

SS.7.C.1.9 Low Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

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| Question | Which principle is included in the U.S. Constitution? | Identify one of the principles included in the U.S. Constitution. |
| A | rule of law | Correct – The rule of law is one of the core organizing principles of the U.S. Constitution. |
| B | right to trial | Incorrect – The right to trial is protected by the Sixth Amendment of the Bill of Rights. |
| C | capitalism | Incorrect – Capitalism is an economic system and is not mentioned in the U.S. Constitution. |
| D | confederalism | Incorrect – The U.S. Constitution was created to replace the Articles of Confederation which was a confederal system of government. |



SS.7.C.1.9 Moderate Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

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| Question | Which statement describes an impact of the rule of law? | Describe one of the influences of the rule of law. The correct response should reflect the government’s responsibility to follow the laws it passes. |
| A | state of nature | Incorrect – The rule of law develops from a state of nature in the creation of civil governments. |
| B | checks and balances | Incorrect – Checks and balances is established by the Constitution; the Constitution is organized around the rule of law. |
| C | separation of powers | Incorrect – Separation of powers is established by the Constitution; the Constitution is organized around the rule of law. |
| D | transparency of institutions | Correct – The U.S. Constitution is organized around the rule of law; a government organized around the rule of law will include transparent (open) institutions. |

SS.7.C.1.9 High Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

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| Question | Which characteristic serves as a long-term protection against tyranny and is a foundation of liberty in the United States? | <p>Predict the long-term consequences of a specific government characteristic.</p> <p>The correct answer should represent a principle that guards against tyranny and forms the basis of freedom in the United States.</p> |
| A | the commerce clause | Incorrect – The commerce clause allows Congress to regulate business between different states and with foreign nations. The commerce clause does not fulfill the long term protections identified in the question stem. |
| B | the elastic clause | Incorrect – The elastic clause allows Congress to enact all laws that are “necessary and proper” for carrying out their enumerated powers. The elastic clause does not fulfill the long term protections identified in the question stem. |
| C | the right to trial | Incorrect – The right to a trial is an individual right that is usually present in a society that respects the rule of law. The right to trial on its own is not enough to protect against tyranny in the long-term or form the foundation of liberty in the United States. |
| D | the rule of law | Correct – The rule of law is the constitutional principle that holds everyone accountable under the law including those people who make and enforce laws. In a tyranny, rulers can create any laws that they want which is a form of tyranny and threatens liberty. |

