**UNIT TWO:**

**Question 1:**

-The Articles of Confederation demonstrated a distrust of a strong national government. What are the historical and philosophical reasons for this distrust?

-What were the positive and negative consequences of a limited national government?

-In what ways do the limitations on the national and state governments protect individual rights?

-In what ways do the limitations on the national and state governments promote the common good?

-What criticism of the Constitution by Anti-Federalists seems to be the most valid? Why?

- What criticism of the Constitution by Anti-Federalists seems to be the least valid? Why?

-Who was sovereign under the Articles of Confederation, and how did the question of sovereignty change under the Constitution written in Philadelphia?

-Does a bicameral legislature have any benefits today?

-Why did the Framers specifically enumerate the powers granted to Congress?

-What are some of the powers that are specifically denied to the Congress?

-How did the writings of people such as Montesquieu and Locke influence the government created under the Constitution?

-What is the tyranny of the majority? In what ways does the Constitution attempt to prevent it?

-Describe what checks there are on the federal judiciary, the legislative branch and the executive branch.

-Using examples from current events or recent history, explain whether or not you believe the system of separation of powers and checks and balances are working to keep the power of the government limited.

**Question 2:**

-What are the advantages and disadvantages of having two houses of Congress? Why?

-In what ways did the Virginia Plan correct what the Framers perceived to be weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation?

-How did the Three-Fifths Compromise and the census help delegates resolve issues of representation?

-How did the delegates at the Philadelphia Convention deal with the issue of slavery? Why did they choose to take the approach they did?

-On what fundamental principals were the Framers in agreement?

- How did the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan differ? How did these plans reflect differences between states?

-What were some achievements/weaknesses of the government under the Articles of Confederation?

-It used to be true that the House of Representatives were the most democratic part of the federal government. Is this still true since we now also directly elect Senators?

-Why did the Framers choose the Electoral College system for choosing the President? Do you think the Electoral College should be altered or abolished? Explain.

**Question 3:**

-How does the Constitution balance state powers with powers granted to the national government? How does it limit each set of powers?

-What are some examples of areas of government that are traditionally left up to the states? What areas of government are the responsibilities of the federal government?

-What powers are denied to the states by the Constitution?

-What philosophical ideas guided the Anti-Federalists’ opposition to a stronger national government? How did those ideas lead them toward specific objections to the Constitution?

-What arguments did the Anti-Federalists make with regard to the need for a bill of rights?

-Why did the Federalists believe that they could not rely solely on civic virtue to make the new nation work properly? Do you agree?

-Why do you think the delegates in Philadelphia protected some rights in the body of the Constitution but not others?

-What is *The Federalist*? How and why was it written?

-What arguments did Federalist make to support the ratification of the Constitution?

-Has the growth in power of the Federal government at the expense of the state destroyed the original intention of the Framers?

-Has the “necessary and proper” clause proven as dangerous as the Anti-Federalists predicted?

-Why are judges in the federal system appointed, not elected, to serve “during good behavior”

-What are the advantages and disadvantages of giving judges a lifetime appointment?