



AMERICAN GOVERNMENT



THREE FIFTHS CLAUSE

Multiple Choice Questions**

- 1. **What is the primary purpose of the 10th Amendment?*****
 - A. To give the federal government unlimited powers
 - B. To reserve powers not delegated to the federal government to the states or the people
 - C. To establish federal supremacy over states
 - D. To limit the powers of state governments
- 2. **Who delegates power to the federal government under the U.S. Constitution?*****
 - A. The federal government itself
 - B. The people
 - C. The Supreme Court
 - D. The President
- 3. **What principle does the Supremacy Clause emphasize?*****
 - A. Federal government supremacy over all state laws
 - B. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land, and laws must align with it
 - C. States must always obey federal orders
 - D. Treaties can override the Constitution
- 4. **What does the term "it" refer to in the phrase “nor prohibited by it to the states” in the 10th Amendment?*****
 - A. The Bill of Rights
 - B. The Constitution
 - C. State laws
 - D. The federal government
- 5. **Why is Article 1, Section 10 important?*****
 - A. It outlines the powers that states voluntarily agreed to delegate to the federal government
 - B. It grants states the power to coin money
 - C. It allows states to create treaties with foreign nations
 - D. It eliminates all state powers



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6. ****What was the purpose of the Three-Fifths Clause in the Constitution?***
 - A. To reduce the power of slaveholding states in Congress
 - B. To define enslaved people as property
 - C. To encourage slavery
 - D. To give enslaved people the right to vote

7. ****How did the Three-Fifths Clause affect taxation?***
 - A. It exempted states with enslaved populations from taxation
 - B. States paid taxes based on 3/5 of their slave population, reducing their burden
 - C. It tied taxation to population counts, including 3/5 of enslaved persons
 - D. States with more slaves paid no taxes

8. ****What check did states originally have over federal spending under Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3?***
 - A. States could print their own money
 - B. States controlled direct apportionment of funds to the federal government
 - C. States could set national tax rates
 - D. States could veto federal tax laws

9. ****Why did the framers tie state population counts to taxation and representation?***
 - A. To balance power between free and slaveholding states
 - B. To ensure smaller states paid more taxes
 - C. To make slavery permanent
 - D. To encourage states to exaggerate population counts

10. ****What was one of the key consequences of the 16th Amendment?***
 - A. It eliminated direct taxation by the states
 - B. It allowed the federal government to directly tax individuals, bypassing state control
 - C. It abolished the Three-Fifths Clause
 - D. It restored state control over federal spending



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Answer Key**

1. **B** - To reserve powers not delegated to the federal government to the states or the people
2. **B** - The people
3. **B** - The Constitution is the supreme law of the land, and laws must align with it
4. **B** - The Constitution
5. **A** - It outlines the powers that states voluntarily agreed to delegate to the federal government
6. **A** - To reduce the power of slaveholding states in Congress
7. **C** - It tied taxation to population counts, including 3/5 of enslaved persons
8. **B** - States controlled direct apportionment of funds to the federal government
9. **A** - To balance power between free and slaveholding states
10. **B** - It allowed the federal government to directly tax individuals, bypassing state control



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discussion questions*

1. ****Why did the framers of the Constitution emphasize that the federal government's power is limited and defined, while reserving most powers to the states and the people under the 10th Amendment? How does this balance impact modern governance?***
2. ****What role does the Supremacy Clause play in limiting the federal government's authority? How is this principle misinterpreted or misused today?***
3. ****Why was the Three-Fifths Clause included in the Constitution, and how did it help reduce the influence of slaveholding states? How has this clause been misrepresented in modern discussions?***
4. ****How did the 16th Amendment fundamentally change the balance of power between the states and the federal government? Do you think this shift has strengthened or weakened federalism? Why?***
5. ****What are the practical consequences of removing the states' control over federal spending (as outlined in Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3)? How might reintroducing such a system affect the size and scope of the federal government today?***