Things to Work On:

- Writing
- Organization
- Strong
- Acceptable
- Weak
- Strengths

Weak
Acceptable
Strong
Organization:

- Federal Government
  - Addresses the sovereignty of state governments and the powers of the
    (Checks and balances, 3 branches of government)
  - Addresses the issue of separation of powers and division of government.
  - Addresses the different opinions of Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and Thomas Jefferson.

Strong
- Ability to write a persuasive essay
- Ability to analyze and interpret historical events
- Ability to present arguments effectively

Underdeveloped
- Weakness in research and critical thinking
- Difficulty in organizing thoughts

Partially Developed
- Improvement in research skills
- Better organization of ideas

Developed
- Excellent research skills
- Strong organization of ideas

Thesis
- 5-75
- 2-40
- 6-80
- 2-50
- 7-87
- 3-60
- 8-95
- 4-70
- 9-200

Grade

Name:

Unit 4

Prompts:

- What were some of the issues involved in the debate surrounding the composition and ratification of the Constitution?
- What issues were discussed in the compromises and how were they resolved?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-8</td>
<td>The Essay is well-organized. Provides substantial relevant information in support of the thesis. Contains a clear, well-developed thesis that addresses all parts of the question. Effective analysis addressing all parts of the question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-4</td>
<td>The Essay supports the thesis with some relevant information. Contains a thesis that may be partially developed or poorly developed. Supports the thesis with some relevant information. Provides some analysis of most parts of the question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-2</td>
<td>The Essay contains errors that do not seriously detract from the essay. Contains a thesis that may be underdeveloped or poorly developed. Provides little or no analysis or contains only generalizations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 0-2   | The Essay contains major errors. May contain numerous errors.
Omission of key references on quotes these.
Has little or no relevant information regarding the question.
Lacks a thesis or restates the question. |
| 1     | The Essay contains errors that do not seriously detract from the essay. Contains a thesis that may be underdeveloped or poorly developed. Provides little or no analysis or contains only generalizations. |
| 0     | The Essay contains major errors. May contain numerous errors. Omission of key references on quotes these.
Has little or no relevant information regarding the question. Lacks a thesis or restates the question. |
What were some of the issues involved in the debate surrounding the composition and ratification of the Constitution?

DOCUMENT 1

Source: Constitution of Pennsylvania (1776)

I. That all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural inherent and inalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.

II. That all men have a natural and inalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences and understanding: And that no man ought or of right can be compelled to attend any religious worship, or erect or support any place of worship, or maintain any ministry, contrary to, or against, his own free will and consent: Nor can any man, who acknowledges the being of a God, be justly deprived or abridged of any civil right as a citizen, on account of his religious sentiments or peculiar mode of religious worship: And that no authority can or ought to be vested in, or assumed by any power whatever, that shall in any case interfere with, or in any manner controul, the right of conscience in the free exercise of religious worship...

XI. That in controversies respecting property, and in suits between man and man, the parties have a right to trial by jury, which ought to be held sacred.

XII. That the people have a right to freedom of speech, and of writing, and publishing their sentiments; therefore the freedom of the press ought not to be restrained.

XIII. That the people have a right to bear arms for the defence of themselves and the state; and as standing armies in the time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; And that the military should be kept under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.

DOCUMENT 2

Source: A Declaration of the Rights of the Inhabitants of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (1780)

CHAPTER I

THE LEGISLATIVE POWER

SECTION I. THE GENERAL COURT

ARTICLE I. The department of legislation shall be formed by two branches, a Senate and House of Representatives; each of which shall have a negative on the other.

The legislative body shall assemble every year [on the last Wednesday in May, and at such other times as they shall judge necessary; and shall dissolve and be dissolved on the day next preceding the said last Wednesday in May;] and shall be styled, THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS.
DOCUMENT 3

Source: Henry Knox, Letter to George Washington (1786)

Our political machine, composed of thirteen independent sovereignties, have been perpetually operating against each other and against the federal head ever since the peace. The powers of Congress are totally inadequate to preserve the balance between the respective States, and oblige them to do those things which are essential for their own welfare or for the general good. The frame of mind in the local legislatures seems to be exerted to prevent the federal constitution from having any good effect. The machine works inversely to the public good in all its parts: not only is State against State, and all against the federal head, but the States within themselves possess the name only without having the essential concomitant of government, the power of preserving the peace, the protection of the liberty and property of the citizens. On the very first impression of faction and licentiousness, the fine theoretic government of Massachusetts has given way, and its laws [are] trampled under foot. Men at a distance, who have admired our systems of government unfounded in nature, are apt to accuse the rulers, and say that taxes have been assessed too high and collected too rigidly. This is a deception equal to any that has been hitherto entertained. That taxes may be the ostensible cause is true, but that they are the true cause is as far remote from truth as light from darkness. The people who are the insurgents have never paid any or but very little taxes. But they see the weakness of government: they feel at once their own poverty compared with the opulent, and their own force, and they are determined to make use of the latter in order to remedy the former.

