



AMERICAN GOVERNMENT



BILL OF RIGHTS

Multiple Choice Questions

****1. Who was the leader of the Virginia Baptist General Convention who influenced the creation of the First Amendment?***

- a) James Madison
- b) John Leland
- c) Richard Henry Lee
- d) Alexander Hamilton

****2. What was the key deal made between John Leland and James Madison?***

- a) Leland would become a delegate to write the Bill of Rights.
- b) Madison would promise to fight for greater protections of religious liberty.
- c) Leland would propose the Articles of Confederation.
- d) Madison would oppose the Bill of Rights.

****3. What key argument did Richard Henry Lee present in favor of the Bill of Rights?***

- a) It would limit state governments.
- b) It would serve as visible boundaries and sentinels of liberty.
- c) It would allow Congress to redefine rights.
- d) It would expand government authority over states.

****4. Alexander Hamilton argued against the Bill of Rights because:***

- a) It was unnecessary, as the Constitution already limited government.
- b) It would create a monarchy.
- c) It would allow states to override federal laws.
- d) It lacked enough amendments to protect liberty.

****5. What did Hamilton believe about the “list” of rights in the Bill of Rights?***

- a) It would strengthen the Constitution.
- b) It would be easy to enforce.
- c) It would create loopholes for the government to regulate other unlisted rights.
- d) It would allow the judiciary to enforce liberties.



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****6.** According to Madison, how did the Ninth Amendment address Hamilton's concerns?******

- a) It limited Congress's power to create laws.
- b) It ensured that unlisted rights were not denied or disparaged.
- c) It gave the judiciary the power to define rights.
- d) It allowed states to ignore the Bill of Rights.

****7.** What did Richard Henry Lee mean when he referred to the Bill of Rights as "sentinels for the people"?******

- a) The Bill of Rights would act as alarms when government approached liberties.
- b) The Bill of Rights would define all liberties in a list.
- c) The Bill of Rights would limit state power.
- d) The Bill of Rights would give Congress more authority.

****8.** According to the lesson, what is the role of the people in the system of government?******

- a) To submit to federal power.
- b) To rely on the courts to define rights.
- c) To be the greatest control on government.
- d) To leave all authority to Congress.

****9.** Why did Hamilton call the Bill of Rights "dangerous" in Federalist 84?******

- a) It would give too much power to states.
- b) It might suggest the government had powers not delegated to it.
- c) It would make the Constitution less important.
- d) It lacked proper judicial enforcement mechanisms.

****10.** What was the purpose of listing rights like "liberty of the press" in the Bill of Rights, according to Richard Henry Lee?******

- a) To limit the role of state courts.
- b) To give Congress power to enforce press laws.
- c) To remind the government that certain rights were off-limits.
- d) To expand the power of the judiciary.



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Answer Key**

1. b) John Leland
2. b) Madison would promise to fight for greater protections of religious liberty.
3. b) It would serve as visible boundaries and sentinels of liberty.
4. a) It was unnecessary, as the Constitution already limited government.
5. c) It would create loopholes for the government to regulate other unlisted rights.
6. b) It ensured that unlisted rights were not denied or disparaged.
7. a) The Bill of Rights would act as alarms when government approached liberties.
8. c) To be the greatest control on government.
9. b) It might suggest the government had powers not delegated to it.
10. c) To remind the government that certain rights were off-limits.



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Discussion Questions

- 1. Why did Richard Henry Lee believe the Bill of Rights was necessary, and what role did he see it serving for future generations?**
 - Follow-up: Do you agree that visible boundaries for government are essential? Why or why not?
- 2. Alexander Hamilton argued that the Bill of Rights could be dangerous because it could create loopholes for government overreach. Do you think his concerns were valid? Why or why not?**
 - Follow-up: Can you think of any modern examples where this concern might apply?
- 3. What is the significance of the Ninth Amendment, and how did James Madison use it to address Hamilton's concerns about the Bill of Rights?**
 - Follow-up: How does the Ninth Amendment protect rights not explicitly listed in the Constitution?
- 4. Richard Henry Lee referred to the Bill of Rights as "sentinels" and "visible barriers." How do you think these visible barriers help citizens hold their government accountable?**
 - Follow-up: Do you think citizens today are aware of these protections? Why or why not?
- 5. How does the debate between Hamilton and Lee about the Bill of Rights reflect the tension between limiting government and protecting individual liberties?**
 - Follow-up: Which side of the argument do you find more compelling, and why?

These questions encourage critical thinking, historical analysis, and modern application of the Founders' debates. Let me know if you'd like these tailored further!