

**The Legislative Branch Worksheet, Civics Test**

Chapter 7, Legislative Branch Worksheet. Fill in the Blanks

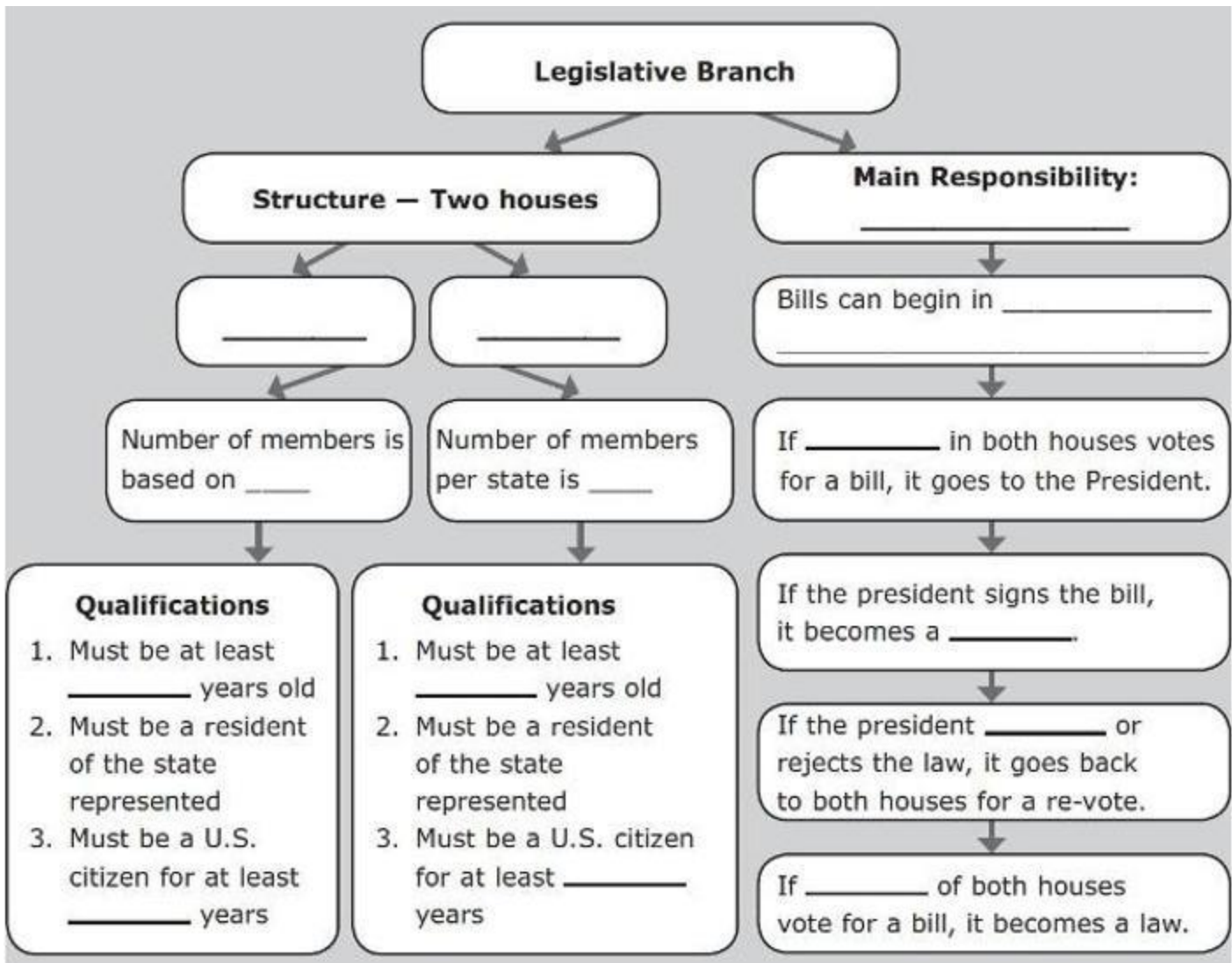
**What Do You Know?**

**THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Concept Web**

**Directions:** Complete each part of the web by writing the correct word or phrase from the list below where it belongs.

