

American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course

Guided Reading

Section 2.2: The Constitutional Convention

Name _____
Date _____ Class _____

 **Before you read**

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

Learning Target: Describe how the Constitution was shaped by negotiation and compromise.

AP® Key Concepts

Constitutional Convention
writ of habeas corpus
bills of attainder
ex post facto laws
Virginia Plan
New Jersey Plan

bicameral
Grand Committee
Great (Connecticut) Compromise
Three-Fifths Compromise
Compromise on Importation

 **While you read**

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

Compromises	How compromise shaped the Constitution	How compromise impacts political conversation today

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 **After you read**

Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.

1. Which statement BEST describes the Constitutional Convention?
 - A. A meeting held to establish a completely new form of government.
 - B. A meeting held to discuss trade and navigation issues.
 - C. A meeting held to fix the Articles of Confederation.
 - D. A meeting held to decide who the president should be.

2. Who would have been MOST likely to attend the Constitutional Convention?
 - A. a wealthy, well-educated, white man
 - B. a well-educated white woman
 - C. a slave with no education
 - D. a poor, white farmer with no education

3. How did the founding fathers treat the topic of slavery during the Constitutional Convention?
 - A. as a practice that would help overseas trade
 - B. as a question of representation in states
 - C. as a practice to be outlawed under the new government
 - D. as a moral issue, most found it deeply immoral

4. Which statement BEST defines the writ of habeas corpus?
 - A. The right of someone being detained to have a lawyer present during all questioning.
 - B. The right of someone imprisoned to have a jury of their peers in court.
 - C. The right of someone being arrested to know the date of their court appearance.
 - D. The right of someone being detained by the government to know the charges against them.

5. If the legislature declares a person guilty of a crime without a trial, they are:
 - A. suspending the writ of habeas corpus.
 - B. passing a bill of attainder.
 - C. establishing an ex post facto law.
 - D. violating Article VI.

6. Which scenario BEST shows an ex post facto law in effect?
 - A. One month ago, Abigail performed an action that was not a crime then, but is now being punished for that action since it is now illegal.
 - B. Carlos has been detained by the government for three months without knowing what he is being charged for and wants to find out.
 - C. Martha was detained and the legislature immediately declared her guilty of multiple crimes without a trial.
 - D. One year ago, Timothy committed a crime and is now being detained by law enforcement and has a date for a trial in the coming months.

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7. Large states worried that they would be _____ in a legislature with equal representation.
8. A unicameral legislature where each state receives one vote and the legislature is afforded new powers are characteristics of:
- A. the Constitution.
 - B. the New Jersey Plan.
 - C. the Virginia Plan.
 - D. the Constitutional Convention.
9. The Great Compromise established a two-chamber legislature, making it:
- A. unicameral.
 - B. bicameral.
 - C. the Senate.
 - D. the House of Representatives.
10. According to the Great Compromise, how were states to be represented?
- A. equally in the House of Representatives, proportionately in the Senate
 - B. equally in the Senate, proportionately in the House of Representatives
 - C. equally in both the House of Representatives and the Senate
 - D. proportionately in both the House of Representatives and the Senate
11. Which statement BEST summarizes the powers given to the legislature under the Great Compromise?
- A. Additional powers over commerce, lawmaking, and taxation.
 - B. Fewer powers than those afforded by the Articles of Confederation.
 - C. Additional powers over lawmaking, including over state laws.
 - D. Similar powers to those under the Articles of Confederation, but with taxation power.
12. Which statement BEST describes the feelings of those delegates who opposed slavery?
- A. They saw it as a necessary evil to the economic success of the country.
 - B. They believed slavery was an immoral institution but did not say anything during the convention.
 - C. They thought it was hypocritical to allow slavery while drafting a government based on liberty.
 - D. They believed slaves should be acknowledged in the document with certain, limited rights.
13. The Three-Fifths Compromise is BEST described as:
- A. an agreement that allows only three-fifths of the votes cast by slaves to be considered in an election.
 - B. an agreement that gives states where slaves are more than three-fifths of the population an extra seat in the Senate.
 - C. an agreement that states that only three-fifths of the slaves in each state can vote in an election.
 - D. an agreement that states that slaves count as three-fifths of a person for representative purposes.
14. Which agreement states that the slave trade cannot be restricted until 1808 at the earliest?

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- A. the Three-Fifths Compromise
- B. the Compromise on Importation
- C. the Virginia Plan
- D. the New Jersey Plan

15. How long did the compromises on slavery last?

- A. twenty years
- B. fifteen years
- C. thirty years
- D. eighty years

16. According to an essay James Madison wrote regarding slavery, how should slaves be considered?

- A. as property
- B. as people
- C. as both people and property
- D. as animals