

**BENCHMARK SS.7.C.1.5**

<b>Strand</b>	C Civics and Government
<b>Reporting Category</b>	Origins and Purposes of Law and Government
<b>Standard</b>	Demonstrate an understanding of the origins and purposes of government, law, and the American political system.
<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>SS.7.C.1.5 Identify how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to the writing of the Constitution.</b>
<b>Benchmark Clarification</b>	Students will identify the weaknesses of the government under the Articles of Confederation (i.e., Congress had no power to tax, to regulate trade, or to enforce its laws; the national government lacked a national court system [judicial branch] and central leadership [executive branch]; and changes to the Articles required unanimous consent of the 13 states).
<b>Content Limit</b>	Items should focus on the significance of the context of the document, but should not require students to recall passages from the document.
<b>Stimulus Attribute</b>	Items addressing the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation may use historical and contemporary documents and other relevant stimuli (e.g., maps, timelines, charts, graphs, tables).
<b>Content Focus</b>	These terms are given in addition to those found in the standards, benchmarks, and benchmark clarifications. Additional items may include, but are not limited to, the following: Shays’s Rebellion, debt, and Constitutional Convention.

**Sample Item 5**                      **SS.7.C.1.5**                      **Content Focus**      Articles of Confederation

How did the U.S. Constitution solve a problem created by the Articles of Confederation?

- A. It avoided the issue of states’ rights.
- B. It allowed the states to elect representatives.
- C. It prevented the amendment of federal laws.
- ★ D. It enabled the federal government to collect taxes.