Before you read

Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.

Learning Target: Describe a constitutional republic.

AP® Key Concepts

| political institutions | constitutional republic |

While you read

Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.

| U.S. Constitution | Constitutional republic |
After you read
Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.

1. Totalitarian states and authoritarian states are similar in that both:
   A. allow for some dissent from social institutions not under government control.
   B. seek to suppress their citizens' voices to maintain a grip on power.
   C. give the government unlimited authority without any restraint.
   D. allow the people to choose their representatives.

2. The structures of government, including the executive, legislature, and judiciary are known as

3. Why is the assertion of popular sovereignty placed where it is in the Constitution?
   A. to win support for the document among skeptics
   B. to assert its primacy over all branches of government
   C. to place it rhetorically underneath the presidency
   D. to remind people that the courts are more important than the people

4. In a constitutional republic, _____ make most of the laws and policies of the nation.
   A. the president and his/her council
   B. the people directly
   C. elected representatives
   D. justices of the court system

5. Michelle is a resident of Alabama. She wants to sue for her civil rights but wants to do so in a way that will be hardest to overturn and will be applicable nationwide. She should base her legal argument on principles found in:
   A. U.S. federal law.
   B. Alabama's constitution.
   C. Alabama law.
   D. the U.S. Constitution.