

8th Grade Exam Review (Answers)

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT:

I.

Principles of the Constitution:

(Constitution is considered the “Supreme Law of the Land”)

1. **Preamble:** The introduction that lists the purposes of the Constitution.

2. **Three Branches:**

The Legislative Branch — Congress (Makes the Laws)

The Executive Branch — President (Enforces the Laws)

The Judicial Branch — U.S. Supreme Court (Interprets the Laws)

Separation of Powers: The U.S. Constitution splits powers between the three branches of the national government (legislative, executive, and judicial branches)

3. **Checks and Balances (how it works):** The system in which each branch of government has a check on the other two branches so that no one branch becomes too powerful. Examples: The President can veto a proposed bill; The Senate approves Presidential appointments. The U.S. Supreme Court can declare laws unconstitutional.

4. **Federalism:** A system of government in which power is SHARED between the *national* (central) government and the state governments.

5. **Representative government:** The Constitution of the United States allows the PEOPLE to elect the people who make decisions.

6. **Popular Sovereignty:** people rule the government, They have the power
Citizens show their power by voting.

III. Government Terms and Concepts:

a. **Treason:** The crime of betraying one’s country by waging war against it or by helping its enemies. Ex: Attempting to overthrow the government. It is mentioned in Article 3 (The Judiciary) Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

b. **House of Representatives:** The house of Congress that is based on a **state’s population**. 435 members

c. **Senate:** The house of Congress that is based on **equal** representation (2 per State). 100 members

d. **How does a bill become a law?** A bill may become a law only by passing both houses of Congress and by being signed by the President of the United States. The president can check Congress by rejecting-vetoing-its legislation. A bill can become a law, despite not being signed by the president, if two-thirds of the House of Representatives and two-thirds of the Senate approve it a second time.

e. **Veto:** The power of the Chief Executive (Ex: President) to reject a bill passed by the legislature (Ex: Congress) and prevent it from becoming a law.

g. Term of Office for.

A. **Supreme Court Justice** – life. They can retire when they choose to.

B. **Senator:** The term is for 6 years.

C. **Member of House of Representatives:** The term is for 2 years.

D. **President:** The term is for 4 years. However, he cannot be president for more than two terms (8 years).

1. **Electing a president (electoral college):** Electoral College is a special group of people elected by their state's voters to vote for the president and vice president. The framers (authors) of the U.S. Constitution created the Electoral College because they did not trust the poorly educated public to make this important decision.

The total # of electoral votes is **538** (435 Reps + 100 Senators + 3 D.C. Reps)
270 electoral votes needed to win

h. **Judicial Review:** the right of the U.S. Supreme Court to determine if a law is Constitutional.

i. **What court case established Judicial Review?** *Marbury vs. Madison*

j. **Impeachment:** charging a public official with misconduct in office; if proven guilty before a designated court, the official is removed from office.

k. **Cabinet:** a group of department heads that serve as the President's advisors. Ex: Secretary of State; Secretary of Defense; Secretary of Education

l. **Bill of Rights:** The first TEN Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, added in 1791, and includes a "formal list of citizens' rights and freedoms. Some Anti-Federalists eventually agreed to ratify the Constitution because they were promised that the Bill of Rights would be added after the new Congress was formed.

IV. Amendments to know:

a. **1st**: They are freedom of 1. religion, 2. freedom of speech, 3. freedom of the press, 4. freedom of assembly (march, join political parties, unions), and 5. freedom to petition the government to right wrongs.

b. The Reconstruction Amendments:

A. **13**: abolished slavery.

B. **14**: All persons born in the United States or naturalized are citizens and have civil rights.

C. **15**: African American **men**, both former slaves & free persons, have the right to vote.

c. The Progressive Amendments:

A. **16**: Congress has the power to tax people's income.

B. **17**: Senators are to be elected directly by the voters rather than by state legislatures.

C. **18**: Prohibition Amendment—The manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages is not allowed.

D. **19**: Women's right to vote. Movement started in Seneca Falls, NY

d. Others:

