

Constitutional Law Firsts and Discoveries

Constitutional Law · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. What foundational document is often considered the 'first written constitution' in the modern sense?

- A) The Magna Carta
- B) The United States Constitution**
- C) The Bill of Rights (England)
- D) The Declaration of Independence

2. Which historical event led to the drafting of a new constitution for the United States?

- A) The French Revolution
- B) The War of 1812
- C) The failure of the Articles of Confederation**
- D) The American Civil War

3. The concept of 'separation of powers' in constitutional law was most famously articulated by which Enlightenment thinker?

- A) John Locke
- B) Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- C) Thomas Hobbes
- D) Baron de Montesquieu**

4. What significant discovery in constitutional law established the principle of judicial review in the United States?

- A) Marbury v. Madison**
- B) McCulloch v. Maryland
- C) Dred Scott v. Sandford
- D) Gideon v. Wainwright

5. The idea of a 'social contract' as a basis for government legitimacy was a key invention of which philosopher?

- A) Niccolò Machiavelli
- B) Immanuel Kant
- C) John Stuart Mill
- D) Jean-Jacques Rousseau**

6. The first permanent settlement in North America to adopt a written constitution was:

- A) Jamestown
- B) Plymouth**
- C) St. Augustine
- D) Quebec City

7. What early invention was crucial for the widespread dissemination of constitutional ideas during the Enlightenment?

- A) The Telegraph
- B) The Printing Press**
- C) The Radio
- D) The Internet

8. The concept of 'federalism' as a system of government with divided powers was notably developed in the context of which nation's founding?

- A) France
- B) Great Britain
- C) The United States**
- D) Canada

9. The idea of amending a constitution, allowing for change, was a significant invention for ensuring its longevity. Which country's constitution was among the first to include formal amendment procedures?

- A) Ancient Rome
- B) The United States**
- C) Imperial China
- D) The Ottoman Empire

10. What significant legal discovery, often traced back to Roman law, forms the basis for much of modern constitutional interpretation?

- A) The Doctrine of Stare Decisis
- B) The Principle of Habeas Corpus
- C) The Concept of Natural Law**
- D) The Rule of Law

11. The invention of 'checks and balances' in a constitution aims to prevent:

- A) Economic depression
- B) The rise of dictatorships**
- C) International conflict
- D) Technological unemployment

12. The first written constitution in the world to establish a unicameral legislature was:

- A) The United States Constitution
- B) The Constitution of the Soviet Union
- C) The Constitution of Pennsylvania (1776)**
- D) The Constitution of France (1791)

13. The concept of 'popular sovereignty,' the idea that political power resides with the people, was a revolutionary discovery in political thought that heavily influenced constitutional development. Which document first enshrined this principle in practice?

- A) The Edict of Nantes
- B) The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen
- C) The Magna Carta
- D) The Declaration of Independence**

14. What invention in communication technology significantly aided the spread and debate of constitutional ideas across borders?

- A) The Phonograph
- B) The Telephone
- C) The Newspaper**
- D) The Steam Engine

15. The discovery of the importance of 'due process' in constitutional law can be traced back to:

- A) The Code of Hammurabi
- B) The Twelve Tables of Rome
- C) The Magna Carta**
- D) The Edicts of Justinian