

Understanding the Constitution: Introduction, Chapters 4-5

The Constitution and Convention, Part 1

1. The authors credit Benjamin Franklin's speech on June 28, 1787 as what helped keep the Constitutional Convention from breaking apart. The authors also say that Franklin was a Deist. Based on the definition of a Deist (page 32), and on what Franklin said in his speech, do you think Franklin was still a Deist at the time of the Convention? Why or why not? Give your answer below in 5-7 sentences.

2. What Biblical teaching is the guiding principle behind the checks and balances in the Constitution?

3. To which branch of the federal government has the Constitution given the exclusive responsibility to make laws?

4. Define and give an example of an enumerated power of Congress.

5. What are the two qualifications to be a U.S. Representative in Congress?

6. "The House of Representatives and the Senate have the exact same powers." Describe why this statement is true or false.

7. The Constitution requires that an act of Congress passed for the "general welfare" must be effective for the whole country. However, as the authors point out, some legislation involves only local projects that have been determined to be good for the overall general welfare of the United States. What is the popular name for this type of legislation and what is an example of it?

8. What is the basic constitutional duty of the President of the United States?

9. The President of the United States is elected by:

- a) The popular vote of the people of the United States
- b) The House of Representatives
- c) A group made up of people chosen by each state called the Electoral College

10. Most of the Founding Fathers believed that the Supreme Court would be the weakest branch (with the least power) of the federal government. Based on what you know about the Supreme Court today, describe whether you think the Founding Fathers were correct in their belief. Is the Supreme Court the weakest branch of the federal government? Answer in 5-7 sentences.