A. **21**: Repeals the Prohibition Amendment (18).

B. **26**: Eighteen-year olds are given the right to vote.

Expansionism, Progressivism, and the Spanish American War:

I. Why did the United States become interested in obtaining new territory in the late 1800's?

1. **Economic Interests**: Wanted sources of raw materials and new markets for American-made goods.
2. **Military Interests**: Military presence throughout the world. Establish military bases for U.S. ships. (Ex: Pearl harbor)
3. **Belief in Cultural Superiority**: Americans believed that their government (democracy), religion (Christianity), and even race were superior to those of other societies. "Civilize the uncivilized."
4. **Nationalism**: extreme pride and devotion to one's country.

a. Define **imperialism**: The policy of taking over another country or area. It is the actions used by one nation to exercise military, political, or economic control over smaller or weaker nations

b. **Chief Joseph** was the leader of the Nez Pearce Indians, and fought a war against US forces, to resist being placed on reservations. Despite winning several battles, he realized his people would lose over time, and declared he “would fight no more, forever.”

c. The **Homestead Act** was a law that opened up much of the Great Plains for settlement, providing a plot of land for farming at a low price

d. **Manifest Destiny** was the idea that the United States had a God given right and purpose to expand from the Atlantic to the Pacific

e. **Why did the United States become involved in the establishment of an independent Panama?** Colombia wouldn't give up some land located in the Panama region so the U.S. could create the canal. Therefore, the U.S. encouraged Panama to **rebel against Columbia** and become its own country. As a result, Panama gave the U.S. the land and built the Panama Canal.

f.. **How did the United States acquire Alaska and Hawaii?**

Alaska—Secretary of State William Seward arranged the 1867 purchase of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million.

Hawaii—U.S. Christian missionaries went to convert the local Hawaiian people. While there, they became planters. Queen Liliuokalani wanted to limit planters' power. Planters' staged a revolt supported by the U.S. Marines. The U.S. annexed Hawaii in 1898.

II. Spanish American War: “Splendid Little War”

a. **Causes**: President McKinley demands Spain stop harsh treatment of Cubans, 1898. The *U.S.S. Maine* was sent to Cuba. The *Maine* mysteriously explodes and Americans (Yellow Journalists) blame the Spanish. “Remember the Maine” was the battle cry to go to war. The explosion of the *Maine* was the immediate cause of the war. April 25, 1898 was declared on Spain.

b. **Yellow Journalism/ Yellow Press**: a style of journalism that exaggerates or sensationalizes news stories.

c. **Teddy Roosevelt and the "big stick" policy**: It not only prevented European intervention in Latin America (Monroe Doctrine), but also authorized the U.S. to act as a “**policeman**” in the region.(**Roosevelt Corollary**)

d. **What territory did the US gain as a result of the war?** Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

III. **Progressivism** (define it!):

An early 20th Century reform movement that wanted to expand democracy, promote social welfare, and create economic reform (limit power of big business—trust-busting).

a. **Muckrakers:** The term for a journalist who exposed corrupt government, social problems, and the greed of big businesses in society.

i. **Ida Tarbell:** targeted the unfair practices of Rockefeller's Standard Oil Trust Company. Her articles led to demands for tighter control on trusts. (Sherman Anti-Trust Act & Clayton Anti-trust Act)

ii. **Upton Sinclair:** Wrote *The Jungle*. This novel revealed gruesome details about the mean packing industry in Chicago. His efforts resulted in the Meat Inspection Act (1906) and The Pure Food and Drug Act (1906).

iii. **What did the progressives want to achieve during the industrial era?** Restore economic opportunities and correct injustices in American society.

b. Industrialists and big business:

i. **Robber Baron:** a “negative” term used to describe a business leader who became wealthy through dishonest methods. He often stole from the public and cheated his way to the top.

