
UNIT ONE QUESTIONS

1. Upon which of the following principles of human nature did Thomas Hobbes and John Locke most likely AGREE?
 - (A) Life in the state of nature is “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.”
 - (B) All people are born with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and property.
 - (C) The most important basis of government is the social contract.
 - (D) People are incapable of self rule, and must rely on the judgment of monarchs.
 - (E) Humans are basically self-centered, and governments must be based on the realities of human nature.

(Questions 2 and 3 are based on the following quote:)

“But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government . . .”

2. The quote is from
 - (A) The Declaration of Independence
 - (B) the Constitution
 - (C) the Federalist Papers
 - (D) *Common Sense*
 - (E) *The Leviathan*
3. The quote reflects most accurately which principle of government?
 - (A) the self interest of humans
 - (B) federalism
 - (C) the social contract
 - (D) separation of powers
 - (E) states rights
4. All of the following were characteristic of the American government under the Articles of Confederation EXCEPT:
 - (A) The central government consisted of a Congress in which each state was represented equally.
 - (B) No executive or judiciary branches were created.
 - (C) The central government could not regulate commerce between states.
 - (D) The central government could not levy taxes.
 - (E) The Articles could be amended by a vote of 10 of the 13 states.

5. Which of the following BEST captures the majority opinion of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention regarding the franchise?
- (A) All adults should have the right to vote.
 - (B) All white male property owners should have the right to vote.
 - (C) All government officials should be selected by direct democratic vote.
 - (D) No government officials should be selected by direct democratic vote.
 - (E) All white males and females should have the right to vote.
6. Which of the following most accurately describes the legislature created by the Connecticut Compromise?
- (A) a unicameral legislature selected by popular vote
 - (B) a bicameral legislature, with the upper house selected by the lower,
 - (C) an upper house appointed by the state legislatures and a lower house selected by popular vote
 - (D) an bicameral legislature, with both houses selected by popular vote
 - (E) a unicameral legislature selected by the state legislatures
7. The Constitution created the electoral college to select
- (A) all major political leaders
 - (B) members of the legislature only
 - (C) Senators and the president
 - (D) the president and the vice president
 - (E) the president only
8. If “factious leaders . . . kindle a flame within their particular states . . .” [leaders can check the spread of the] ?conflagration through the other states.” The above quotes from the Federalist #10 best support the
- (A) states rights point of view
 - (B) concern for protecting individual rights
 - (C) argument for a centralized government
 - (D) principles of federalism and separation of powers
 - (E) separation of the colonies from England
9. A unitary political system is one in which power is
- (A) concentrated in one person, usually a dictator
 - (B) spread equally among subunits
 - (C) concentrated in one geographic area
 - (D) in the hands of a prime minister who leads the majority party in Parliament
 - (E) centered in the hands of those who control the economy

10. At which of the following times was the U.S. political system almost completely the opposite from the British system in terms of distribution of power?
- (A) during the American Revolution, under the Articles of Confederation (1776–1787)
 - (B) during the Early Republic, under the newly created Constitution (1789–1800)
 - (C) during the Civil War, when power was more concentrated in the presidency (1861–1865)
 - (D) during the Industrial Revolution, when political power was held by entrepreneurs (1865–1900)
 - (E) during the 1920s, when weak presidents allowed Congress to control policy making
11. Which of the following is a concurrent power?
- (A) declaration of war
 - (B) regulation of interstate commerce
 - (C) taxation
 - (D) setting the rules of naturalization
 - (E) coining of money

(Questions 12 and 13 are based on the following quote):

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.”

12. In terms of the “necessary and proper” debate the tenth amendment quoted above best represents the point of view of
- (A) Alexander Hamilton
 - (B) Thomas Jefferson
 - (C) George Washington
 - (D) John Adams
 - (E) Benjamin Franklin
13. The principle of the tenth amendment was strongly defended in the pre-Civil War period by
- (A) Alexander Hamilton
 - (B) 131 James Buchanan
 - (C) John C. Calhoun
 - (D) Abraham Lincoln
 - (E) Stephen Douglas

14. Which of the following would be LEAST likely to support consolidation of federal categorical grants into a large block grant?
- (A) a governor of a small, less populated state, who wants agricultural grants
 - (B) a governor of a large, more populated state who needs money for urban renewal
 - (C) a Democratic president that shares power with a Republican Congress
 - (D) a liberal senator who supports civil rights legislation
 - (E) a representative who wants to take credit for getting federal money for his/her district
15. Until 1997, which of the following controls allowed the federal government to require compliance of states to federal guidelines WITHOUT providing federal money?
- (A) conditions of aid
 - (B) nullification
 - (C) mandates
 - (D) dual federalism
 - (E) cross over sanctions

