The Constitution: Answer Key

Article I

1. What branch of government is described in Article I? What type of power does it hold?

*The legislative branch. It is vested with all lawmaking power.*

2. How often do voters elect members to the House of Representatives?

*Every two years.*

3. What are the qualifications needed to become a member of the House of Representatives?

*A member must be at least 25 years old, a United States citizen for at least 7 years, and living in the state from which he or she is elected during the time of election.*

4. What is the smallest number of representatives that a state can have?

*Each state is entitled to at least one representative.*

5. What determines how many total representatives a state has?

*The number of representatives is determined by a state’s population.*

6. How often do voters elect Senators?

*Every six years.*

7. What are the qualifications needed to become a member of the Senate?

*A Senator must be at least 30 years old, a United States citizen for at least 9 years, and living in the state from which he or she is elected during the time of election.*

8. How many senators does each state have?

*Two.*

9. Identify five constitutional powers of Congress.

*To lay and collect taxes; borrow money; regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the states; establish a uniform rule of naturalization; establish post offices. (Additional powers are enumerated in Article I, Section 8.)*

10. What are the powers of the House and Senate in regards to impeachment?

*The House draws up the charges of impeachment and the Senate conducts the trial.*
11. A bill is a law that has not yet been passed. Suppose both the House of Representatives and the Senate vote to turn a bill into law. Who also has to approve the bill before it becomes law?

*After a bill passes through both houses of Congress, it can become law if the president signs it. Also, the bill will become law (just as if the president signed it) if the president neither returns the bill nor signs it within 10 days.*

12. If the president vetoes a bill, what can Congress do?

*Congress can attempt to override the veto by a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate.*

13. Which chamber of Congress is responsible for suggesting bills that involve raising or spending revenue (money)?

*The House of Representatives.*

**Article II**

1. What branch of government is described in Article II?

*The executive branch.*

2. How long is a president’s term of office?

*Four years.*

3. What are the three constitutional requirements of a candidate for the presidency?

*A presidential candidate must be a natural born United States citizen, be at least 35 years old, and have been a United States resident for at least 14 years.*

4. How are the numbers of electors for each state determined in presidential elections?

*The number of electors is equal to the number of senators and representatives that the state is entitled to in Congress.*

5. What does the president pledge to do when he takes the inaugural oath?

*To faithfully execute the office of the president and, to the best of his ability, to preserve, protect, and defend the United States Constitution.*

6. Identify five constitutional powers of the president.

*Act as commander in chief of the army and navy; grant pardons for offenses against the United States; make treaties; appoint ambassadors and judges; fill all vacancies in senior federal offices that happen during the recess of the Senate.*

7. What is the name of the speech that the president gives to Congress each year?
**State of the Union.**

8. For what offenses may the president be impeached?

*Treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.*

**Article III**

1. What branch of government is described in Article III?

*The judicial branch.*

2. What is the name of the highest court in the United States?

*The Supreme Court.*

3. How long do federal judges serve on the courts?

*For life, so long as they maintain “good behavior.”*

4. How is treason defined in the Constitution? What are the requirements for a conviction of treason?

*Levying war against the United States or giving aid and comfort to enemies. The testimony of two witnesses, or a confession in open court.*

**Articles IV, V, and VI**

1. What must a state recognize about all other states?

*Public acts, records, and judicial proceedings.*

2. Which branch of government has the power to admit new states into the United States?

*Congress.*

3. Which branch of government has the power to regulate other territories that belong to the United States?

*Congress.*

4. What are the two methods for amending the Constitution?

1) A vote of two-thirds of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, followed by a ratification of three-fourths of the states, and 2) A convention called by two-thirds of the state legislatures and a ratification of the proposed amendment(s) by three-fourths of the state legislatures.

5. What does Article VI state about religion and government?

*Religious tests for public office in the federal government are prohibited.*

http://www.saylor.org/courses/polsc231/#1.2.5