ii. **Andrew Carnegie:** was a Scottish immigrant who owned the Carnegie Steel Company. He tried to beat his competition in the steel industry by making the best and cheapest product. His company will later become U.S. Steel.

iii. **Henry Ford:** He was an automobile manufacturer; mass-produced a gasoline-powered automobile in 1893 and founded the Ford Motor Company. He perfected the assembly line to mass-produce a cheaper Model T-Ford car.

iv. **John D. Rockefeller:** He was an oil businessman that owned the Standard Oil Trust Company. He managed to buy out or out-compete other oil produces.

c. Industry:

i. **Assembly line:** a system with machines and workers arranged so that each person performs an assigned task again and again as items pass before him or her.

ii. **Gilded Age:** a term created by Mark Twain, which describes the late 1800s as an era of fabulous wealth for only a FEW Americans. The wealth of a few powerful businessmen hid the problems faced by immigrants, laborers, and farmers.

iii. **Stockholders:** Investors that own shares of stock in a company/corporation. They hope to make a profit if the business performs well.

iv. **Capitalism:** an economic system in which the means of production are privately owned by many businesses competing for profits; free enterprise system.

v. **Monopoly:** a company that eliminates its competitors and controls an industry. Usually results in an increase in prices for the consumer.

vi. **Mass Production:** A method of manufacturing in which **machines** are used to produce large numbers of products previously made by hand.

vii. **Organized Labor:** a group of workers joined together to protect and promote their working interests. **Goals of unions** included shorter hours, better safety, better pay, a five day work week, and limits to child labor and immigration

viii. **Collective Bargaining:** a process whereby a union negotiates with management for a new contract that contains better working conditions, higher wages, and other benefits.

Bonus: Laissez-faire—The government does not interfere in businesses.

d. Immigration:

i. **Ellis Island:** The entry point or first stop for immigrants coming from **Europe**.

ii. **Angel Island:** The entry point or first stop for immigrants coming from **Asia**.

iii. **Push/pull factors:** a factor that **pushes** people **out** of their native lands and **pulls** them toward a new place.

iv. **Quota System:** A limit of the total number of immigrants allowed in the country.

v. **Settlement houses:** Houses that offered daycare, education, and healthcare to needy people in slum neighborhoods. Ex: Hull House by Jane Addams

vi. **Tenements:** an apartment building that is usually run-down and overcrowded.

viii. **Waves of Immigration:**

Old Immigrants: (First Wave) a person from Western Europe who entered the U.S. between 1820-1880, such as people from Great Britain, Ireland, Germany, and Scandinavia.

New Immigrants: (Second Wave) a person from Southern or Eastern Europe who entered the U.S. after 1900, such as Southern Italian, Jews from Eastern Europe, Poles, and Russians.

Anti-immigration/ Nativists- Did not want America to be influenced by other countries. Were against immigration.

World War I:

I. Causes of WWI:

- a. **Alliances:** Making of agreements between countries:
Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy
Triple Entente: France, England, and Russia
- b. **Militarism:** Building up of a powerful army and navy
- c. **Nationalism:** Taking pride in one's nation and/or ethnic group
- d. **Imperialism:** When a stronger nation takes over a weaker nation.
- e. **The "spark" that started the war:** Assassination of Austrian–Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand—June 28, 1914
- f. **U.S. role (home-front sacrifices, women's roles)**
 - Women replaced men in the work place. Children volunteered.
 - To support the cost of the war, the government encouraged Americans to purchase war/liberty bonds.
 - Food Limited—Meatless Mondays
 - Scrap Metal Drives
- g. **President Wilson:** President during World War I; He wanted to have “Peace without Victory.” Give nothing to the winners and give nothing to the losers.

II. **Trench warfare:** Soldiers lived in and fought from ditches. Soldiers fell victim to illnesses and diseases because of the poor trench conditions.

