

1. According to the principles included in the Declaration of Independence, what is the main purpose of government?

- To control dangerous people through harsh punishment.
- To ensure that everyone has enough food, shelter, opportunities, and other resources for the pursuit of happiness.
- To protect the natural rights of citizens.
- To improve the moral, intellectual, and social character of man.

2. According to the principles included in the Declaration of Independence, how does government receive its just (or legitimate) powers?

- From the petitions for redress of grievances by the people themselves.
- From the authority of the governed, who express their wishes through elected representatives.
- From the monarch's promises to meet the people's needs.
- From the treaties and other written agreements that settle problems between countries at war.

3. The Declaration of Independence states that governments are established by:

- "The consent of the governed."
- "A decent respect for the opinions of mankind."
- "A power that can keep all men in awe."
- "A revolutionary movement against the existing order."

4. The authors of the Declaration of Independence asserted that they were justified in breaking away from England because

- Parliament had refused to allow America's delegates to participate in debate.

- The British king had violated their natural rights.
- The British government was no longer demonstrating “a decent respect to the opinions of mankind.”
- None of these.

5. What is justice?

- Citizens will be able to do whatever they need to do to survive.
- Citizens will be taken care of by the government.
- Citizens will take care of each other without government intervention.
- Citizens will be treated equally and fairly under the law.

6. Which of the following best describes how the Founders understood the term justice?

- The Founders believed that justice only applied to white, property-holding males of a certain age.
- The Founders believed that that the law should equally protect people’s freedoms and property.
- The Founders believed that courts and judges should interpret laws to ensure the best outcomes for individuals.
- The Founders believed laws should be used to combat inequalities found in society as a result of racial, gender, and religious persecution.

7. The Founders believed that government should exist to:

- Ensure a just society by protecting inalienable rights.
- Ensure a just society by redistributing wealth to establish equality.
- Ensure a just a just society by providing reparations to people who were treated unjustly in the past.
- Ensure a just society by requiring community participation.

8. Why did the Founders believe the Articles of Confederation was an inadequate framework for government?

- The Articles did not allow states to form treaties with each other.
- The Articles did not sufficiently protect the individual rights of citizens.
- The Articles required a uniform currency system.
- The Articles provided for a standing army.

9. Why did the Founders divide power into three branches in the Constitution?

- To protect the rights of individuals and states.
- To ensure that one branch could not become too powerful.
- Both A and B.
- Neither A nor B.

10. The Founders increased the power of the national government in the Constitution as compared to the Articles of Confederation. They did this because their experience under the Articles convinced most of them that:

- A stronger central government was necessary to protect commerce and provide for common defense.
- Individuals elected to public office at the state level needed more opportunity to collaborate with officials from other states.
- The states needed more funding from the central government.
- A stronger central government would be better able to encourage virtue within the states.

11. Which of these phrases is included as a purpose of the national government in the Preamble of the United States Constitution:

- "to secure the blessings of liberty."
- "to provide freedom from fear."
- "to ensure the greatest happiness of the greatest number."

- “to take from each according to his ability, to give to each according to his need.”

12. What does it mean for certain rights to be "inalienable"?

- Inalienable rights are rights that government cannot violate under any circumstances.
- Inalienable rights require individuals to perform certain actions in order for others to enjoy more freedoms.
- Inalienable rights are natural rights that only exist if recognized by a country's constitution.
- Inalienable rights are natural rights with which all humans are born; governments might wrongfully violate them but can never take them away.

13. How did the Founders understand the phrase, "All men are equal"?

- All property-owning, white men are equal.
- All humans are entitled to live in a society that provides them with sufficient food, shelter, and other necessities for life.
- All humans are born with certain natural rights.
- All men are equally entitled to jobs that pay a living wage.

14. Which of these is an example of natural rights (as opposed to legal rights)?

- The right to vote.
- The right to drive a car.
- The right to think for oneself.
- The right to jury trial by one's peers.

15. Which of these did the Founders believe could be threats to individual rights?

- Too much government.

- Too little government.
- Pure democracy (decisions based on majority rule).
- All of these.

16. Which of these documents did NOT influence the Founders' ideas about natural rights?

- Magna Carta.
- John Locke's Two Treatises of Government.
- The English Declaration of Rights.
- France's Declaration of the Rights of Man.

17. Government is formed with the consent of the people, and representatives are elected to govern. Ultimately, whose responsibility is it to ensure that the government changes its behavior if it becomes destructive?

- Members of Congress.
- The President.
- Judges.
- The People.

18. What does "consent of the governed" mean?

- The representatives give power to the government through elections.
- The people give power to the government through their representatives.
- The government gives rights to the people through laws.
- The government gives rights to the branches of government through separation of powers.

19. What is "divine right"?

- Monarchs get their power to rule from God.
- Governments get their power to rule from God.

- Monarchs get their power to rule from the people.
- Governments get their power to rule from the people.

20. What is the best comparison between a direct democracy and a republic?

- In both a direct democracy and a republic, individual citizens personally represent themselves in the government.
- In a direct democracy, individual citizens personally represent themselves in the government. In a republic, citizens are represented by elected officials in the government.
- In a direct democracy, citizens are represented by an executive council. In a republic, citizens are represented by a monarch.
- In both a direct democracy and a republic, citizens are represented by elected officials in the government.

21. “Rule of law” means:

- Since the king (or the ruler) makes the laws, others are bound to obey him.
- The king’s power must be limited by laws so that he does not abuse the rights of citizens.
- Governments may use any means necessary to protect the country from threats by foreign rulers.
- The laws of a country apply equally to everyone and are made by an open, fair, and predictable process.

22. James Madison wrote that unpredictable and arbitrary laws would:

- Never happen in America.
- Result in overthrow of duly-elected officials.
- Destroy opportunities for people to exercise their liberty.
- Lead to temporary and foolish passions.

23. Which of these features in the U.S. Constitution best reflects the Founders' commitment to rule of law?

- The procedure for impeachment and removal from office of the president.
- The fact that Article I, which spells out how the legislature works, is much longer than the other Articles.
- The Constitution's signature section.
- The age requirement for Senators; they must be at least 30 years old.