

SS.7.C.1.6 Low Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	Which part of the U.S. Constitution states the six purposes of government?	The correct response will identify where one would locate the six purposes of government as outlined in the U.S. Constitution.
A	Bill of Rights	Incorrect – The Bill of Rights lists the rights of the people.
B	Article IV	Incorrect – Article IV of the U.S. Constitution focuses on the duties and responsibilities of the states.
C	Preamble	Correct – The Preamble states the six purposes of government: to form a more perfect union; establish justice; insure domestic tranquility; provide for the common defense; promote the general welfare; secure the blessings of liberty now and in the future.
D	Article I	Incorrect – Article I of the U.S. Constitution focuses on the structure and powers of the legislative branch of the federal government.

SS.7.C.1.6 Moderate Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	In the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, what is the meaning of the phrase “We the People”?	Interpret the phrase “We the People.” Choose the statement that best summarizes the meaning of “We the People” in the context of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution.
A	The people express their will through political parties.	Incorrect – The Preamble does not address political parties. There is no support for this statement in the phrase.
B	The people express their will by directly creating laws.	Incorrect – This statement describes a direct democracy, where people directly create all laws. The U.S. Constitution does not establish a direct democracy; it establishes a republic, or representative democracy, where the people elect representatives who create laws.
C	Government receives taxes from the people and exists to support them.	Incorrect – The phrase “We the People” does not imply that the government has the power to collect taxes.
D	Government receives its power from the people and exists to serve them.	Correct – “We the People” is a reference to popular sovereignty, which means that the government exists because the people consent to its establishment. The U.S. government was created by the people and exists to serve the people’s needs.



SS.7.C.1.6 High Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	<p>The statement below is from a historical document.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>We the People of the United States... do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.</p> </div> <p>Source: Library of Congress</p> <p>How is this statement reflected in the modern American political system?</p>	<p>The statement is part of the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution.</p> <p>The correct response will identify how today's political system follows the purposes of government found in the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution.</p>
A	Voters elect Congress members.	<p>Correct – The U.S. Constitution as it was written allowed voters to elect members of the U.S. House of Representatives while the U.S. Senators were to be elected by state legislatures. The 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1913, now provides for voters to elect both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate which are, together, the Congress.</p>
B	The Electoral College elects Congress.	<p>Incorrect – The Electoral College only elects the president and vice-president. The people do not directly elect the president.</p>
C	Congress enforces policies.	<p>Incorrect – The statement speaks to the people's power in establishing the Constitution. This option is also incorrect because the executive branch enforces policies, not the legislative branch.</p>
D	The president enacts policies.	<p>Incorrect – The statement speaks to the people's power in establishing the Constitution. This option is also incorrect because the legislative branch enacts policies, not the executive branch.</p>