III. **Selective service:** All young men between 21-30 must register for the draft (Today's its 18-26). They will be ready and able to join the military if called.

IV. After the War:

a. **Treaty of Versailles:** *Ended World War I* on June 28, 1919. It forced Germany to give up:

- Land once held by them, Austria-Hungary, and Ottomans
- Take full blame for starting the war
- Force them to pay reparations/war debts

b. **14 Points:** President Woodrow Wilson's plan for World Peace. He wanted Independence to all nations (End Imperialism); Reduce Military Power (End Militarism); Create League of Nations.

c. **League of Nations:** Formed to prevent future wars. **The U.S. did not participate in the League of Nations!** The U.S. Senate denied Wilson's request to join.

d. **Who was forced to accept blame for the war?** Germany

1920's and 1930's

I. Harding administration:

- a. **"Return to normalcy"** Harding promised to bring the U.S. back to isolationism and not get involved in other nation's problems. Bring America back to life before World War I.
- b. **Laissez faire economics:** The policy that the U.S. government does not interfere with businesses.
- d. **Installment buying:** Consumers could buy new products that were available because of credit. Consumers would pay for the item in small, gradual payments over an extended period of time.

II. Roaring 20's (An era of great prosperity in America)

- a. **Flappers:** Young women in the 1920s who defied traditions in her behavior and fashion. Flappers often wore bobbed hair, makeup, and dresses that fell above the knee.
- b. **Prohibition:** The nationwide ban on the manufacture, sale, and transportation of liquor in the U.S. that went into effect when the 18th Amendment was ratified in 1919.
- c. **Mass-media:** Types of communication that reach large numbers of people, such as newspapers, radio, and television.

III. **Herbert Hoover:** Believed in the laissez faire economic policy and did nothing to prevent or deal with the Great Depression. He feared that Americans would become too dependent on the government. Hoovervilles, run-down shacks were named after him because of his failure to deal with the needs of Americans during the Great Depression.

- a. **Great Depression:** A period of time, lasting from 1929-1941, in which the U.S. economy was in severe decline and millions of Americans were unemployed.
- b. **Black Tuesday:** A name given to October 29, 1929, when stock prices (Great Stock Market Crash) fell sharply and led to the Greatest Economic Depression in American history.

IV. FDR

- a. **New Deal:** FDR's aggressive reforms or programs designed to solve the Great Depression. Goals: **The 3 "Rs":** **Relief**-help the hungry and jobless; **Recovery**-Help agriculture and industries; **Reform**-change the way the economy worked—Goodbye Laissez Faire Policy.

b. **Social Security Act:** A law, passed in 1935, that requires workers and employers to make payments into a fund, from which they draw a pension after they are retired (old).

F.D.I.C. – Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation – Insures your bank deposit.

c. **Dust Bowl:** The area of dust-damaged farms across a 150,000-square mile region during the 1930s. (Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico) This environmental issue added more problems to the Great Depression Era.

d. **What brought the United States out of the Depression?** World War II and militarism.

World War II

I. Rise of Dictators:

a. **Hitler:** The leader (der Fuhrer) of Germany that led the Nazi Party. He preached German racial superiority and wanted revenge for the humiliating defeat during World War I.

b. **Mussolini:** The leader (IL Duce) of Italy that led the Fascism Movement. He believed in extreme patriotism and nationalism. Demanded complete control and obedience. He wanted to bring back the Roman Empire to Italy.

c. **Stalin:** The communist leader of the Soviet Union. He tried to control every aspect of life in the nation. Crushed any form of opposition to him or the communist party.

d. **Nazi Party:** National Socialist German Worker's Party—founded in Germany in 1919 and brought to power in 1933 by Adolf Hitler.

e. **Fascism:** A political philosophy that calls for the glorification of the nation above the individual, a centralized government headed by a dictator, severe economic and social regimentation, and the use of force against opposition.

f. **Communism:** A political and economic system in which the government owns the key parts of the economy, and there is no private property.

