**KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS**

1. **Anti-Federalists:** opposed the new Constitution, feared the new Constitution would

erode fundamental liberties, and argued that the new Constitution was a class-based

document serving the economic elite.

1. **Articles of Confederation:** the document that outlined the voluntary agreement between

states and was adopted as the first plan for a permanent union of the United States.

1. **Bill of Rights:** the first ten Amendments to the Constitution passed after ratification

specifically protecting individual liberties to fulfill promises made by the Federalists to

the Anti-Federalists in return for their support.

1. **Checks and balances:** each branch requires the consent of the others for many of its

decisions.

1. **Connecticut Compromise:** the plan adopted at the Constitutional Convention to provide

for two chambers in Congress, one representing states equally and the other

representing states on the basis of their share of the population.

1. **Consent of the governed:** people must agree on who their rulers will be.
2. **Constitution:** a nation’s basic law creating institutions, dividing power, and providing

guarantees to citizens.

1. **Declaration of Independence:** the document used by the signers to announce and justify

the Revolutionary War and which was specifically designed to enlist the aid of foreign

nations in the revolt.

1. **Equal Rights Amendment:** was first proposed in 1923, passed by Congress in 1972, but

was not ratified by three-fourths of the states; this amendment mandated equality of

rights under the law regardless of gender.

1. **Factions:** groups of people, currently known as political parties or interest groups, who

arise as a result of unequal distribution of wealth to seize the reins of government in

their own interest.

1. ***Federalist Papers*:** articles written to convince others to support the new constitution.
2. **Federalists:** argued for ratification of the Constitution by writing the *Federalist Papers*;

included Madison, Hamilton, and Jay.

1. **Judicial review:** the courts have the power to decide whether the actions of the legislative

and executive branches of state and national governments are in accordance with the

Constitution.

1. **Limited government:** clear restrictions on what rulers could do; this safeguards natural rights.
2. ***Marbury* v. *Madison*:** Judicial review was established in this 1803 Supreme Court case.
3. **Natural rights:** these are rights to which people are entitled by natural law, including life,

liberty, and property.

1. **New Jersey Plan:** a plan by some of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention to

provide each state with equal representation in Congress.

1. **Republic:** a system based on the consent of the governed where power is exercised by

representatives of the public.

1. **Separation of powers:** each branch of government would be independent of the others.
2. **Shays’ Rebellion:** a series of armed attacks on courthouses to prevent judges from

foreclosing on farms.

1. **U.S. Constitution:** the document where the foundations of U.S. government are written,

providing for national institutions that each have separate but not absolute powers.

1. **Virginia Plan:** a plan by some of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention to provide

each state with a share of congressional seats based on its share of the population.

1. **Writ of *habeas corpus*:** this enables people who are detained by authorities to secure an

immediate inquiry and reasons why they have been detained.