Historic Documents Assignments

Declaration of Independence

Questions: 12 points
1. The Declaration Independent listed many grievances about the British King? List 6 of those.
2. Explain the Enlightenment idea of Natural/Unalienable rights?
3. List the three basic human rights found in the Declaration of Independence?
4. Identify and explain the Social Contract Theory?
5. According to Locke, what is the purpose of government?
6. Explain why the colonists wanted to separate from England?

Historical Documents—Northwest Ordinance—6 points

1. Explain why the founding fathers in the Northwest Ordinance wanted public education in the new states?
2. In the first stage of future statehood, what three leaders of the territory would be appointed?
3. In the second stage of future statehood, explain what role owning land would have on people within that state?
4. In stage three of statehood, why was it important/required to have in each future state a constitution?
5. List the five future states that fell under the Northwest Ordinance?
6. Explain what connection Ohio had with the Northwest Ordinance?
7. Explain the goal of the Northwest Ordinance?
8. Identify three basic Individual rights mentioned in the Northwest Ordinance?

Historic Documents—Articles of Confederation—14 points

1. Explain why the founders purposely made the Articles of Confederation weak?
2. Most of the power in the Articles of Confederation was in whose hands?
3. List three specific powers the Articles of Confederation had?
4. Explain why not having a President/Executive Branch would cause serious problems?
5. Why would not having the power to tax under the Articles of Confederation a major problem?
6. Why not have no national courts under the Articles of Confederation cause problems?
7. Explain one success of the Articles of Confederation?
Federalist and Anti-Federalists—Historic Documents—16 points

1. The Anti-federalist were against the Constitution for a number of reasons. One reason was tyranny? Explain.
2. Another reason the Anti-federalists were against the Constitution was because of the Supremacy Clause? Explain.
3. Another reason to reject the Constitution was the fear of a Chief Executive? Explain.
4. Those favoring the Constitution were the Federalists. Explain why they wrote the Federalist Papers?
5. Explain why the Federalists wanted to get rid of the Articles of Confederation?
6. Explain why the Federalists wanted a stronger government?
7. Explain why the Federalists promised to add a Bill of Rights to the Constitution?
8. Explain how the Federalists would divide power in the National Government?

Influence of other Sources—Historic Documents—12 points

1. Explain how the Magna Carta influenced the Constitution?
2. Explain how the role played by the Enlightenment thinkers influenced the founding fathers in regards to the purpose of government?
3. Explain the significance of the Virginia House of Burgesses?
4. Explain the significance of the Mayflower Compact?
5. Explain what impact the Virginia Declaration of Rights had on the Constitution?
6. What document became the first Constitution in the American colonies?

The Constitution and Enlightenment Ideas—Historic Documents—12 points

1. Explain the significance of Jean-Jacques Rousseau in connection with the Constitution?
2. Explain the significance of Baron de Montesquieu in connection with the Constitution?
3. Explain what is mean by the idea of “the greater good.”?
4. Explain the significance of Voltaire in connection with the Constitution.
5. Identify and explain the concept of “Popular Sovereignty” and how it relates to the Constitution?
6. Explain the purpose of the Enlightenment?

Bill of Rights—10 points—22 points

1. Which Amendment protects other rights not specifically in the Constitution?
2. Which Amendment protects us from Federal troop staying in our home without permission?
3. Which Amendment protects your right to assemble?
4. Which Amendment protects you from unreasonable searches and seizures?
5. Which Amendment gives you the right to have a civil trial?
6. Which Amendment protects you to form a militia?
7. Which Amendment protects against unreasonable fines and bail?
8. Which Amendment protects you from having to testify against yourself?
9. Which Amendment provides you an impartial jury?
10. Which Amendment guarantees reserved powers for the States?
11. Explain why the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution?