Government Study Guide Test Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The **ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION** was the first constitution for the national government.   
It did not provide for an army, a president, or a way for collecting taxes.

2. The **WEAKNESSES** of the national government and the Articles of Confederation was highlighted by the events of Shay’s Rebellion.

3. Under the federal system the **NATIONAL** and **STATE** governments had to share the power to govern.

4. The **CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION** was held in Philadelphia to come up with a way to fix the Articles of Confederation which was too weak and left the National government powerless. At the convention they debated how **CONGRESS** would be set up. The delegates at the Constitutional Convention tried to resolve how representation in Congress should be divided among the states. Small states and large states had different ideas on how they thought it should be set up. Only men attended, no women were allowed. **GOUVERNEUR MORRIS** wrote the Preamble to the Constitution at the Constitutional Convention.

5. **NEW JERSEY PLAN:** this idea gave smaller states more power, it said that each state should get the **SAME** number of votes or representatives no matter how small or large the population

6. **VIRGINIA PLAN:** this idea gave larger states more power, it said that each state’s representatives and votes should be based on **NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT** live in that state. The more people a state had the more representatives that state should send to congress to vote.

7. **THE GREAT COMPROMISE:** This plan was incorporated into the new Constitution. The writers of the constitution compromised and took the New Jersey Plan and the Virginia Plan and combined them. Congress would have two groups. One group called the **SENATE** was based on the New Jersey Plan. Each state would have two senators. The other group, the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,** would be based on the Virginia Plan. Each state would send representatives based on how many people live in that state. Larger states would have more representatives than smaller states in this group.

8. They discussed **SLAVERY** at the constitutional convention but nothing was accomplished or decided.

9. Do not need to know for test

10. Soon after the Constitution was ratified many delegates insisted on adding **BILL OF RIGHTS (FIRET 10 AMENDMENTS)** to it to protect the basic rights of the people.

11. The writers of the Constitution added **CHECKS AND BALANCES** to the federal government to prevent any one branch from controlling the government.

12. **GEORGE WASHINGTON** served 8 years as our first president.

13. Do not need to know for test

14. **PREAMBLE:** The introduction to the Constitution We the people…

15. **AMENDMENTS:** changes that are added to the Constitution. The writers of the Constitution protected it by making it possible to change.

16. **BILL OF RIGHTS:** The first 10 amendments to the Constitution. The Bill of Rights was not in place at the end of the Constitutional Convention, but was added later.

17. Do not need to know for the test

18. Three Branches of Government

1. **EXECUTIVE:** carries out or enforces the laws, and has the power to veto bills. The head of this branch is the **PRESIDENT.**
2. **LEGISLATIVE:** Called: **CONGRESS.** The Congress is divided into two parts: The **SENATE** and the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.** The **LEGISLATIVE** Branch has the power to approve the appointments of the Supreme Court Justices, it also makes all national laws, and it has the power to impeach the president.

1. **JUDICIAL:** decides the meaning of the laws and decides whether laws follow the Constitution. This highest court is made up of nine Justices called the **SUPREME COURT**

19. Do not need to know for test

20. What does Ratify mean? **TO APPROVE**

Short Answer Questions on the Test

21. What was the original purpose of the Constitutional Convention of 1787? **THEY MET TO FIX THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION**

22. What agreement did the delegates at the Constitutional Convention finally reach under the Great Compromise? **THAT CONGRESS WOULD BE SPLIT INTO TWO HOUSES. ONE BASED ON POPULATION (HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES) AND ONE WHERE EACH STATE HAS EQUAL REPRESENTATION (SENATE).**

23. What does it mean the United States of America is a republic? **THE U.S. IS A REPUBLICE BECAUSE IT HAS A FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN WHICH THE PEOPLE ELECT THE REPRESENTATIVES WHO GOVERN THE COUNTRY.**

24. What were three weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation? **1. THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE THE POWER TO COLLECT TAXES. 1. CONGRESS COULD NOT ENFORCE LAWS. 3. CONGRESS DID NOT HAVE AN ARMY, AND HAD TO ASK THE STATES TO PROVIDE SOLDIERS.**

25. What are checks and balances and why are they important? **CHECKS AND BALANCES KEEP ANY ONE BRANCH FROM GETTING TOO MUCH POWER. THIS PREVENTS ANY BRANCH FROM MISUSING ITS AUTHORIT IN A WAY THAT MIGHT HARM THE GOVERNMENT OR PEOPLE. EACH BRANCH IS ENCOURAGED TO MAKE THOUGHTFUL DECISIONS BECAUSE ITS POWERS ARE CHECKED BY OTHER BRANCHES.**