

3.7 The Articles of Confederation

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 13 marks**

KEY WORDS articles 邦联条例 • northwest ordinance 西北法令

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **Articles** 邦联条例.

You must be able to:

- state what the Articles created
- name the five difficulties that led to calls for a stronger government
- state what many new state constitutions did
- state the three provisions of the Northwest Ordinance

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ **What they created**

The Articles of Confederation unified the newly independent states, creating a central government with limited power. Both halves: they did unify, and the power was limited by design.

■ **Five difficulties**

International trade, finances, interstate commerce, foreign relations, and internal unrest led to calls for a stronger central government.

■ **State constitutions**

Many new state constitutions placed power in the hands of the legislative branch and maintained property qualifications for voting and citizenship. The revolution did not remove the property qualification.

■ **Northwest Ordinance**

As settlers moved westward in the 1780s, Congress enacted it for admitting new states; it **promoted public education, the protection of private property, and a ban on slavery in the Northwest Territory.** A working achievement of the Articles government.

2 Practice

2.1 State what the Articles created. [2]

2.2 Name four of the five difficulties. [2]

2.3 The Northwest Ordinance was a working achievement.
(a) Name its three provisions. [3]

(b) State what many state constitutions maintained. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Many new state constitutions placed power in [1]

- **A** the legislative branch
- **B** the executive
- **C** the courts
- **D** the army

3.2 The Northwest Ordinance banned [1]

- **A** slavery in the Northwest Territory
- **B** public education
- **C** private property
- **D** new states

3.3 A student describes the Articles government as a total failure.

(a) State what this overlooks. [1]

(b) Explain the accurate description. [2]

Solutions

2.1 they unified the newly independent states, creating a central government with limited power.

2.2 any four of: international trade; finances; interstate commerce; foreign relations; internal unrest.

2.3 (a) public education; the protection of private property; a ban on slavery in the Northwest Territory. (b) property qualifications for voting and citizenship.

3.1 A. the legislative branch.

3.2 A. slavery in the Northwest Territory.

3.3 (a) that the Articles unified the states and produced the Northwest Ordinance. (b) they created a central government with deliberately limited power which proved inadequate to specific difficulties, not to everything.