DOCUMENT 4

Source: Marquis de Chastellux, Travels in North America (1786)

The government [of Virginia] may become democratic, as it is at the present moment; but the national character, the very spirit of the government, will always be aristocratic. Nor can this be doubted when one considers that another cause is still operating to produce the same result. I am referring to slavery, not because it is a mark of distinction or special privilege to possess Negroes, but because the sway held over them nourishes vanity and sloth, two vices which accord wonderfully with established prejudices. It will doubtless be asked how these prejudices have been reconciled with the present revolution, founded on such different principles. I shall answer that they have perhaps contributed to it; that while New England revolted through reason and calculation, Virginia revolted through pride...

DOCUMENT 5

Source: Thomas Jefferson to James Madison

Paris, January 30th, 1787

Dear Sir,

...Societies exist under three forms, sufficiently distinguishable: (1) without government, as among our Indians; (2) under governments, wherein the will of everyone has a just influence, as is the case in England, in a slight degree, and in our states, in a great one; (3) under governments of force, as is the case in all other monarchies, and in most of the other republics.
To have an idea of the curse of existence under these last, they must be seen. It is a government of wolves over sheep. It is a problem, not clear in my mind, that the first condition is not the best. But I believe it to be inconsistent with any great degree of population. The second state has a great deal of good in it. The mass of mankind under that enjoys a precious degree of liberty and happiness. It has its evils, too, the principal of which is the turbulence to which it is subject. But weigh this against the oppressions of monarchy, and it becomes nothing. *Malo periculosam libertatem quam quietam servitutem.* Even this evil is productive of good. It prevents the degeneracy of government and nourishes a general attention to the public affairs. I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical. Unsuccessful rebellions, indeed, generally establish the encroachments on the rights of the people which have produced them. An observation of this truth should render honest republican governors so mild in their punishment of rebellions as not to discourage them too much. It is a medicine necessary for the sound health of government.

Yours affectionately,

Th. Jefferson

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**DOCUMENT 6**

The “Distracting Question” in Philadelphia (1787)

Source: The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School [http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/debates/711.htm](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/debates/711.htm)

Wednesday July 11, 1787

IN CONVENTION

...Mr. WILLIAMSON was for making it the duty of the Legislature to do what was right & not leaving it at liberty to do or not do it. He moved that Mr. Randolph’s proposition be postponed. in order to consider the following “that in order to ascertain the alterations that may happen in the population & wealth of the several States, a census shall be taken of the free white inhabitants and 3/5 ths. of those of other descriptions on the 1st. year after this Government shall have been adopted and every year thereafter; and that the Representation be regulated accordingly."

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**DOCUMENT 7**

Patrick Henry Speaks Against Ratification of the Constitution (1788)


...And here I would make this inquiry of those worthy characters who composed a part of the late federal Convention. I am sure they were fully impressed with the necessity of forming a great consolidated government, instead of a confederation. That this is a consolidated government is demonstrably clear; and the danger of such a government is, to my mind, very striking I have the highest veneration for those gentlemen; but, sir, give me leave to demand, What right had they to say, We, the people? My political curiosity, exclusive of my anxious solicitude for the public welfare, leads me to ask, Who authorized them to speak the language of, We, the people,instead of, We, the states? States are the characteristics and the soul of a confederation. If the states be not the agents of this compact, it must be one great, consolidated, national government, of the people of all the states. ... It is not mere curiosity that actuates me: I wish to hear the real, actual, existing danger, which should lead us to take those steps, so dangerous in my conception.
...Give me leave to say something of the nature of the government, and to show that it is safe and just to vest it with the power of taxation. There are a number of opinions; but the principal question is, whether it be a federal or consolidated government. In order to judge properly of the question before us, we must consider it minutely in its principal parts. I conceive myself that it is of a mixed nature; it is in a manner unprecedented; we cannot find one express example in the experience of the world. It stands by itself. In some respects it is a government of a federal nature; in others, it is of a consolidated nature. Even if we attend to the manner in which the Constitution is investigated, ratified, and made the act of the people of America, I can say, notwithstanding what the honorable gentleman has alleged, that this government is not completely consolidated, nor is it entirely federal. Who are parties to it? The people but not the people as composing one great body; but the people as composing thirteen sovereignties. Were it, as the gentleman asserts, a consolidated government, the assent of a majority of the people would be sufficient for its establishment; and, as a majority have adopted it already, the remaining states would be bound by the act of the majority, even if they unanimously repudiated it. Were it such a government as is suggested, it would be now binding on the people of this state, without having had the privilege of deliberating upon it. But, sir, no state is bound by it, as it is, without its own consent. Should all the states adopt it, it will be then a government established by the thirteen states of America, not through the intervention of the legislatures, but by the people at large. In this particular respect, the distinction between the existing and proposed governments is very material. The existing system has been derived from the dependent derivative authority of the legislatures of the states; whereas this is derived from the superior power of the people.