II. The War:

a. **Blitzkrieg:** German term meaning "Lightning War." It was a swift, sudden military offensive, usually by combined air and mobile land forces.

b. **Normandy Invasion: "D-Day"** Largest Amphibious invasion. Allies invade the Normandy beaches France on June 6th, 1944.

d.. **Pearl Harbor**: a naval base in Hawaii that was hit in a surprise attack by Japan on December 7, 1941. It was **the immediate cause of America's entry into WWII**.

e.. **Japanese Internment Camps**: refers to the forcible relocation and internment of approximately 110,000 Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans during World War II.

f. **Korematsu v. United States** – Supreme Court case challenging Japanese American Internment as a violation of the Bill of Rights. Korematsu lost his challenge, court ruling that internment was necessary for national security

g. **Manhattan Project** – code name for the secret US project to develop the atomic bomb

h. **Enola Gay** – name of the airplane that dropped the first atomic bomb used in war, on Hiroshima, Japan

i.. **United Nations**: an international peacekeeping organization to which most nations in the world belong, founded in 1945 to promote world peace, security, and economic development.

j.. **Eisenhower**: Supreme Commander of the Allied forces in the **European** Theatre during WWII. He led the D-day invasion of June 6, 1944.

Bonus:

The U.S. was officially “neutral” at the start of WWII.

Germany fought a two-front war in which it was battling enemies of both sides at the same time.

1950's to the present:

I. **Cold War**: A period of time after World War II in which the United States and Soviet Union competed in spreading their political philosophies around the world.

a. **After WWII what nations emerged as superpowers**: United States and Soviet Union

b. **GI Bill of Rights**: Law passed by Congress, providing all WW2 veterans with a free college education, as well as low cost loans (mortgages) for houses

c. **Baby Boom**: Massive spike in the birth rate from the end of World War 2, until around 1960

d. **Growth of Suburbs/ Levittowns**: caused by the economic prosperity and demand for new housing caused by the GI Bill and Baby Boom. Led to the decay of cities as those with money moved to the suburbs, as well as led to the construction of the interstate highway system.

e. **Truman Doctrine/ Containment**: US Foreign policy during the cold war. The US would try to stop the spread of communism through any means necessary.

f. **Senator Joseph McCarthy/ McCarthyism**: US Senator who came to power by conducting “witch hunt” like hearings, trying to root out possible communist infiltrators in American media, government, and the military. His name became synonymous with anti-communist paranoia

- g. **Red Scare:** Refers to two different time periods in US history – 1920s and 1950s-60s – when Americans became fearful of Communism, its spread, and possible communist spies in the US
- h. **Korean War:** 1950-1953, war to contain the spread of communism from N. Korea to S. Korea. US led a United Nations coalition against N. Korea, and later Chinese forces.
- i. **Douglas McArthur:** US General in charge of the Korean war, until he was relieved of command by President Truman for publicly criticizing Truman's handling of the war
- j. **Cuban Missile Crisis:** In 1962, the United States and the Soviet Union almost went had a nuclear war because the Soviets had placed nuclear missiles in Cuba.
- k. **Bay of Pigs invasion:** In April 1961, an army of Cuban exiles, trained by the U.S., unsuccessfully invaded Cuba.
- l. **Fidel Castro:** Cuban revolutionary leader and dictator that turned Cuba into a socialist regime.
- m. **JFK:** President John F. Kennedy (1961-1963): Major events: Bay of Pigs invasion, president during the creation of the Berlin Wall. Inspired people to commit to make the country and world a better place, and set the moon as the goal of the "Space Race."
- n. **Lyndon Johnson's Great Society:** A program started by President Lyndon Johnson that provided help to the poor, the elderly, and women, and also promoted education and outlawed discrimination.
- o. **Viet Nam:** The U.S. attempted to stop the spread of communism in Asia, by supporting South Vietnam's efforts to be free from communism. It became unfavorable and many peaceful protests across the country called for its immediate end. The 1960s resulted in many Vietnam protests combined with minority rights marches throughout the country.
- p. **Ho Chi Minh** leader of communist North Vietnam, and later unified Vietnam
- q. **Kent State** student protest against the Vietnam War became violent. Four students were killed, several others injured, by National Guard troops. Further increased anti-war feelings in the US
- r. **Watergate:** A scandal resulting from President Nixon's administration's attempt to cover up its involvement in the 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate apartment complex in Washington D.C. President Nixon's attempt at covering up his knowledge of the break-in forced him to resign to avoid impeachment hearings.
- s. **The Reagan Years** President Reagan stimulated the economy to get it out of the recession of the 70s through **supply side economics** – giving tax breaks to wealthy and businesses in the hopes they would hire more workers. He was a strong anti-communist, authorizing research into the **Strategic Defense Initiative, or Star Wars Missile Defense System**, and increasing other defense spending in opposition to the Soviet Union. His administration became embroiled in the **Iran Contra affair**, in which

