Fitzgerald Name –

How to Study for a Test

**STEP 1** You should now have a good set of notes that covers the material that will be on the test.

* You read carefully.
* You took great notes.
* You participated in discussion.
* You added and corrected as we went through the notes.
* You wrote questions in the first column to focus on key points in the notes and quizzed self.

**STEP** 2 I like to write then a “boiled down” list of all the key points that answer the questions.

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| The Articles Era | The Constitutional Convention | Ratifying the Constitution |
| * State write own constitutions first, as soon as declare independence
* State gov'ts - weaker governor, stronger legislature,bills of rights
* Continental Congress writes Articles – a weak gov't with only one branch – a legislature, each state has one vote, linking strong, separate states
* Weak Gov't – no executive, no judicial, can’t tax, can’t regulate trade, need 9/13 to pass law
* Few Powers – negotiate with foreign powers, declare war, borrow money, coin money, post office
* States won’t accept unless claims to western land are dropped
* Land Ordinance – divide land into townships of 36 sections to sell
* Northwest Ordinance – how to govern Northwest Territories (MI, OH, WI, IN, IL), basic rights needed, process to become a state – territory with appted gov, 5,000 free white males gets legislature, 60,000 people get statehood
* Economic problems – trade shut down because each state taxes goods brought in from other states
* Alexander Hamilton, financial guru, tries to get states to create a stronger national government to fix economy
* Shays’ rebellion – business so bad, states start to tax land because can’t tax trade, subsistence farmers can’t pay taxes on land, farms are taken, rebel – try to get guns from state arsenal, arrested
* Shays’ Rebellion makes leaders seek to revise Articles – must improve trade, be able to improve economy, and control rebellion
* Also need to gain the respect of Britain and Spain
 | * called by Continental Congress 1787 Philadelphia
* Alter (revise)? No power to abolish (create a new system)
* Secret – free to speak mind, go beyond stated purpose, create powerful new national government
* 12 states send delegates - Not Rhode Island
* G Washington - president of convention
* James Madison – takes notes – father of Constitution
* Alexander Hamilton – economic guru
* 1st plan - VA Plan easily accepted – 3 branches, 1 executive instead of 3, 2 houses in Congress, representation based on population
* **Argument** arises over part of VA Plan - number of representatives per state

 Va Plan/large states- based on populationNJ Plan/small states - equal number of votes per state* **Great Compromise** – upper house (**Senate) equal representation –** **two votes per state** appointed by state for 6 years, lower house (**House of Representatives) – number of representatives based on population** (1 per every 40,000) voted in by people for 2 years
* **Argument** - Should slaves count as population when figuring representation? - **Compromise** -

3/5ths Clause – 3/5ths of entire slave population will count and will be able to be taxed* **Argument** - Should slave trade (captured and imported) continue? - **Compromise** - must allow for 20 more years (1808) and imported slaves can be taxed
 | * Ratification – official approval of a document
* Conventions in 9/13 states will need to ratify
* Federalists – supporters of Constitution with its federal system
* Federalist Papers – 85 news articles written to support Constitution by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay
* John Jay - ambassador to Great Britain - needed for respect from foreign nations
* Federalists say – need power to enforce, need to regulate trade, need power to tax, checks and balances prevent abuse
* Antifederalist – opposed to Constitution, George Mason, Patrick Henry
* George Mason - wrote VA Bill of Rights, at convention but won't sign without Bill of Rights
* Patrick Henry - wouldn't attend convention at all if writing new system
* Antifederalists say – states too weak, no Bill of Rights, checks and balances not enough, president will be like king
* Ratification – Delaware first, Virginia and NY holds out concerning all, New Hampshire 9th, VA 10th then NY in, Rhode Island last
* Promise of Bill of Rights had convinced states to ratify, so new Congress immediately writes, approved by 2/3rds vote in congress, accepted by 3/4 of states (actually all do!)
* Bill of Rights added as first 10 amendments
* 1st freedoms – speech, press, religion, sep of church and state, assembly and petition
* 2nd – right to bear arms
* 3rd – can’t quarter soldiers in homes
* 4th – right to a warrant
* 5th-8th – rights of a person accused of a crime and at trial
* 9th and 10th – limits govt powers
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**STEP 3** Next, I return to my notes and list the questions under the headings, to quiz myself without notes anywhere near.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| The Articles Era | The Constitutional Convention | Ratifying the Constitution |
| * What was the first thing the states did after declaring independence?
* Describe the state gov'ts. 4 characteristics.
* What are the three branches of gov't?
* Who wrote the Articles?
* What were the weaknesses of the Articles gov’t? 6
* What were the few powers given to the Articles gov't? 5
* What type of vote is needed to pass the Articles?
* What stopped many states from voting for the Articles?
* What did the Land Ordinance do?
* What did the Northwest Ordinance do?
* Describe the economic problems of the states during the Articles gov't.
* Who tried to get the states to meet to discuss a strong gov't that could help the economy?
* What caused Shays' Rebellion?
* How did Shays’ Rebellion end?
* What resulted from Shays’ Rebellion?
* How are we being treated by other nations?
 | * Who called for the Constitutional Convention and what was its purpose?
* Why was the meeting kept secret?
* Who attended?
* Name four famous delegates.
* What plan is put forward first?
* What three parts of the VA Plan are easily accepted.
* What argument arises from the VA Plan.
* What are the two sides of this argument?
* What does the word compromise mean?
* Explain the Great Compromise.
* What two arguments arise over slavery?
* What are the two sides of each argument?
* What is the compromise that settles each argument.
 | * What does ratification mean?
* What will be needed to ratify the Constitution?
* What are the supporters of the Constitution called?
* Who are the leading supporters of the Constitution? Explain why they are logical leaders of this side.
* What do the supporters of the Constitution do to convince people.
* What are the main arguments of the supporters of the Constitution?
* What are those who oppose the Constitution called?
* Who leads the opposition the Constitution? Explain why they are logical leaders of this side.
* What are the three main arguments against the Constitution?
* What two states become concerns during the state conventions' voting on the Constitution and why?
* How does the voting of the states end?
* What had convinced states to support the Constitution?
* What is the Bill of Rights?
* What is an amendment?
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**STEP 4 *Now I rotate my study from quizzing self, to reading the list of all boiled down ideas, to answering the list of questions with no notes, to looking at the study web we did in class, back to quizzing from notes, etc..***

**STEP 5** My goal is to feel pumped, ready, like I can't wait to tell people the story, like the ideas have made my mind so sharp and strong! Like an athlete ready for a game charging onto the court!