

4.1. Give a short summary of the text and title it [13]:

The Constitution of the USA is the supreme law of the United States of America. The first three Articles of the Constitution establish the rules and separate powers of the three branches of the federal government: a legislature, the bicameral Congress; an executive branch led by the President; and a federal judiciary headed by the Supreme Court. The last four Articles frame the principle of federalism. The Tenth Amendment confirms its federal characteristics.

The Constitution was adopted on September 17, 1787, by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and ratified by conventions in eleven states. It went into effect on March 4, 1789.

The United States Constitution can be changed through the amendment process. Constitutional amendments are added to it, altering its effect. The first ten amendments, ratified by three-fourths of the states in 1791, are known as the Bill of Rights. The Constitution has been amended seventeen additional times (for a total of twenty-seven amendments). Principles of the Constitution, as amended, are applied in courts of law by judicial review.

The Constitution guides American law and political culture. Its writers composed the first constitution of its kind incorporating recent developments in constitutional theory with multiple traditions, and their work influenced later writers of national constitutions. It is supplemented and interpreted by a large body of United States constitutional law. Recent impulses for reform center on concerns for extending democracy and balancing the federal budget.

4.2. Give a brief summary of the text *The US Constitution* [14]: Introduction and retell it.

The US Constitution: Introduction

The Constitution of the United States is a document that outlines the basis of the federal (national) government of the USA. It was written in 1787 at the "Constitutional Convention," held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in what we now call Independence Hall. The 55 men at the convention are called the "Founding Fathers" of the USA, and are also known as the "Framers of the Constitution." Some of the more famous of the framers are George Washington (the first President of the USA), James Madison (the fourth President of the USA), Benjamin Franklin, and Alexander Hamilton.

The US Constitution was ratified (approved) by nine states on June 21, 1788 (Delaware was the first state to ratify it); it was later ratified by the remaining states. It replaced the earlier set of government rules, the *Articles of Confederation*, which were the law of the land from 1781 until 1788 (this document created a group of semi-independent states plus a weak national Congress, with neither an Executive nor a Judicial branch).

The Constitution sets up the United States with a federal (national) government plus state governments. It also specifies that the USA will be a republic, with an elected President, a bicameral congress (consisting of two legislative branches, a House of Representatives and a Senate), and a system of courts headed by a Supreme Court.

The Constitution is composed of a Preamble (an introduction), the main body (which consists of seven articles), and amendments (additions to the Constitution made after the Constitution was created).

The Preamble of the US Constitution: The Preamble to the Constitution is the short, one-sentence introduction to the Constitution; it explains that the document proposes to establish a more perfect government complete with justice, tranquility, and liberty. It states, "**We the People** of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

The Body of the US Constitution: The first three articles of the US Constitution sets up the US government as a republic with three separate branches of government:

- the **Legislative Branch** (which makes the national laws and consists of Congress -- the House of Representatives and the Senate),
- the **Executive Branch** (headed by the President),
- the **Judicial Branch** (which administers justice by interpreting the Constitution and laws, and consists of judges in a system of courts).

This division of the government into branches is an example of **separation of power**, the idea that the enormous power of a government should be split into independent groups, so that any one group cannot have too much power. In this system, the separate groups check (monitor) the behavior of each other, having the effect of keeping an even balance of power; this is called **checks and balances**. The phrase "checks and balances" was coined by Charles-Louis

Montesquieu (a French political philosopher) in 1748; he also wrote about dividing the power of a government into a Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branch.

The Legislative Branch is bicameral (it is divided into two parts): the House of Representatives and the Senate. The number of seats that a state has in the House of Representatives is based upon that state's population. Each state has two Senators. This system was agreed upon at the Constitutional Convention after much debate. The states with larger populations favored a system like the House of Representatives (so that they would have more representatives in government and therefore have more power). The states with smaller populations favored a system like the Senate, in which all states have equal representation (so that the larger states would not take too much power). The framers of the US Constitution compromised, and instituted a bicameral Congress.

