

HISTORICAL EXPERTS INTERVIEWED

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PRACTICE TEST

The following items will help you evaluate your understanding of this lesson. Use the Answer Key at the end of the lesson to check your answers or to locate material related to each question.

Multiple choice: Choose the BEST answer.

1. At Newburgh, New York, in 1783, disgruntled army officers _____.
 - A. discussed threatening Congress if their demands were not met
 - B. advocated removing George Washington from his commander-in-chief position
 - C. established a military academy later relocated to West Point
 - D. refused to support ongoing treaty negotiations with the British
2. The weaknesses of Congress under the Articles of Confederation included its lack of _____.
 - A. an executive or judicial branch or the power to levy taxes
 - B. ability to get money to finance the war
 - C. a way to amend the Articles, if that should be needed
 - D. ability to conduct foreign relations
3. The states were reluctant to include "equality language" in their bills of rights and constitutions because _____.
 - A. they were afraid that the words could be construed to apply to slaves
 - B. slaves might sue in court to gain their freedom
 - C. women might think they were equal to men and want the vote
 - D. children as young as twelve might think they could vote
4. Shays's Rebellion of 1786 was the result of _____.
 - A. debt-strapped merchants in Boston
 - B. increased taxes and foreclosures on farms in Massachusetts
 - C. commercial and eastern creditors' harsh payment terms
 - D. Samuel Adams inciting farmers in Massachusetts
5. In the video, Professor Mel Yazawa offers the view that the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention were kept secret so that members could _____.
 - A. speak without fear of retribution
 - B. cover up their true feelings
 - C. more easily skip the meetings
 - D. escape the scrutiny of the media

6. When the Constitution was drafted, slavery _____.
 - A. was not named, but its existence was recognized and guaranteed
 - B. was the most hotly debated issue
 - C. was euphemistically outlawed
 - D. was explicitly named as being a landowner's liberty
7. Before the Constitution could go into effect it had to be ratified by _____.
 - A. state legislatures of twelve states
 - B. a simple majority of the states
 - C. all thirteen states
 - D. ratifying conventions in nine states
8. To persuade the powerful state of Virginia to ratify the Constitution, Federalists promised that _____.
 - A. George Washington would become the first president
 - B. a Bill of Rights would be added to the Constitution
 - C. the national debt would be funded at face value
 - D. the national capital would be in Virginia
9. In the video, Professor Rakove observes that James Madison believed that a bill of rights would become effective when _____.
 - A. people internalized the principles enunciated
 - B. the Supreme Court was able to clarify the meaning
 - C. states were bound by the same principles
 - D. the president enforced the law

Short Answer: Your answers should be one or two paragraphs long and specifically address the points indicated.

10. Why was the decade of the 1780s a "critical period" for the United States?
11. What features of the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 had long-term significance in the shaping of America?
12. Why is James Madison called the "Father of the Constitution"?
13. Why is it difficult to determine the "original meanings" of the Constitution? In what ways do we know more about what the Constitution means than the people who wrote the document?