

U.S. Constitution Exam for California Teaching Credential Candidates

Preparing for the exam

Recommended Reading (Focus on Chapter 2, *The Constitution*)

American Government: Institutions and Policies - Wilson, J.Q., Dilulio, J.J., & Bose, M.

[Online study guide](#) (audio e-book)

Focus items:

- Shay's Rebellion
- Articles of Confederation
- Delegates to the Constitution (Key Characteristics)
- Checks and Balances
- Federalism
- Constitutional Compromises
- Congressional Powers
- Unicameral v. Bicameral
- Congressional Terms of Office
- Elastic Clause
- Amendment Process
- Electoral College
- Executive and War Powers
- Impeachment
- Judicial Review
- Judicial Terms of Office
- Slavery
- 3/5 Compromise
- Federalists v. Anti-Federalists
- Bill of Rights
- First 10 Amendments-Break down of issues
- Federalist Papers
- Factions
- Federalist #10
- Federalists v. Democratic-Republicans
- Interpretations of Constitution: Economic v. Ideas

Themes:

- Federalism
- Checks and Balances
- Separation of Powers
- Constitutional Compromises: *Representation, Electing a President, Slavery*
- Bill of Rights: *Sharing power between Federal and State*
- Interpreting the Role of the Constitution

| Review Questions:

- Why did the Founding Fathers decide to create a constitutional form of government?
- How did the Constitution differ with the previous Articles of Confederation?
- What were the main principles of the Constitution?
- What are the roles for the legislature, executive and judiciary branches of government?
- What is the impeachment process and how does it work?
- What is Judicial Review and how does it operate in the Judiciary?
- How do the State and Federal levels of government interact with each other?
- Which groups favored and opposed the Constitution in the 1780s and why?
- What was the purpose of the Bill of Rights?
- What are current criticisms of the Constitution today?