term for a type of government in which one person possesses unlimited power?

- A. Socialism
- B. Communism
- C. Democracy
- D. Autocracy**

SS.7.C.3.1:

Kayla sat in the meeting hall and listened to the different candidates for her state's open Senate seat. The candidates debated about their positions on issues. When Election Day came along, she voted for the candidate she thought would best serve her community's interests. What sort of government does Kayla have?

- A. Direct democracy
- B. Representative democracy
- C. Oligarchy
- D. Monarchy

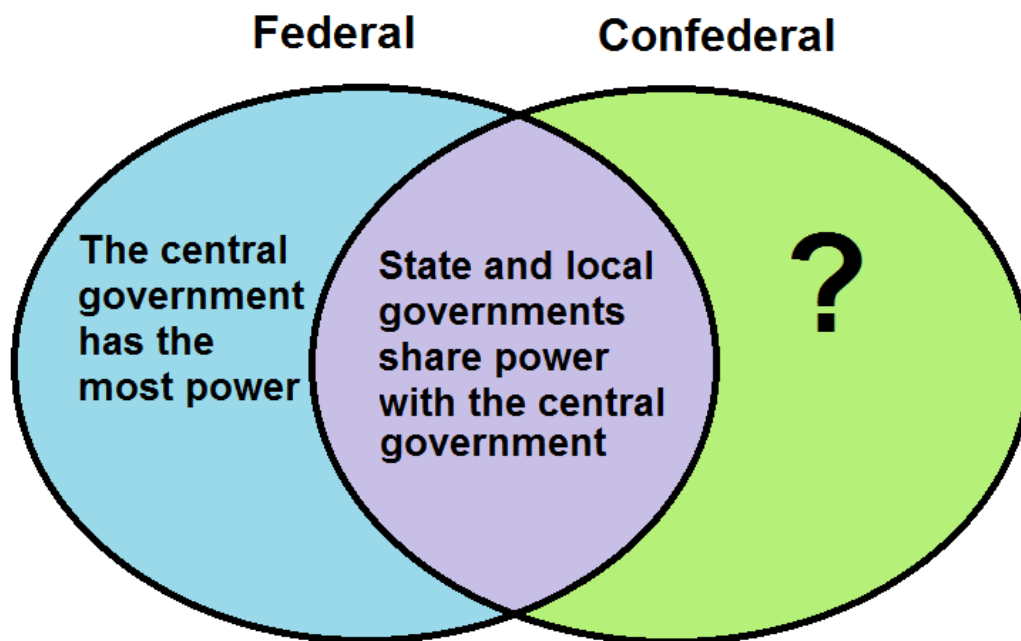
SS.7.C.3.2:

Who has the most power in a unitary system?

- A. Central government
- B. Local government
- C. State government
- D. Regional government

SS.7.C.3.2:

This diagram shows two different forms of government.



Which statement completes the diagram?

- A. In a confederal system, city governments have the most power.
- B. In a confederal system, international associations have the most power.
- C. In a confederal system, state governments have the most power.
- D. In a confederal system, the people have the most power.

SS.7.C.3.3:

How are the responsibilities of the legislative and executive branches of government different when it comes to treaties?

- A. Congress proposes treaties; the president carries out foreign treaties.
- B. Congress negotiates foreign treaties; the president approves treaties.
- C. Congress carries out foreign treaties; the president proposes treaties.
- D. Congress approves treaties; the president negotiates foreign treaties.

SS.7.C.3.3:

The newspaper headline below describes an event in U.S. history.



Which parts of the national government participated in the process described in the newspaper headline?

- A. Senate and president
- B. House of Representatives and Senate
- C. Supreme Court and president
- D. Supreme Court and House of Representatives

SS.7.C.3.4:

Which statement describes a difference between the state and federal governments under the U.S. Constitution?

- A. Only the federal government provides for public welfare.
- B. Only the federal government charters banks.
- C. Only the federal government borrows money.
- D. Only the federal government regulates interstate trade.

SS.7.C.3.5

Which of the following accurately describes one way an amendment to the U.S. Constitution may be proposed?

- A. Two-thirds of Congress votes to propose.
- B. Two-thirds of citizens nationwide vote to propose.
- C. Three-fourths of state legislatures vote to propose.
- D. Three-fourths of Congress votes to propose.

SS.7.C.3.5

Why is a formal amendment process important?

- A. To prevent the Supreme Court from being eliminated
- B. To keep some states from being too powerful
- C. To allow the Constitution to be adjusted as times change
- D. To give the president a role in changing the government

SS.7.C.3.8:

The chart below lists some powers of the executive branch.

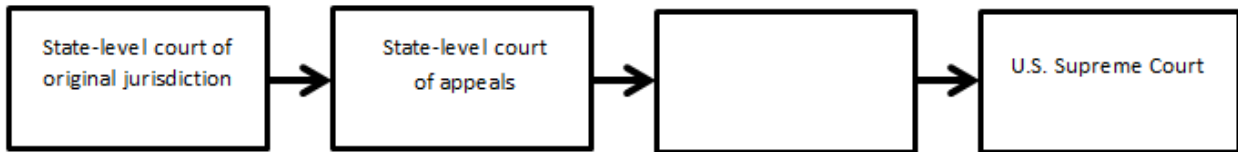
- Proposes laws
- Vetoes laws
- Grants federal pardons
- Negotiates foreign treaties

Which of the following is also a power of the executive branch?

- A. Appoints federal judges
- B. Declares acts of Congress unconstitutional
- C. Ratifies treaties
- D. Impeaches and removes judges

SS.7.C.3.11

The diagram below outlines the appeals path through a state court system.



Which court completes the diagram?

- A. Court of Veterans Appeals
- B. State-level court of last resort
- C. U.S. court of appeals
- D. State-level court of claims

SS.7.C.3.11

Claude runs a chain of tourist businesses in Florida. He imports T-shirts from Haiti to sell in his stores. One day, student protesters damage several of his shops, demanding that he pay his workers in Haiti a fair wage. Claude estimates the damage at \$4,000. Claude sues the protestors for the damage they cause. What is the original jurisdiction of this case?

- A. This is a local small-claims case.
- B. This is a local challenge to international trade.
- C. This case involves the protest of a federal law.
- D. This case involves international trade.

SS.7.C.3.13

Taylor took notes during his civics class comparing the U.S. Constitution with the state of Florida's Constitution. However, he forgot to write down which set of features applied to which constitution. How can he tell the different between them?

- A. He remembers that the Florida Constitution does not have a bill of rights, but the U.S. Constitution does.
- B. He remembers that the Florida Constitution does not allow for the executive branch to establish a cabinet, but the U.S. Constitution does.
- C. He remembers that the Florida Constitution establishes a Commission on Ethics, but the U.S. Constitution does not.
- D. He remembers that the Florida Constitution gives the executive branch power over military forces, while the U.S. Constitution does not.

SS.7.C.3.14:

Which service is performed by local government?

- A. Delivering mail
- B. Granting teacher certificates
- C. Minting quarters
- D. Providing fire protection