

Concepts of Democracy & the Constitution

- I. Basic concepts of Democracy
 - A. Fundamental worth of individual
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - B. Equality of all persons
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - C. Majority and minority rights
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - D. Necessity for compromise
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - E. Individual freedom
 - 1.
 - 2.
- II. Why a Constitution and What's its purpose?
 - A. To have guidelines to ensure the people that government won't overstep its bounds.
 - B. Has roots to earlier documents: Magna Carta (1215), Petition of Right (1628), Spirit of Laws (Montesquieu), Two Treatise of Government (John Locke).
 - C. Constitution sets out to:
 - 1. Form more perfect union
 - 2. Establish justice
 - 3. Ensure domestic tranquility
 - 4. Provide for a common defense
 - 5. Promote general welfare
 - 6. Secure blessings of liberty
 - D. Replaced Articles of Confederation

III. Constitutional Convention (1787 in Phil)

A. Many Prominent Statesmen

B. Not Present

-Patrick Henry

-Samuel Adams-

-Jefferson-

-John Adams-

C. Agreed Articles of Confederation were bad

D. Virginia Plan

E. New Jersey Plan

F. Connecticut Compromise

G. 3/5 Compromise

IV Constitutional Convention-Why Secret?

1) **Treason?**

2) **State your mind without worry of public backlash or pressure**

3) **Foreign perception**

****Federalists vs Anti-Federalists**

V What are the Basic Principles of the Constitution?

A. Popular Sovereignty

B. Limited Government

C Separation of Powers

D. Checks and Balances

E. Judicial Review

F. Federalism

VI Why has it Endured?-"Living Constitution"

A. Framers knew the Constitution had to be flexible. How can it be flexible?

AMENDMENTS

B. 2 Processes of amending the Constitution

1) Formal Amending Process (4 methods)

PROPOSED

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| a) by congress by 2/3 vote | a) state legislatures in 3/4 |
| b) by congress by 2.3 vote | b) by convention in 3/4 states |
| c) by national convention called
by congress at request of 2/3
of state legis. Conventions | c) by state leg. In 3/4 of the states |
| d) proposed at national convention
called by congress at request
of 2/3 of state legislature | d~ ratified by 3/4 of states |