House of Representatives	either house	law
25	to pass laws	two-thirds
a majority	veto	7
each state's population	Senate	9
30		the same for all states--two



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1. One of the two houses of the Legislative branch is the \_\_\_\_\_. The number of members is based on \_\_\_\_\_. Qualifications for this house are 1) must be at least \_\_\_\_\_ years old, 2) must be a resident of the state represented, and 3) must be a U.S. citizen for at least \_\_\_\_\_ years.

2. The other house of the legislative branch is the \_\_\_\_\_. The number of members per state is \_\_\_\_\_. Qualifications for this house are 1) must be at least \_\_\_\_\_ years old, 2) must be a resident of the state represented, and 3) must be a U.S. citizen for at least \_\_\_\_\_ years.

3. The main responsibility of the legislative branch is \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Bills can begin in \_\_\_\_\_.

5. If \_\_\_\_\_ in both houses votes for a bill, it goes to the president.

6. If the president signs the bill, it becomes a \_\_\_\_\_.

7. If the president \_\_\_\_\_, or rejects that law, it goes back to both houses for a re-vote.

8. If \_\_\_\_\_ of both houses vote for a bill, it becomes law.

*Enter the appropriate word(s) to complete the statement.*

**Directions:** Use the words below to complete each content vocabulary phrase. Some words will be used more than once.

<b>branch</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Federalist</b>	<b>sovereignty</b>
<b>Convention</b>	<b>checks</b>	<b>Compromise</b>	<b>separation</b>
<b>limited</b>	<b>powers</b>	<b>supremacy</b>	<b>Articles</b>
<b>Ordinance</b>	<b>Rebellion</b>	<b>law</b>	

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of Confederation

2. Anti-\_\_\_\_\_

3. executive \_\_\_\_\_

4. concurrent \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ of 1785

6. popular \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Three-Fifths \_\_\_\_\_

8. reserved \_\_\_\_\_

9. Constitutional \_\_\_\_\_

10. Great \_\_\_\_\_

11. Electoral \_\_\_\_\_

12. Northwest \_\_\_\_\_

13. enumerated \_\_\_\_\_

14. Shays's \_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_ government

16. \_\_\_\_\_ clause

17. The \_\_\_\_\_ Papers

18. legislative \_\_\_\_\_

19. \_\_\_\_\_ and balances

20. judicial \_\_\_\_\_

21. rule of \_\_\_\_\_

22. \_\_\_\_\_ of powers

**THE CONSTITUTION- Academic Vocabulary**

**Directions:** Write the letter of the correct definition next to each academic vocabulary word.

- A) regardless of; in spite of                      B) an effect  
C) a series of steps taken to achieve something      D) an area  
E) to go against or state the opposite

23. area

24. process

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25. despite

26. impact

27. contradict

*Enter the appropriate word(s) to complete the statement.*

**Directions:** Select a vocabulary word to complete the sentences. Some words may be used more than once. Not all items are used.

"strict"	ensure	confederation	"necessary and proper"
Federalist	interpretation	Constitution	compromise
"loose"	process	assign	Federalism
ordinance	articles	assume	impact
limited	rule of law	supremacy	veto

28. The Constitution consists of three sections: the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_.

29. If you met a \_\_\_\_\_, you could \_\_\_\_\_ that he was a supporter of the \_\_\_\_\_.

30. \_\_\_\_\_ is a form of government in which power is divided between the national government and the states.

31. The Congress is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_ legislature.

32. \_\_\_\_\_ early resistance, in the end, all thirteen colonies joined the \_\_\_\_\_.

33. In a democracy, several steps are involved in the \_\_\_\_\_ of passing constitutional \_\_\_\_\_.

*Indicate the answer choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

34. Why did each state have to write a new constitution early in the American Revolution?

A) New Hampshire's example of doing so spurred the others to act.

B) People wanted to remove all mention of the king from the old constitution.

