Vocabulary Builder

SECTION 1

1. T
2. F; checks and balances
3. T
4. T
5. Judicial review is the power of the court to declare legislative and executive acts unconstitutional.
6. By voting, citizens hold elected officials accountable to the principles outlined in the Constitution.

SECTION 2

1. A supermajority is a majority equal to or greater than two-thirds; requiring such a majority better reflects popular sovereignty.
2. It has been amended 27 times. The amendment process outlined by the Framers is difficult in order to help weed out frivolous amendments.
3. The Twenty-first Amendment repealed the Eighteenth Amendment, which was a ban on alcohol known as Prohibition.
4. unprofitable
5. serious, vital, important
6. ratify, enact

SECTION 3

Answers will vary but should include a summary that relates to the section and includes at least four of the following terms: executive agreements, political party, cabinet, gridlock, electoral college, compact.

Biography

Patrick Henry

1. Henry believed that the Constitution did not do enough to protect states' rights and individuals' rights.
2. Henry served his country through his work to bring about independence from Great Britain, to add a Bill of Rights to the Constitution, and as legislator and governor in Virginia.

ACTIVITY

Students' tributes will vary but should summarize Henry's life and achievements.

Alexander Hamilton

1. Hamilton was one of the authors of the *Federalist Papers*, 85 essays that explained and supported the Constitution. He worked to convince his fellow New Yorkers to ratify the Constitution.
2. Hamilton helped obtain ratification of the Constitution, and as the first secretary of the treasury, he developed an economic plan to strengthen the nation's economy and central government.

ACTIVITY

Students' answers will vary, but students should give reasonable examples of modern policies that Hamilton would like or dislike.

Primary Source

Albany Plan of Union

1. The plan sought to form a central government that would help unify Britain's North American colonies.
2. The plan proposed the establishment of a central government headed by a President-General, to be appointed by Great Britain, and a Grand Council, to be chosen by colonial legislatures.
3. Possible answer: Both King George II and the colonial legislatures would have to give up some of their power over the colonies if a new central government was established.

Federalist Paper No. 49

1. Madison believes that governmental power is derived from the people.
2. Possible answer: Madison may have written this essay to convince Americans worried about the government's power that the Constitution would keep individual branches of government from becoming too powerful.

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3. Answers will vary. Students should explain and justify their opinion.

Economics and Government

The Sixteenth Amendment

1. The need for revenue to fight two world wars caused large tax increases. A recession caused a tax cut.
2. the beginning of employer withholding of taxes; this suggests that many Americans were not reliable taxpayers before taxes were withheld from their paychecks.
3. Answers will vary but students should realize that dropping the amount of income to which the maximum tax rate applied from $5 million in 1941 to $200,000 in 1942 would have increased the number of taxpayers paying the maximum rate. In addition, the tax rate paid on those high incomes also went up, from 81% to 88%, in those same years. Together, those changes are likely to have accounted for most of the overall increase in total tax revenue collected.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Responses will vary but students should discuss how local and state tax rates compare to federal rates.

Political Cartoon

1. Answers will vary. Possible answer: changing the Constitution to fit a person's political agenda
2. Answers will vary. Possible answer: The cartoon does not support making changes to the Constitution because it warns against "political tinkering."
3. Answers will vary. Possible answer: when a change in society causes Americans to reconsider the way they previously viewed a particular issue, such as voting rights for women and minorities.

WRITING ACTIVITY

Students' essays will vary but should take a position on whether the Framers made amending the Constitution easy or difficult. Essays might describe the amendment process and point out how few—only 27—amendments have been ratified.

Chapter Review

1. electoral college
2. popular sovereignty
3. judicial review
4. supermajority
5. political parties
6. separation of powers
7. gridlock
8. rule of law
9. b
10. a
11. b
12. a
13. Answers will vary. Possible answer: Political leaders must often compromise in order to reach a desired goal. U.S. history is full of examples, from the compromises made at the Constitutional Convention to the compromises required to get amendments passed and ratified.
14. Answers will vary. Possible answer: The separation of powers keeps power distributed among the three branches of government so that each branch is responsible for a particular aspect of governing.
15. Answer will vary. Possible answer: Since the Constitution is the basis of U.S. government, interpreting it is a responsibility of leadership. Presidents, legislators, judges and justices, and ordinary citizens alike have the responsibility to determine what the Constitution allows. Should the Constitution be interpreted strictly to apply only to those things specifically mentioned in the document, or should it be interpreted more loosely?

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