

GOV 1101: American Government
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Quiz #2-Preamble to the Constitution (Khan Academy video)

Question #1 (Short Answer)

According to the video what is the essence of constitutionalism?

Ans.: The essence of constitutionalism is that the US Constitution creates a process for periods of deliberation so that no one person can make instant decisions on matters of law and government.

Question #2 (Short Answer)

According to the video what characteristics did the Founders think a “perfect Union” would have to have? In other words, what did they want the government to be strong enough to do, and what did they not want it to be strong enough to do?

Ans.: The Founding Fathers wanted government to be strong enough to keep people safe keep order free but not so strong as to be able to deprive the people of their lawful rights.

Question #3 (Short Answer)

According to the video what was important about the Supreme Court case Jacobson v. Massachusetts?

Ans.: In this case the Supreme Court rejected the argument that the Preamble gave independent authority to judges to do justice”. The Preamble is not a substantive power for justice.

Question #4 (Short Answer)

According to the video what does the Preamble of the Constitution mean by “insure domestic Tranquility”?

Ans.: One of governments main roles is to make sure that domestic peace is not disrupted by armed mobs engaging in violence. The government needs to have the power to put down rebellion.

Question #5 (Short Answer)

According to the video what does the Preamble of the Constitution mean by “provide for the common defence”?

Ans.: The government has the power to defend the nation against external threats and attack by enemies.