

Exercise walk-through

3.8

The Constitutional Convention and Debates over Ratification

AP United States History

Continuity and Change in Period 3

The period's reasoning skill is **continuity and change**.

The strongest answers hold both: political institutions changed radically, while slavery, westward expansion, and conflict with American Indians continued and intensified.

Exam transfer: describe one effect

2025 AP US History, Set 1, Question 3(B)

“Briefly describe one effect of the Seven Years’ War from 1754 to 1765.”

Try it: Write a response using one effect within the dates. Give relevant details, rather than only naming a term.

Compare: Would a response about the Declaration of Independence in 1776 answer this question? Explain your decision.

Worked response: an effect within the dates

Teacher-written model

Britain's costly victory encouraged Parliament to raise revenue from its North American colonies. The Stamp Act of 1765 imposed a tax on printed materials in the colonies.

Why this fits: It describes a postwar tax policy within 1754–1765. The official scheme accepts further British taxation to pay for the war; it also accepts the end of French colonies and heightened tensions.

1776 is outside this prompt's dates. "Describe" requires relevant characteristics beyond an isolated term; it is not a universal instruction to supply two separate parts.

Exam tips

- Explain links from war expense and territorial expansion to revenue measures, settlement restrictions and resistance; avoid treating independence as inevitable.
- Explain how **republicanism** and **natural rights** support an argument; relate each to evidence.
- For the Constitution, argue from the **specific weakness** it fixed – no power to tax, no power to regulate commerce, no executive.
- Keep **Federalist** and **Anti-Federalist** positions straight, and remember the **Bill of Rights** was the price of ratification.
- The Revolution's effects on **slavery and women** are examinable, and both are partial: ideals spread further than rights did.
- On continuity-and-change prompts, give one of each. An answer that only lists changes has answered half the question.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State the three means by which delegates proposed a constitution. [3]

2.2 State what the Convention compromised over. [2]

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2.1

- negotiation; collaboration; compromise
-

2.2 State what the Convention compromised over. [2]

2.2

- the representation of slave states in Congress and the federal government's role in regulating slavery and the slave trade

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Ratification was secured by a promise.

(a) State the promise and what it did.

[2]

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[2]

(a)

- the addition of a Bill of Rights that enumerated individual rights and explicitly restricted the powers of the federal government

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Ratification was secured by a promise.

(b) State the date for the international slave trade.

[1]

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[1]

(b)

- after 1808

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 The Federalist Papers were primarily written by

[1]

☐

A Hamilton and Madison

B Franklin and Adams

C Jefferson and Paine

D Washington alone

3.2 The Constitution allowed prohibition of the international slave trade

[1]

☐

A after 1808

B immediately

C never

D after 1850

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Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A compromise postpones a prohibition for twenty years.

(a) State what both sides obtained.

[1]

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[1]

(a)

- one side obtained the eventual prohibition; the other obtained twenty more years

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A compromise postpones a prohibition for twenty years.

(b) Explain why this counts as a compromise.

[2]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

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(b)

- neither side got what it asked for, and the agreement held only because each got part of it