C) The English Bill of Rights was newly discovered.

D) With independence, the old colonial charters would no longer apply.

35. The influence of Magna Carta on the leaders who wrote state constitutions is shown in

A) having a bicameral legislature.      B) having a strong governor.

C) the inclusion of a list of rights.      D) language limiting the king's power.

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36. Why is the first national government of the United States called a confederation?  
A) States were dependent on each other.                      B) States were relatively independent.  
C) States were stronger than local government.            D) States were weaker than the national government.
37. The Northwest Territory was bounded by  
A) the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains.            B) the Great Lakes and Gulf of Mexico.  
C) the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.                      D) the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Ocean.
38. How many states had to approve a change to the Articles of Confederation?  
A) 7            B) 9  
C) 11         D) 13

***Match each item with its definition. Each question is worth 1 point.***

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A) Articles of Confederation | B) Declaration of Independence |
| C) English Bill of Rights    | D) Northwest Ordinance         |
| E) Ordinance of 1785         | F) bicameral                   |
| G) Roger Sherman             | H) James Madison               |
| I) Federalist                | J) Anti-federalist             |
| K) Electoral College         | L) Shay's Rebellion            |
| M) ordinance                 | N) confederation               |
| O) unilateral                | P) Shay's War                  |

39. law that set up a plan for surveying western land
40. document that created the first national government for the United States
41. law that made plan for surveying the Northwest Territory in the Great Lakes region
42. statement of the ideals of liberty and natural rights, in response to the colonists' complaints against the British government, that inspired writers of new state constitutions
43. lists of rights in state constitutions can be traced back to this original historical document
44. having two separate lawmaking chambers
45. proposed the Great Compromise
46. indirectly elects the president.
47. supporter of the Constitution

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48. favored local government controlled more closely by the people.
49. 1787 law that set up a government for the Northwest Territory and a plan for admitting new states to the Union
50. group of individual state governments that unite for a common purpose
51. a law, usually of a city or county
52. an uprising of Massachusetts farmers who did not want to lose their farms because of debt caused by taxes after American Revolution

*Indicate the answer choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

53. Why did the Founders decide not to change the Articles of Confederation but to create a new form of government?
- A) The Articles had created a weak government.      B) The Articles were too complex to revise.  
C) They thought it easier to start from scratch.      D) They wanted to eliminate the national government.
54. The Virginia Plan contained the main features of the federal government today, including
- A) a bill of rights.      B) government departments.  
C) income taxes.      D) three separate branches.
55. The Great Compromise called for
- A) a two-house Congress.      B) backing the New Jersey Plan.  
C) keeping the Articles government.      D) creating the Supreme Court.
56. In addition to compromising on slavery, delegates from Northern and Southern states also compromised on the power of the government to
- A) coin money.      B) control trade and place tariffs on imported goods.  
C) spend money.      D) tax citizens.
57. A major objection to the Constitution by the Anti-Federalists was
- A) the central government was too weak.  
B) the lack of a bill of rights.  
C) the lack of a president.  
D) the wording was too general.

*Enter the appropriate word(s) to complete the statement.*

58. The Constitutional Convention met in the building now called Independence Hall in New York City. Philadelphia
59. By giving the national government more power than the states, the Constitution created a system of government called

