

## Key Principles in the U.S. Constitution-Sample Answers

*Directions: Using the text of the U.S. Constitution (including amendments), record evidence/examples of how the Constitution and government of the United States reflects and upholds these principles.*

Principle	What It Means	What It Looks Like
<b>checks and balances</b>	a principle of government that allows each branch of government to limit the power of the other branches	House of Representatives has the sole power of impeachment while the Senate tries impeachments; the presidential veto; Congressional veto override (Article I); judicial review (Article III)
<b>consent of the governed</b>	the idea that government gains its power/authority from the people	From the Preamble: <i>"We the People of the United States, ... do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."</i>  Representatives and (after the Seventeenth Amendment) Senators chosen by the people of the states
<b>democracy</b>	a form of government in which political power is held by the people; can be direct (each individual person makes decisions) or indirect (people elect representatives to make decisions)	Representative democracy set up in the form of Congress in Article I  Fifteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments expansion of voting rights to African Americans, women, and those at least eighteen years old  Seventeenth Amendment provides for the direct election of Senators
<b>due process of law</b>	the right of people accused of crimes to have laws that treat them fairly, so that they cannot lose their life or freedom without having their legal rights protected	Fifth Amendment: <i>"No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, ...nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against</i>

		<p><i>himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; .... ”</i></p> <p>Sixth Amendment right to a fair, speedy trial by a jury of one’s peers, right to representation, et al.</p> <p>Seventh Amendment right to a jury in civil trials</p> <p>Eighth Amendment protection against cruel and unusual punishment</p>
<b>federalism</b>	a system of government in which power is divided and shared between national, state, and local governments	<p>Article IV</p> <p>Tenth Amendment reserves powers not enumerated to the states</p>
<b>individual rights</b>	rights guaranteed or belonging to a person	Amendments 1-9 of the Bill of Rights
<b>limited government</b>	a government that has been limited in power, such as by a constitution, or written agreement	<p>From the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution: <i>“We the People of the United States, ... do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”</i></p> <p>Article VI, Clause 3: <i>“The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution”</i></p>

<b>representative government</b>	a type of government that allows people to vote and elect government officials to represent their beliefs and make decisions on their behalf	<p>Representatives and (after the Seventeenth Amendment) Senators chosen by the people of the states;</p> <p>Reapportionment of House seats every 10 years based on the Census.</p> <p>Fifteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments expansion of voting rights to African Americans, women, and those at least eighteen years old</p> <p>Twenty-Fourth Amendment's elimination of the poll tax to protect of voting rights</p>
<b>republicanism</b>	the political belief that the best form of government is one where citizens choose their representatives and leaders and actively participate in civic life for the common good of the nation/community	<p>Preamble: "<i>We the People...</i>"</p> <p>Article IV Section 4: guarantee of a republican form of government to every state</p> <p>Representatives and (after the Seventeenth Amendment) Senators chosen by the people of the states;</p>
<b>rule of law</b>	those who govern must follow the laws; no one is above the law	<p>Article VI Clause II (the "Supremacy Clause"): the Constitution is the supreme law of the land</p> <p>Elections</p> <p>See "checks and balances" and "due process of law" above</p>
<b>separation of powers</b>	a structure of government that sets up different branches with their own distinct powers and responsibilities	The legislative, executive, and judicial powers are divided via Articles I, II, and III