

Exercise walk-through

3.9

The Constitution

AP United States History

The powers that moved, and the ones that did not

After declaring independence, leaders wrote new **constitutions and declarations of rights** that reflected republican ideals, generally limiting executive power.

The **Articles of Confederation** created a deliberately weak central government: no power to tax, no power to regulate commerce, no executive, and no national judiciary.

Two documents worth naming

Northwest Ordinance

The Confederation's one real success: it organised western settlement, set out how territories became states, and barred slavery north-west of the Ohio.

Washington's Farewell Address

George Washington urged national unity and warned against political factions and permanent foreign alliances – a warning issued as the first party system was already forming.

Naming a document *and* what it did converts a date into evidence.

The new republic's first arguments

the central dispute	under Washington and Adams, leaders split over the national–state balance of power
Hamilton's programme	a national bank, assumed state debts – a broad reading of federal power
Jefferson's objection	a strict reading, and an agrarian republic of independent farmers
the French Revolution	war between France and Britain forced hard choices; the government pursued neutrality and diplomatic initiatives
a national culture	developed in art, literature and architecture – alongside continued regional variation
American Indian nations	repeatedly re-evaluated their alliances with European powers and the new republic

The first party system grew out of a constitutional argument, not a policy one – which is why it was so bitter so quickly.

Moving west, and the competition it caused

Migration west

Growing numbers of migrants moved west, intensifying competition over **resources, boundaries, and trade**.

Shifting alliances

American Indian groups repeatedly **evaluated and adjusted their alliances** with European powers and the new United States as circumstances changed.

An ambiguous status

The relationship between the federal government and American Indian tribes stayed **ambiguous**, and conflict recurred.

In the Southwest

Spain expanded its **mission system**, supported by the bonded labour of local American Indians.

Westward expansion is the period's clearest *continuity*: independence changed the government, not the pressure on Native land.

The powers that moved, and the ones that did not, in detail

	Articles of Confederation	The Constitution	Why it mattered
Taxation	no power to tax; could only request funds	Congress may lay and collect taxes	<i>war debts went unpaid</i>
Commerce	no power to regulate trade between states	Congress regulates interstate and foreign trade	<i>states taxed each other</i>
Executive	no president	a single executive with defined powers	<i>no one could enforce law</i>
Judiciary	no national courts	a federal judiciary	<i>no way to settle disputes</i>
Amendment	unanimous consent of all states	three-quarters of states	<i>reform was impossible</i>

After declaring independence, leaders wrote new **constitutions and declarations of rights** that reflected republican ideals, generally limiting executive power.

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 State the CED's description of the central government created. [2]

2.2 Define federalism and separation of powers. [2]

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2.1

- a limited but dynamic central government embodying federalism and providing for a separation of powers between its three branches

2.2 Define federalism and separation of powers. [2]

2.2

- federalism divides power between a central government and the states; separation of powers gives the three branches distinct functions

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 “Limited but dynamic” holds two ideas.

(a) Explain each.

[2]

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2.3 “Limited but dynamic” holds two ideas.

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[2]

(a)

- limited because its powers are enumerated and divided; dynamic because it can act, expand and adapt within them

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 “Limited but dynamic” holds two ideas.

(b) State what an answer keeping only one describes.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 “Limited but dynamic” holds two ideas.

(b) State what an answer keeping only one describes.

[1]

(b)

- a different constitution from the one the CED describes

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 The CED says the central government embodied federalism and provided for [1]

- ☐ **A** a separation of powers between three branches
B a hereditary monarchy
C a single legislature only
D no courts

3.2 Separation of powers means no single body [1]

- ☐ **A** both makes and enforces a rule
B may hold office
C may vote
D may raise taxes

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Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A government has enumerated powers and still grows in what it does.

(a) State the CED's phrase.

[1]

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[1]

(a)

- limited but dynamic

Exercise 3.3 (b)

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(b) Explain how both hold.

[2]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

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[2]

(b)

- the enumeration fixes the boundary of its authority without fixing how fully it acts inside that boundary