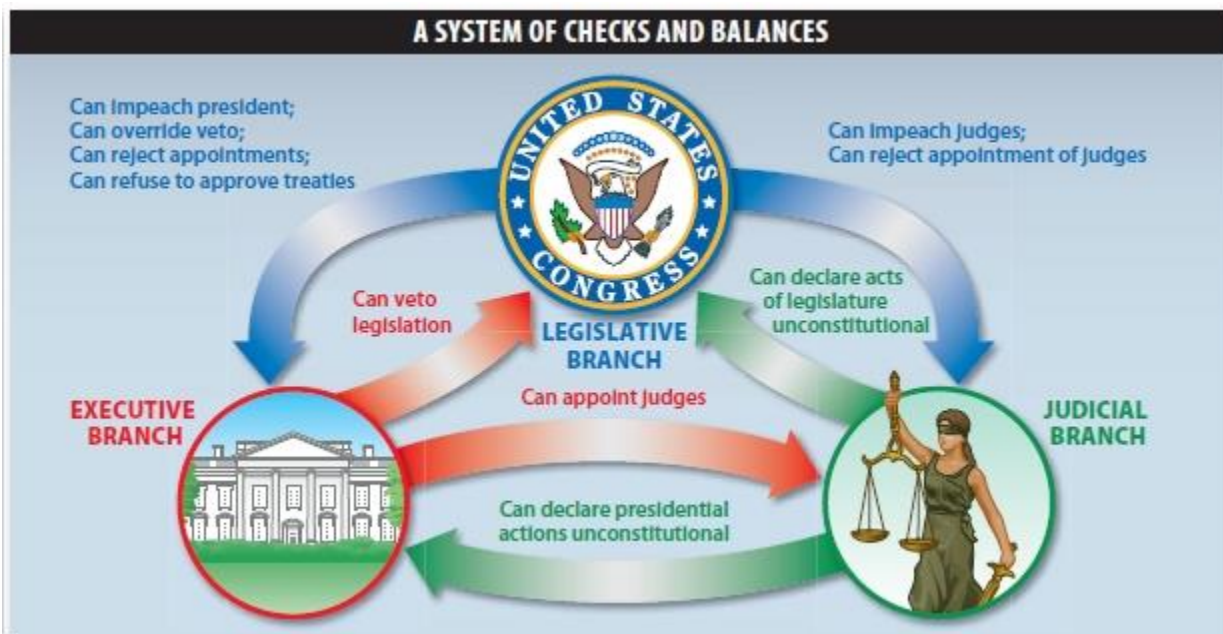
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\_\_\_\_\_.


60. The Founders did not fully trust the people to elect the president, so they put that decision in the hands of a group called the \_\_\_\_\_.


61. James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay explained why they supported the new Constitution in a series of articles known as \_\_\_\_\_.

62. Federalists won approval of the Constitution by saying they would add to it \_\_\_\_\_.



63.  What are two ways that the powers of Congress can be checked?


64.  Suppose the U.S. Supreme Court declares an act of Congress unconstitutional. Is there any check on that power of the Court?


65.  Why did the Framers give the president the power of veto and also give Congress the right to override that veto?

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My principal objections to the plan are, that there is no adequate provision for a representation of the people; that they have no security for the right of election; that some of the powers of the legislature are ambiguous, and others indefinite and dangerous; that the executive is blended with, and will have an undue influence over, the legislature; that the judicial department will be oppressive; that treaties of the highest importance may be formed by the President, with the advice of two thirds of a quorum of the Senate; and that the system is without the security of a bill of rights.

—Elbridge Gerry, delegate to the Constitutional Convention; excerpt from letter to the Massachusetts legislature explaining why he did not sign the Constitution, 1787

66.  Gerry objects that “the executive is blended with, and will have an undue influence over, the legislature.” In making this criticism, what principle of the Constitution does he show he favors?


67.  What powers do the executive and legislative branches have to prevent the judicial branch from becoming, as Gerry feared, “oppressive”?

#### Montesquieu on the Separation of Powers

When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates [officials], there can be no liberty, because apprehensions [fears] may arise, lest the same monarch or senate should enact tyrannical laws, to execute them in a tyrannical manner.

Again, there is no liberty, if the judiciary power be not separated from the legislative and executive. Were it joined with the legislative, the life and liberty of the subject would be exposed to arbitrary control [limitless power]; for the judge would be then the legislator. Were it joined to the executive power, the judge might behave with violence and oppression.

—Baron de Montesquieu, “Of the Constitution of England,”  
Book XI, Chap. 6 in *The Spirit of Laws*


68.  **Analyzing Information** Montesquieu thought that the three powers of government should be strictly separated. Does the system of checks and balances break with his ideas? Is that break justified? Explain why you think as you do.



