**Unit 2**

**Constitutional Government**

**8.2.1   Explain why the *Articles of Confederation* were replaced by the *Constitution*.  (CE.2b) p. 101,116**

* Congress lacked the power to tax\*
* weak central government\*
* power resided with the states\*
* no power to enforce laws\*
* no executive or judicial branches

**8.2.2    Describe the basic structure and organization of the *Constitution of the United States of America*.  (CE.2b)**

**p. 124-128**

* Preamble
* Articles, sections, clauses
* Bill of Rights
* Amendments

**8.2.3  Identify the purposes of government as stated in the Preamble.  (CE.2c) p. 124**

* form a more perfect union\*
* establish justice\*
* ensure domestic tranquility\*
* provide for the common defense\*
* promote the general welfare\*
* preserve the blessings of liberty

**8.2.4  Describe the fundamental basic principles of constitutional government.  (CE.2a)**

* popular sovereignty
* consent of the governed\*
* rule of law\*
* limited government\* **p. 129**
* representative government\*

**8.2.5  Explain the principles of separation of powers and the system checks and balances.  (CE.6b)**

* separation of powers **p. 94,99/ 130-131**  - legislative – make laws   
    - executive – executes, enforces laws   
    - judicial – interprets laws
* checks and balances **p. 130-131**  
    - prevents any one branch of government from becoming too powerful

**8.2.6  Explain how the *Constitution* reflects ideas found in previous documents. (CE.2b)**

* *Charters of the Virginia Company of London*\* **p. VA5-2, 5-9, 5-10**
* *Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom*\* **VA 5-11**
* *The Virginia Declaration of Rights*\*  **VA 5-10**
* *Declaration of Independence*\* **p. 97-99**
* *The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom\** ***VA 706***

**8.2.7  Explain how democratic principles are reflected in the *Constitution of the United States.***

* separation of powers—three branches P. **94,99**
* consent of the governed—“We the people”
* representative government—Congress p. **92**
* federalism-Article IV **p. 127,129**
* checks and balances p. **130-131**
* limited government—denied powers **P. 128**

**8.2.8    Describe the primary responsibilities of the state and national each level of governments.(CE.7b) P.127**

**national**  
 - conducts foreign policy\*  
 - regulates commerce\*

**state**

-provides for public health, safety, and welfare\*  
 - elections  
 - education

**8.2.9  Explain how the *Constitution* divides power between state and the national governments in the federal system.  (CE.7b)**

* supremacy clause p. 128
* denied powers p 126
* reserved powers\* p. 129
* concurrent powers\* p. 129
* federalism\* p. 129
* implied powers\* p. 129
* enumerated/expressed powers\* (delegated p. 126)

**8.2.10  Explain why the *Constitution of the United States* is called a “living document.”**

* adaptability (amendments)
* flexibility (elastic clause) p. 160-161

**8.2.11  Explain the procedures used to amend the *Constitution*. (CE.2d) p. 160-161**

* proposal - action by Congress or convention\*
* ratification by states\*
* amendment process is complex, only 27 amendments have been added\*

**8.2.12  Describe the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment.  (CE.3b) p. 163-165**

* religion – government may not establish an official religion, nor endorse, or unduly interfere with the free exercise of religion\*
* speech – individuals are free to express their opinions and beliefs\*
* press – the press has the right to gather and publish information, including that which criticizes the government\*
* assembly – individuals may peacefully gather\*
* petition – individuals have the right to make their views known to public officials\*

**8.2.13  Explain why the Constitution has been amended.  (CE.3b, CE.10d) p. 163-165, 170**

* protection of basic rights
* due process protections\*
* voting rights and elections
* protection of the rights of the accused
* changes to the original plan for government
* civil war amendments P. 186-190
* other issues

**8.2.14  Explain why individual rights may be limited. (CE.3b) p. 163-165**

* few rights are absolute\*
* eminent domain
* “riot act”
* libel
* slander
* clear and present danger
* public safety