In addition, the US Constitution sets up a power balance between states and the federal government. It also specifies how to add new states to the USA, and how the Constitution could be ratified and amended.

The Amendments: Many amendments to the Constitution have been made through the years. The first 10 amendments (additions to the Constitution), called the Bill of Rights, were added in 1791. The Bill of Rights preserve the rights of the people, including the freedom of speech and religion, the right to a speedy trial, and others.

Later, 17 additional amendments were added; so far, there have been 27 amendments to the US Constitution.

Legacy:

The US Constitution has been the model for many countries' constitutions around the world. It is a great document that has withstood the test of time in creating a government that has functioned well for over 200 years while preserving individual liberty and justice.

The U.S. Constitution is the oldest national constitution and the shortest. The original US Constitution is on display at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

4.3. Are these statements true or false?

1) The Constitution of the United States was written in 1778.

- 2) The Constitution is composed of a Preamble (an introduction), the main body (which consists of seven articles), and amendments.
- 3) The Preamble to the Constitution is detailed introduction to the Constitution.
- 4) The first three articles of the US Constitution sets up the US government as a republic with three separate branches of government.
- 5) The Legislative Branch makes the national laws and consists of the Senate.
- 6) The Executive Branch is headed by the Vice President.
- 7) The Judicial Branch administers justice by interpreting the Constitution and laws, and consists of judges.
- 8) The phrase "checks and balances" was coined by Charles-Louis Montesquieu (an English writer) in 1748.
- 9) Many amendments to the Constitution have been made within 2 years.
- 10) There have been 27 amendments to the US Constitution.

4.4. Answer the questions:

- 1) What is the Constitution of the United States?
- 2) What do the first three Articles of the Constitution establish?
- 3) What do the last four Articles frame?
- 4) When was the Constitution adopted?
- 5) How many amendments are there in the Constitution?

4.5. Retell the text *John Kennedy – the 35th President of the USA* [15]

John Kennedy is the 35th President of the USA.

John F. Kennedy was born on May 29, 1917 in Brooklyn, Massachusetts of Irish descent. He had studied in The Choate School, London School of Economics, Princeton University, Harvard University. In the year 1941 he joined the US Navy and was awarded with the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the Purple Heart, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

The start of his political career was around 1946, after his military experience, when he ran for the seat of representative James Michael Curley. Several years later (in 1956) he ran for the Senate: he was a Democratic Congressman from the Boston area.

On November 8, 1960 when the general election was held, Kennedy had to compete with Richard Nixon and as a result won the election. Kennedy's policy included such issues as fighting against discrimination, war, crime and

poverty, supporting different space programs, tax cuts, medical care system, and equal rights. The president experienced global events such as Cuban Missile crisis (1962), construction of the Berlin Wall (1961), communism in Latin America, creation of the Peace Corps, and the dangerous nuclear weapon era.

The first lady, Jacqueline Kennedy took an active part of the representation of Kennedy and the USA. The couple reinvented what it meant to be president, and welcomed cameras into their life. They were married on September 12, 1953 and the couple had got two children, John Jr. and Caroline.

On November 22, 1963 JFK was assassinated in Texas, and the next elected American president was Lyndon Baines Johnson, who had designed the Warren Commission in order to investigate the murder. The discussions about his murder are still open: however Lee Harvey Oswald is believed to be the murderer.

Books and Publications published by John F. Kennedy

Includes popular political and leadership publications by the American President John F. Kennedy.