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—Elbridge Gerry, delegate to the Constitutional Convention; excerpt from letter to the Massachusetts legislature explaining why he did not sign the Constitution, 1787

69.  Gerry, an Anti-Federalist, opposed the Constitution. How would a Federalist respond to his criticism about the approval of treaties?

*Indicate the answer choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

70. Which element of the Constitution reflects the influence of the French philosopher Baron de Montesquieu?

- A) the amendment process
- B) the Electoral College
- C) the “necessary and proper” clause
- D) the separation of powers

71. In its original form, the Electoral College system for choosing the president specified that the electors would be selected in what way?

- A) by each state legislature
- B) by the voters of each state
- C) through national nominations
- D) through municipal elections

72. What was the original purpose of the Constitutional Convention?

- A) to draft a national bill of rights
- B) to fix the Articles of Confederation
- C) to prepare an agreement to limit excessive taxing by the states
- D) to review and ratify the constitutions of individual states

73. Which provision of the Constitution resolves conflicts between the laws of a state and laws passed by the U.S. Congress?

- A) Bill of Rights
- B) concurrent powers clause
- C) “necessary and proper” clause
- D) supremacy clause

74. A proposed amendment to the Constitution becomes law when it is ratified by

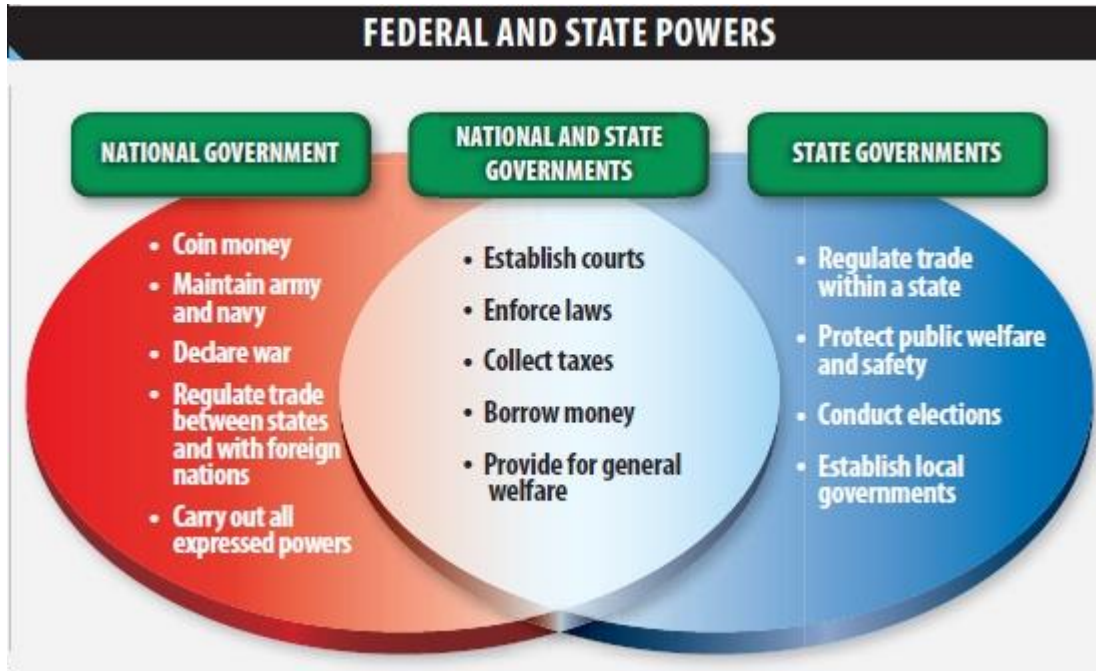
- A) a national election.
- B) the Supreme Court.
- C) three-fourths of the states.


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D) the U.S. House and Senate.


