Social Studies Graduation Exam Study Guide
Chapter Three/Part A: The United States Government

Name: __________________________________

Directions: Answer the following completely as you read pages 34-39 of the grad exam workbook.

1. Following the Revolutionary War, the colonists’ chief loyalty was to what?

2. What was the written document that protected the rights of English nobles and influenced the U.S. Constitution by stating that the king’s power was not absolute?

3. Who was the English philosopher who believed the government should derive its power from the people whom it governed?

4. Who was the French philosopher who wrote the “Social Contract Theory”?

5. What idea was expressed in the “Social Contract Theory”?


7. Which philosopher believed that the government should be divided into three branches?

8. What was the name of the general revival of evangelical Christians in the American colonies that led to a sense of American nationality before the Revolutionary War?

9. What was the name of the first colonial assembly of representatives?

10. What was the name of the first constitution of America called and when was it ratified?

11. What were the two strengths of the Articles of Confederation?

   1.

   2.

12. What were the four weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?

   1.
2.

3.

4.

13. What was the convention called that met in 1787 that ended the Articles of Confederation and created a new government?

14. Under the large state plan (the Virginia Plan), the states would base representation in Congress on a state’s population. Under the small state plan (the New Jersey Plan), each state would get an equal voice in Congress. What was the name of the compromise that divided the Congress into two houses?

15. In the upper house, the ________________, each state has two senators.

16. In the lower house, the ________________, each state has representation based on their proportion of population.

17. What term refers to the practice of dividing power between the national government and the state governments?

18. Which refers to a government in which power is divided among various groups with all groups obeying a system of laws called the constitution?

19. Why does the Constitution divide power among the three branches?

20. Under the U.S. Constitution, which branch makes the law?

21. Under the U.S. Constitution, which branch carries out the law?

22. Under the U.S. Constitution, which branch interprets or explains the law?

23. To keep the branches equal in power, the writers of the Constitution created a system of ____________________________.

24. How can a president prevent a bill from becoming law?

25. Which part of the Constitution states the purposes of establishing a new government?

26. What does the Elastic Clause of the Constitution do?

27. Article One of the Constitution establishes the ________________ which consists of a two-house ________________.
28. Article Two of the Constitution establishes the ____________ branch which gives executive power to the ____________.

29. Article Three of the Constitution establishes the ____________ branch which establishes the ____________ for interpreting laws made by Congress.

30. What does the term *ratified* mean?

31. Who had to ratify the Constitution before it became law?

32. The supporters of the Constitution were called the ____________.

33. What did the Federalists believe the United States needed?

34. List the three prominent Federalist leaders.

35. The ____________ were newspapers articles written by Hamilton, Jay, and Madison that stated the advantages of a federal union under the Constitution.

36. The Federalists Papers were written to persuade which state of the value of the Constitution?

37. The opponents of the Constitution were called the ____________.

38. What did the Anti-Federalists think the Constitution would do to the new national government?

39. What was the most important argument the Anti-Federalists made about the Constitution?

40. All states eventually ratified the Constitution in ____________.