

Chapter Assessment



GOVERNMENT ONLINE

Self-Test

To test your understanding of key terms and main ideas, visit PearsonSuccessNet.com

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

Section 1

1. (a) What checks exist between the legislative and executive branches? (b) How do these checks represent the intentions of the Framers?
2. Reread the excerpt from the Massachusetts Constitution in Section 1. (a) What restrictions does it put on the three branches of the State government? (b) What is meant by "a government of laws and not of men"?
3. (a) Why were the Framers so careful to limit the powers of the Federal Government? (b) Which branch of the Federal Government seems to have the least amount of checks against its power? (c) How might the power of this branch be further limited?
4. **Analyze Political Cartoons** (a) Which checks on government does this cartoon suggest? (b) How does it reflect "a government of laws and not of men"?



Section 2

5. (a) Of the four methods of formal amendment, which has been used the most to amend the Constitution? (b) How does this method preserve the intention of the Framers to create a federal government?
6. In most cases, amendments have been added as the result of a specific issue. What issue gave rise to (a) the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments? (b) the 22nd Amendment?
7. (a) When an amendment is proposed, why is it not sent to the President to sign or veto? (b) Do you agree with this practice? Why or why not?
8. How does the process of constitutional amendment reflect the goals of the Framers?

Section 3

9. (a) How have party practices changed the way we interpret the Constitution? (b) How did the Framers—in particular, George Washington—feel about political parties? (c) Do you agree with Washington's assessment of political parties? Why or why not?
10. (a) List two ways in which custom has influenced government. (b) How important is custom to our government?

Writing About Government

11. Use your Quick Write exercises to write a brief essay answering the question you chose. Make sure that you use your outline as the frame for your essay. Try to make your point in three or four paragraphs, with an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. See pp. S11–S12 in the Skills Handbook.

Apply What You've Learned

12. **Essential Question Activity** Propose your own amendment to the Constitution.
 - (a) Research a current government issue, something that you feel should be made a permanent part of the Constitution.
 - (b) Create an outline of arguments for and against your proposed addition to the Constitution.
 - (c) Create a plan detailing which method you would use to get your amendment proposed and ratified.
 - (d) Bring your amendment before the class and explain why it should be passed.
13. **Essential Question Assessment** Based on your work from the activity and the content you have learned in this chapter, hold a group discussion to help you answer the Essential Question: **How has the Constitution lasted through changing times?** Take notes on your ideas from the discussion.

Essential Questions Journal

To respond to the chapter Essential Question, go to your **Essential Questions Journal**.