75. Bills of rights attached to the first state constitutions included ideas that could be traced to what document?

- A) Articles of Confederation
- B) New Jersey Plan
- C) Magna Carta
- D) U.S. Constitution




76.  What power is granted only to the national government?

- A) to collect taxes
- B) to declare war
- C) to enforce laws
- D) to regulate trade within a state

77.  What power is granted only to state governments?

- A) to borrow money
- B) to coin money
- C) to establish courts
- D) to establish local governments

78.  What power do the national and state governments share?

- A) to borrow money

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- B) to maintain an army
- C) to regulate trade with foreign nations
- D) to regulate trade within a state

79.  Which of the following is a reserved power?

- A) to carry out all expressed powers
- B) to conduct elections
- C) to declare war
- D) to provide for general welfare

*Indicate whether the statement is true or false.*

80. One weakness of the Articles of Confederation government is that the Congress could not regulate trade with other nations.

- A) True
- B) False

81. Since Shays's Rebellion was over local issues in Massachusetts, it had no effect on the decision to call the Constitutional Convention.

- A) True
- B) False

82. Anti-Federalists feared that the new Constitution would create a government that could be as tyrannical as the British had been.

- A) True
- B) False

83. When the Preamble states that a goal of the Constitution is to "establish Justice," it means to hire national police and build prisons.

- A) True
- B) False

84. The Constitution continued the judicial system begun under the Articles of Confederation.

- A) True
- B) False

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The Constitutional Convention



Edmund Randolph proposed the “Virginia Plan,” drafted by James Madison—a plan that recommended an entirely new form of government, including an executive, a judiciary, and a legislature composed of two houses and including a number of representatives from each state based on their population.

Opposition came from the small states, which feared domination by the more populous states in the legislature. William Paterson proposed the “New Jersey Plan,” which essentially revised the Articles of Confederation, preserving equal representation of the states. After much debate, the Convention rejected the New Jersey Plan, deciding instead to work toward an entirely new form of government.

The issue of representation in the two houses of the new national legislature became a major sticking point for the Convention. Roger Sherman was helpful in framing the “Connecticut Compromise,” a plan that suggested representation in the lower house (the House of Representatives) based on population, and equal representation in the upper house (the Senate). With this compromise, the Convention succeeded in completing a rough draft of a constitution.

—Time Line, 1787–1788,

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/continental/timeline2f.html>

85.  Why did Madison propose a new plan of government with three branches? What was he trying to achieve?
86.  Why did the smaller states fear that Madison’s plan might lead to their domination by the larger states?
87. Compare and contrast the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution in terms of how much power the state and national governments have.
88. What is the difference between a “strict” and a “loose” interpretation of the powers of Congress in the Constitution?
89. What are the principles underlying the United States Constitution? Which of these principles do you think is most important to the government created by the Constitution? Explain your answer.

***Constitution: Match each item with its description.***

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A) Article I of the Constitution   | B)                                |
| C) Article III of the Constitution | D) Article IV of the Constitution |
| E)                                 | F) Preamble                       |
| G)                                 | H) amendments                     |
| I) ratify, ratification            | J)                                |

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- 90. The Constitution has \_\_\_\_\_ amendments
- 91. Constitution to take affect after ratification of \_\_\_\_\_ states
- 92. outlines powers of the executive branch
- 93. describes structure and powers of Congress
- 94. addresses relationship between the federal and state governments
- 95. process by which an amendment is approved, to vote approval of
- 96. a change to the Constitution
- 97. the opening section of the Constitution that states the goals and purpose of government
- 98. specifies powers of the judicial branch
- 99. one of several main parts of the Constitution

*Indicate the answer choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

- 100. According to the First Amendment, the government
  - A) can leak information to the press for its own purposes.
  - B) may not censor material before it has been published.
  - C) must protect national security by any means necessary.
  - D) should prevent employees from exposing corruption.

**Directions:** Read the first five articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and then answer the questions that follow.

**Article 1.**

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed [provided] with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

**Article 2.**

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

**Article 3.**

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

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**Article 4.**

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

**Article 5.**

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

101. **Identifying** What are the basic rights listed in Articles 3, 4, and 5?

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102. How do you think freedom of speech and freedom of the press help strengthen democracy in the United States?