

# Constitution Study Guide

**Constitution** – written in 1789 – is the second constitution of the USA – serves as the rulebook for our government – there are seven sections called Articles

**Preamble** – Opening statement of the Constitution serves as an introduction or thesis statement that outlines what they will try to do in the document.

Sections that set up the Federal Government:

**Article I (1)** – Legislative Branch – Congress & House of Representatives

**Article II (2)** – Executive Branch – President

**Article III (3)** – Judicial Branch – Supreme Court

Other sections to the Constitution:

**Article IV (4)** – States’ Governments and US Citizenship

**Article V (5)** – How to make an Amendment

**Article VI (6)** – **Supremacy** – the Constitution is the “supreme Law of the Land”

**Article VII (7)** – **Ratification** – how the colonies would decide if the Constitution would become the law of the land – only part that doesn’t really matter anymore

**Federalism**- system of government we have in the US where power is *shared* between the federal and various state governments.

Federal Government - central government – Washington D.C.

**Explicit Powers**- powers that are directly written out/explained in the Const

Example: power to declare war and power to control US Post Office

**Implied Powers**- not directly stated but go along with explicit powers

Example: power to build weapons and power to create USPS website

**Concurrent Powers** – powers that are shared between federal and state gov’t.

State Government – local government – state capitals (Frankfort, KY)

**Reserved Powers**- those powers not given specifically to the federal government (or denied to the states) are reserved as state powers

# The Amendments

**Amendment:** a change or addition to the Constitution – there are 27

**Bill of Rights:** first ten amendments to the constitution

1 <sup>st</sup>	1791	Freedom of religion, speech, press, and to protest
2 <sup>nd</sup>	“	Right to Bear Arms
3 <sup>rd</sup>	“	Quartering Soldiers
4 <sup>th</sup>	“	Search and seizure
5 <sup>th</sup>	“	You can't be forced to testify against yourself
6 <sup>th</sup>	“	<b>Due Process-</b> rights of an accused criminal
7 <sup>th</sup>	“	Lawsuits may be heard by a jury
8 <sup>th</sup>	“	Protections against cruel and unusual punishments
9 <sup>th</sup>	“	These are not necessarily all your rights, there may be others
10 <sup>th</sup>	“	Rights Reserved to States

Other Important Amendments to know:

13 <sup>th</sup>	1865	Abolition of Slavery
15 <sup>th</sup>	1870	Black males have the right to vote
18 <sup>th</sup>	1919	Prohibition- it is illegal to drink alcohol
19 <sup>th</sup>	1920	Women have the right to vote
21 <sup>st</sup>	1933	Repealed the 18 <sup>th</sup> amend. – it is legal to drink alcohol again
26 <sup>th</sup>	1971	Any citizen 18 years old may vote