I. Introduction

What are some fundamental differences between the US and other Western democracies? (e.g., in what ways is a Parliamentary system different from a Presidential system? )

What are the different definitions of democracy? How do they differ from each other?

What are the arguments in favor of representative democracy over direct democracy?

What are the differences between Liberalism, Conservatism, Libertarianism, and Communitarianism (populism)? Explain how each of these differ in terms of their attachment to the values of freedom, order, and equality.

Explain the basic differences between the majoritarian versus pluralist models of democracy.

II. The Constitution

What is the purpose behind having a Constitution?

Describe our political system under the Articles of Confederation. What were the inherent problems with the Articles? What factors generated the need to replace this system of government?

What were the differences between the Virginia Plan, New Jersey Plan, and Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise)?

What are the basic principles embodied in the Constitution? Be able to explain each one.

How can each Branch check the power of the other two Branches?

Explain how Madison dealt with the concept of factions. Why were factions a problem? What was Madison’s Constitutional solution?

Explain the Anti-Federalist versus Federalist argument regarding the size and scope of government - explain how each camp deals with the issue of preserving liberty; i.e., how did their respective solutions differ?

What are the differences between delegated (enumerated) powers, reserved powers and implied powers?

Explain why McCulloch vs Maryland and Marbury vs Madison were important cases.

In way ways does the Constitution embody the philosophy of John Locke?
Explain the "Necessary and Proper" Clause that is found in the Constitution. Why is it important?

Explain the following terms: writ of habeas corpus, bill of attainder, and ex post facto law

What is the purpose of the Missouri Constitution? How many constitutions have we had? What are the distinguishing characteristics of each?

In what ways is the Missouri Constitution both similar and different from the U.S. Constitution?

III. Federalism

There are three ways or systems by which a government can be organized. What are they and how do they differ from each other? Provide some examples.

What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of our Federal system?

How did the concept of "states’ rights" and the doctrine of nullification fit into the debate about federalism?

What are the differences between dual-federalism, nation-centered federalism, and cooperative federalism?

What is fiscal federalism? Explain the differences between block grants, categorical grants, and general revenue sharing.

What are unfunded mandates?

Explain the difference between the "marble-cake" versus "layer-cake" views of federalism.