**US Constitution**

**Define**

* *Articles of Confederation………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….*
* *Philadelphia Convention……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………*
* *New Jersey Plan…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………*
* *Virginia Plan………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………*
* *Connecticut Compromise…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..*
* *Constitutional Rights………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………*
* *Separation of Powers…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………*
* *Limited Government…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………*
* *Checks and Balances…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………*
* *Elastic Clause……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………*
* *Commerce Clause………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………*

**Principles of the US Constitution – explain them:**

* *Bipartisanship*
* *Checks and Balances*

* *Limited Government*

* *Protection of Rights*
* *Federalism*
* *Separation of Powers*

**What was the vision of the Founding Fathers for the US Constitution?**

**Amending the Constitution**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Legislatures*** | ***Conventions*** |
| ***National*** |  |  |
| ***State*** |  |  |

**Constitutional Amendments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Amendment*** | ***Protects*** | ***Upheld in (SC Case)*** |
| ***1*** |  |  |
| ***2*** |  |  |
| ***5*** |  |  |
| ***6-7*** |  |  |
| ***10*** |  |  |
| ***13-15*** |  |  |

**Explain the reasons the Constitution has so few amendments:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Difficult* |  |
| *Vague* |  |
| *Interpretive Amendments* |  |
| *Caution* |  |

**What are the strengths and weaknesses of the amendment process?**

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| --- | --- |
| ***Strengths*** | ***Weaknesses*** |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Separation of Powers** – *Give recent examples of each of these powers:*

*President:*

* *Propose Laws*
* *Commander in Chief*
* *Appoints Cabinet/Judges*
* *Negotiate treaties*
* *Write budget*

*Congress:*

* *Signs budget*
* *Writes laws*
* *Confirms appointments*
* *Declares war*
* *Ratifies treaties*
* *Constitutional Amendments*

*Supreme Court:*

* *Judicial Review*

**Is SoP good for US Politics (incl. government and democracy)?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***YES*** | ***NO*** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Checks and Balances**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Check*** | ***Power that it checks*** | ***Example in action*** | ***Is it significant? Does it work TODAY? (Effectiveness)*** |
| ***Checks on Congress*** | ***Sign/veto leg.*** |  |  |  |
| ***Recommend leg*** |  |  |  |
| ***Judicial review*** |  |  |  |
| ***Checks on President*** | ***Amend/delay/ reject leg*** |  |  |  |
| ***Veto override*** |  |  |  |
| ***Declare war*** |  |  |  |
| ***Confirm appts*** |  |  |  |
| ***Confirm treaties*** |  |  |  |
| ***Impeachment*** |  |  |  |
| ***Investigation*** |  |  |  |
| ***Judicial Review*** |  |  |  |
| ***Checks on SC*** | ***Consti. Amendments*** |  |  |  |
| ***Ratify judges*** |  |  |  |
| ***Pardon*** |  |  |  |
| ***Impeachment*** |  |  |  |

**US Constitution and Democracy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Ways in which US Constitution protects democracy*** | ***Way in which US Constitution is anti-democratic*** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Challenges to US Constitution in recent years** – explain how each of these cause problems with the modern Constitution

* Sandy Hook
* Death of Scalia
* Guantanamo Bay
* 2000 Election
* 2013 Shutdown
* Obama’s use of executive orders
* Drones strikes in Libya

**In what ways is the US Constitution still ‘fit for purpose’?**

**Constitutional rights**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Ways in which these have been protected*** | ***Ways in which these have been challenged*** |
| ***Speech*** |  |  |
| ***Religion*** |  |  |
| ***Bear Arms*** |  |  |
| ***Cruel and Unusual Punishment*** |  |  |
| ***Trial by Jury/Due Process*** |  |  |

**Has Obama been an defender or abuser of the US Constitution?**