- **A Nation of Immigrants**
by John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy (1964)
- **The John F. Kennedy School of Government: The First Fifty Years**
by John F. Kennedy, F. Kenn John (1986)
- **The Wit and Wisdom of John F. Kennedy**
by John F. Kennedy, Alex Ayres (Editor) (1996)
- **Prelude to Leadership : The Post-War Diary of John F. Kennedy Summer 1945**
by John F. Kennedy (1997)
- **John F. Kennedy: The JFK Wit**
by John F Kennedy (Audio CD 1999)
- **The Greatest Speeches of President John F. Kennedy**
by John F. Kennedy (2000)
- **Profiles in Courage**
by John F. Kennedy (2003)
- **The Uncommon Wisdom of John F. Kennedy : A Portrait in His Own Words**
by John F. Kennedy (2003)

4.6. Give summary of the text *Politician: 42nd President of the USA* [15]

Bill Clinton graduated from Georgetown University in 1968 and graduated from Yale University in 1973 with a law degree. Clinton first became the governor of Arkansas in 1978. Clinton was a member of the Democratic party and he served as American president from 1993 through to 2001.

President Clinton was impeached in 1998 due to his sexual relations with the White House intern Monica Lewinski. He was not charged for his indiscretion and continued to be a popular president.

Bill Clinton continues to be a popular public figure after his presidency. He works with several charitable organizations, working to improve society throughout the world.

Bill Clinton is married to Hillary Clinton (also involved in politics) and they have one child, Chelsea Clinton.

Books and Audio Published about or by Bill Clinton includes popular political and leadership publications by or about the American President Bill Clinton.

My Life - by Bill Clinton *Autobiography by President Bill Clinton*

The Clinton Scandal - by Mark J. Rozell *The Clinton Scandal and the Future of American Government*

The Meaning of Is - by Bob Barr

The Meaning of Is: The Squandered Impeachment and Wasted Legacy of William Jefferson Clinton

The Clinton Wars - by Sidney Blumenthal *The Clinton Wars*

4.7. Study the list of the USA Presidents. Choose one and make your own story about him [16]:

Presidents of the USA

1. George Washington, 1789-1797
2. John Adams, 1797-1801
3. Thomas Jefferson, 1801-1809
4. James Madison, 1809-1817
5. James Monroe, 1817-1825
6. John Quincy Adams, 1825-1829
7. Andrew Jackson, 1829-1837
8. Martin Van Buren, 1837-1841

9. William Henry Harrison, 1841
10. John Tyler, 1841-1845
11. James Knox Polk, 1845-1849
12. Zachary Taylor, 1849-1850
13. Millard Fillmore, 1850-1853
14. Franklin Pierce, 1853-1857
15. James Buchanan, 1857-1861
16. Abraham Lincoln, 1861-1865
17. Andrew Johnson, 1865-1869
18. Ulysses S. Grant, 1869-1877
19. Rutherford Birchard Hayes, 1877-1881
20. James Abram Garfield, 1881
21. Chester Alan Arthur, 1881-1885
22. Grover Cleveland, 1885-1889
23. Benjamin Harrison, 1889-1893
24. Grover Cleveland, 1893-1897
25. William McKinley, 1897-1901
26. Theodore Roosevelt, 1901-1909
27. William Howard Taft, 1909-1913
28. Woodrow Wilson, 1913-1921
29. Warren Gamaliel Harding, 1921-1923
30. Calvin Coolidge, 1923-1929
31. Herbert Clark Hoover, 1929-1933
32. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1933-1945
33. Harry S. Truman, 1945-1953
34. Dwight David Eisenhower, 1953-1961
35. John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 1961-1963
36. Lyndon Baines Johnson, 1963-1969
37. Richard Milhous Nixon, 1969-1974
38. Gerald Rudolph Ford, 1974-1977
39. James Earl Carter, Jr., 1977-1981
40. Ronald Wilson Reagan, 1981-1989
41. George Herbert Walker Bush, 1989-1993
42. William Jefferson Clinton, 1993-2001
43. George Walker Bush, 2001-2009
44. Barack Hussein Obama, 2009- 2017

45. Donald John Trump, 2017- 2020
46. Jozeph Robinette Biden, 2020.