

## **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.   |
| <ul><li>○ The Declaration of Independence</li><li>○ The Articles of Confederation</li></ul>              |
| <ul><li>○ The Constitution</li><li>○ The Bill of Rights</li></ul>  |
| 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.  |
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## 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   |  |
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| 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  |  |
| <ul><li>○ To make laws</li><li>○ To veto laws</li></ul>                    |  |
| O 10 voto idwo   |  |
| 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.

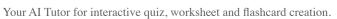
Hint: Consider how each branch can limit the powers of the others.



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| Dowl O. Application and Applysic  |
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| Part 3: Application and Analysis  |
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| f a new law is challenged in court, which branch of government is responsible for determining its constitutionality?  |
| Hint: Think about which branch interprets laws.   |
| Comparison |
| Executive   |
| ◯ Judicial  |
| ○ State   |
|   |
| n 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 nteraction between federal and state powers.  |
| Hint: Think about recent legislation or policies.   |
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| which of the following best illustrates the concept of checks and balances?   |
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| 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.   |
| <ul><li>It granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the U.S.</li><li>It abolished slavery</li></ul>  |
| ☐ 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. |
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|   |
| Part 4: Evaluation and Creation   |
| 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  |
|   |



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| Evaluate the effectiveness of the Electoral College system. Which of the following are criticism the system? (Select all that apply)   | s of |
|--|------|
| 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 governme efficiency. Justify your proposal with examples.   | nt   |
|  |      |
| Hint: Think about how the system could be streamlined.   |      |