administration officials illegally arranged a sale of weapons to Iran, then used the profits to fund anti-communist forces in Nicaragua, which was also illegal.

t. **The first Gulf War** – the US and a coalition of over 30 countries responded to Iraq/ Saddam Hussein's takeover of Kuwait in an oil dispute. Coalition forces won after a relatively short war, Hussein was left in power.

u. **9/11** – terrorist attack conducted by Al Qaeda, using passenger planes as weapons against the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Began the US War on Terror, the invasion of Afghanistan, and passage of the Patriot Act.

II. **Civil Rights:** Rights granted to all citizens (Ex: freedom of speech, press, assembly; right to vote; freedom from discrimination)

a. **Jim Crow Laws:** laws meant to enforce separation of white and black people in public places in the South. (Ex: Segregated schools; restrooms; restaurants; literacy tests, grandfather clause and poll taxes)

b. **Segregation:** the separation or isolation of a race, class, or group.

c. **Plessy vs. Ferguson:** (1896) Homer Plessy sued that separate train cars violated his 14th Amendment rights. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled: Segregation with "Separate but Equal" facilities is constitutional. It opened the door to segregation and Jim Crow Laws in the South.

d. **Brown vs. Board of Education:** Groups of African American parents sued to end segregation in public schools. Thurgood Marshall was the NAACP attorney. Supreme Court ruled that "**Separate but equal**" educational facilities are unequal.

e. **Martin Luther King:** (influence of Gandhi) He was an African-American clergyman who promoted social change through non-violent means. A powerful speaker and a man of great spiritual strength, he shaped the American civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. He led the Montgomery Bus Boycott and organized the March on Washington.

f. **Little Rock 9:** In 1957, Arkansas governor Orval Faubus chose to ignore a federal court order to desegregate the state's public schools. The nine black students were prevented from entering Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. As a result, President Eisenhower sent federal troops to integrate the high school by force.

g. **Thurgood Marshall:** Lawyer for the NAACP who argued that the Constitution guaranteed the rights of African Americans. He was the chief lawyer for the NAACP in the Brown v. Board of Education court case and later became the first black U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

h. **Rosa Parks:** She refused to give up her seat for white passengers and move to the back of the bus. Her arrest sparked a movement that began to tear down segregation in America. Starts the **Montgomery Bus Boycott**.

i. **NAACP**: formed in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Founded by W.E.B. DuBois. They played a major role in ending segregation in the 20th Century.

j. **Passive Resistance/Civil Disobedience: Civil Disobedience**: non-violent action in which participants refuse to obey certain laws, with the purpose of challenging the fairness of those laws. Also known as **passive resistance**.

k. **Civil Rights Act of 1964** – outlawed segregation in all public places

l. **Voting Rights Act of 1965** – made it easier for African Americans to vote in southern states, by outlawing literacy tests and forcing states to make voter registration easier.