ANSWERS TO UNIT ONE QUESTIONS

1. **E**—Hobbes, but not Locke, described life in the state of nature as “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.” Locke, but not Hobbes, believed in unalienable rights and the social contract. Hobbes, but not Locke, concluded that people are incapable of self rule. Both men agreed on the self-interested nature of man and the need to based governments upon that reality, although they supported different forms of government based on that self-interest.
2. **A**—The quote is from the introductory paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, in which Thomas Jefferson provided the philosophical reasons for why the Continental Congress was justified in declaring independence from Great Britain.
3. **C**—The quote reflects John Locke’s social contract—the agreement between those who govern and the people they rule. According to Locke, the people always have the right, even the duty to overthrow an unjust government. If a ruler does not respect the natural rights of life, liberty, and property, he has broken the social contract, and the government is not legitimate.
4. **E**—The government under the Articles of Confederation was a reaction to the unitary government of Great Britain, where power was centralized in London. Power was jealously protected by the states because they were trying to avoid at all costs the control of a monarch. No executive or judiciary branches were created, and all power was given to a Congress that represented the thirteen states. The central government had few powers—it could not levy taxes or regulated commerce. No provision was made for amendments of any kind, certainly not one that allowed only 10 states to make decisions for the entire 13.
5. **B**—A majority of the founders were willing to allow citizens the right to vote for one house of the legislature, the lower house whose passions would be monitored by the Senate and the other branches. However, they were cautious about allowing everyone to vote, even though one founder, Benjamin Franklin, did argue for universal manhood suffrage. They left the decision up to the states, who put in place varying property requirements for voting privileges. Voting rights for Black Americans and women did not come until much later.

6. **C**—The government was carefully constructed to balance government control with democratic participation. The resulting legislature had one popularly elected body (the House of Representatives) and one body whose members were selected by the state legislatures (the Senate). The power was divided in several ways: the people, the national legislators, and the state legislators.
7. **D**—The electoral college was a compromise selection process for the president and vice president. Some founders suggested that the president and vice-president be selected by the legislative bodies, and some even believed they should be popularly elected. No one could agree until the proposal was made that an independent group of people appointed by the state legislatures should make the selection. The founders agreed, thinking that they were dividing power further (and thus avoiding control by a small group) without giving the decision to the unpredictable masses.
8. **D**—The Federalist #10 argued that federalism and separation of powers check the danger of factions (and factious leaders) taking over the government. If a leader took control in one state, federalism provides other state leaders who would be able to quell the power of the faction before it took over everything. Likewise, separation of powers gives more power points that a leader would have to capture before he could become a dictator.
9. **C**—By definition, a unitary government is one in which power is centered in one geographic area. Unitary governments do not have strongly independent subunits (such as state governments), but decisions are not necessarily made by one person or group in an authoritarian way. Although dictatorships by their nature are unitary, a government may be geographically centered in one place, (and thus unitary) but also be a democracy.
10. **A**—During the American Revolution, power was retained by the states, whose legislatures were spread out all over the country. The arrangement was a confederation, a loose alliance among equal units of government with a weak central government. Great Britain, in contrast, has a unitary system of government, in which the central government holds political power, and subunits (regional and local governments) primarily carry out instructions from London.
11. **C**—A concurrent power is shared by both national and state governments. According to Constitutional provisions, both may tax, thus taxation is a concurrent power. Only, the national government may declare war, set the rules of naturalization, regulate interstate commerce, and coin money.

12. **B**—The quote is the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution, representing the states right point of view. During George Washington’s presidency, Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State, defended states rights against Alexander Hamilton, the Secretary of the Treasury, who argued for a strong central government. Although not quite as adamant as Hamilton, both George Washington and John Adams believed in the virtues of a strong government to curb the powers of the states. Benjamin Franklin probably falls a little closer in the power balance to states rights, but he did not advocate states rights to the same degree that Jefferson did.
13. **C**—The Tenth Amendment states that “powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.” In the pre-civil war era the states rights point of view emerged as the issue of nullification, the state’s right to declare national laws “null and void” within the state’s boundaries. The most prominent spokesperson for nullification in the pre-civil war era was John C. Calhoun from South Carolina, one-time vice president of the United States, who consistently argued for states rights, especially for the South.
14. **E**—Although some of the other choices might not support block grants consistently, a representative who wants credit for getting federal grant money for his/her district would want the money to identify specific areas that received the money. If his/her area was granted money, the people could be convinced that their Congressperson was responsible.
15. **C**—Mandates, or orders to states and local areas from the federal government, could require states to comply with federal regulations/laws without providing funds to facilitate the compliance. States complained loudly, since some of the mandates required them to incur heavy expenses. In 1997, Congress passed legislation requiring the government to provide monetary support for its mandates.