

The Articles of Confederation & the Constitution Questions

Defining the Union

1. What does the phrase “firm league of friendship” suggest to you about the relationship that states in the union will have with one another under the Articles of Confederation?
2. Which document seems to emphasize the individual power of states? Cite textual evidence to support your answer.
3. Which document seems to emphasize a unified national identity? Cite textual evidence to support your answer.

Structures of Congress

4. How is the structure of Congress different under the Articles of Confederation & the Constitution?
5. What are the advantages of a bicameral [two houses/governing bodies] structure of Congress proposed by the Constitution as opposed to the unicameral [one house/governing body] structure proposed by the Articles of Confederation?

Executive & Judicial Brances

6. According to line 1 of article II section I, what power does the Constitution grant the President? What does this imply to you or tell you about his role in government?

7. The Articles of Confederation does not specify or establish an executive branch (the president) - instead the same powers listed in Article II of the Constitution are almost all granted to Congress (made up of representatives of the states), including command of the army & the power to make treaties. What does that suggest the Articles of Confederation values: state's rights or federal power? Why?

8. According to Article III of the Constitution, where does the judicial power of the United States lie?

9. The Articles of Confederation does not specify or establish a judicial branch (courts) - instead the states each establish and maintain their own courts, individually. What are the advantages of having one supreme court, as we now have, instead of having each state have its own court / legal system?

Taxes

10. What is different about the system for collecting taxes under the Articles of Confederation as compared to the Constitution?

11. Which system for tax collection suggests that all states are equally important to the union? Cite textual evidence to support your claim.

12. Which system for tax collection supports the idea that some states are worth more than other states?

Amendments

13. According to the Article of Confederation, how many states have to agree to any changes or amendments made? Would this make it easier or more difficult to make changes?

14. Which process for Amendments is more flexible? How many votes must be cast to make a change?