

3.8 The Constitutional Convention and Debates over Ratification

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **Convention and ratification** 制宪与批准.

You must be able to:

- state the three means by which the delegates proposed a constitution
- state what the Convention compromised over
- state the date the CED gives for the international slave trade
- state how the Federalists secured ratification

1 Worked examples

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

■ Three means

Delegates from the states participated in the Constitutional Convention and through negotiation, collaboration, and compromise proposed a constitution. Three verbs, and the third is the one that carries the cost.

■ The compromises

The Constitutional Convention compromised over the representation of slave states in Congress and the role of the federal government in regulating both slavery and the slave trade, allowing the prohibition of the international slave trade after 1808.

■ The date

After 1808. The prohibition was permitted, not enacted, and it was postponed for twenty years—a compromise with a timetable.

■ Ratification

Anti-Federalists opposing ratification battled with Federalists, whose principles were articulated in the Federalist Papers (primarily written by Alexander Hamilton and James Madison). Federalists ensured ratification by promising the addition of a Bill of Rights that enumerated individual rights and explicitly restricted the powers of the federal government.

2 Practice

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

2.2 State what the Convention compromised over. [2]

2.3 Ratification was secured by a promise.

(a) State the promise and what it did. [2]

(b) State the date for the international slave trade. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

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

3.3 A compromise postpones a prohibition for twenty years.

(a) State what both sides obtained. [1]

(b) Explain why this counts as a compromise.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **3.8 The Constitutional Convention and Debates over Ratification** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Period 3: 1754-1800** section of the AP US History handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 negotiation; collaboration; compromise.

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

2.3 (a) the addition of a Bill of Rights that enumerated individual rights and explicitly restricted the powers of the federal government. (b) after 1808.

3.1 A. Hamilton and Madison.

3.2 A. after 1808.

3.3 (a) one side obtained the eventual prohibition; the other obtained twenty more years. (b) neither side got what it asked for, and the agreement held only because each got part of it.