

Constitutional Underpinnings Test

AP U.S. Government

Instructor: Robert S. Alley Jr

Name: _____

Score: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer TWO of the following.

1. “In a republican government, the legislative authority necessarily predominates. The remedy for this inconveniency is to divide the legislature.... [And] the executive... should be fortified.”

James Madison
The Federalist, Number 51

Using specific examples, discuss how Madison’s observations apply to the relationship between the legislative branch and modern presidency.

2. The Constitution was an attempt to address problems of decentralization that were experienced under the Articles of Confederation.
 - a. List three problems of decentralized power that existed under the Articles of Confederation. For each problem you listed, identify one solution that the Constitution provided to address the problem.
 - b. Some have argued that the tensions between decentralized and centralized power continue to exist. Support this argument by explaining how one of the following illustrates the continuing tension.
 1. Environmental Policy
 2. Gun Control
 3. Disability Access
3. The United States Constitution has endured for more than two centuries as the framework of government. However, the meaning of the Constitution has been changed both by formal and informal methods.
 - a. Identify two formal methods for adding amendments to the Constitution.
 - b. Describe two informal methods that have been used to change the meaning of the Constitution. Provide one specific example for each informal method you described.
 - c. Explain why informal methods are used more often than the formal amendment process.