

# American Government Worksheet

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## Part 1: Building a Foundation

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### Which document serves as the supreme law of the United States?

*Hint: Consider the foundational legal document of the country.*

- The Declaration of Independence
- The Articles of Confederation
- The Constitution
- The Bill of Rights

### Which of the following are principles of the U.S. Constitution? (Select all that apply)

*Hint: Think about the core ideas that guide the Constitution.*

- Federalism
- Monarchy
- Checks and Balances
- Absolute Power

### Explain the concept of 'separation of powers' and why it is important in the American government system.

*Hint: Consider how power is distributed among branches.*

**List the three branches of the U.S. government and provide one primary function of each.**

*Hint: Think about the roles each branch plays.*

1. Legislative Branch

2. Executive Branch

3. Judicial Branch

## Part 2: Understanding and Interpretation

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**What is the primary role of the legislative branch of the U.S. government?**

*Hint: Consider what this branch is responsible for.*

- To interpret laws
- To enforce laws
- To make laws
- To veto laws

**Which amendments are part of the Bill of Rights? (Select all that apply)**

*Hint: Think about the first ten amendments to the Constitution.*

- 1st Amendment
- 5th Amendment
- 14th Amendment
- 19th Amendment

**Describe how the system of checks and balances works among the three branches of government.**

*Hint: Consider how each branch can limit the powers of the others.*

### Part 3: Application and Analysis

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**If a new law is challenged in court, which branch of government is responsible for determining its constitutionality?**

*Hint: Think about which branch interprets laws.*

- Legislative
- Executive
- Judicial
- State

**In which scenarios would federalism be evident in the U.S.? (Select all that apply)**

*Hint: Consider the division of powers between state and federal governments.*

- State governments setting their own education policies
- The federal government negotiating treaties
- Local governments issuing marriage licenses
- The President appoints Supreme Court justices

**Provide an example of how a recent federal policy has impacted state governments, and explain the interaction between federal and state powers.**

*Hint: Think about recent legislation or policies.*

**Which of the following best illustrates the concept of checks and balances?**

*Hint: Consider actions taken by different branches of government.*

- The President vetoes a bill passed by Congress
- Congress declaring war
- The Supreme Court interpreting a law
- The Senate confirming a Supreme Court nominee

**Analyze the impact of the 14th Amendment on civil rights. Which of the following are true? (Select all that apply)**

*Hint: Think about the rights granted by the 14th Amendment.*

- It granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the U.S.
- It abolished slavery
- It provided equal protection under the law
- It established the income tax

**Discuss the relationship between the federal government and state governments in the context of education policy. How do they interact and influence each other?**

*Hint: Consider the roles of both levels of government in education.*

## Part 4: Evaluation and Creation

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**Which of the following scenarios best demonstrates the principle of popular sovereignty?**

*Hint: Think about how citizens participate in government.*

- Citizens voting in a national election
- The President appoints a cabinet member
- Congress passing a new law

- The Supreme Court ruling on a case

**Evaluate the effectiveness of the Electoral College system. Which of the following are criticisms of the system? (Select all that apply)**

*Hint: Consider the arguments against the Electoral College.*

- It can result in a President who did not win the popular vote
- It ensures all states have a voice in elections
- It over-represent smaller states
- It simplifies the election process

**Propose a change to the current system of checks and balances that could improve government efficiency. Justify your proposal with examples.**

*Hint: Think about how the system could be streamlined.*