

Final Exam

Date: _____

Name: _____

Grade: { }

1. What was the actual month and year that the Declaration of Independence was signed (1 point)?

2. John Adams persuaded the committee in charge of the Declaration to have _____ do the bulk of the writing as the chief author of the Declaration of Independence (1 point).

3. Inalienable rights are rights that are given to individuals and cannot be taken away from them. Which of the following was NOT one of the "inalienable rights" proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence (1 point)?
 - A. liberty; B. freedom of speech; C. pursuit of happiness; D. right to live

4. List the earliest three states to ratify the Constitution (1 point).

5. Why was the Declaration of Independence written (1 point)?
 - A. The Native Americans wanted their land back;
 - B. The colonists didn't want to pay taxes on tea;
 - C. The colonists wanted to break free from British control; D. Both A and B

6. Why is July 4th a significant date to the Declaration of Independence (1 point)?

- A. The Continental Congress approved the document
- B. It was when they started writing the document
- C. It was Jefferson's birthday
- D. It was the day they sent it to the King

7. On which of the following documents did Thomas Jefferson draw when drafting the Declaration of Independence (1 point)?

- A. The Constitution; B. The Virginia Declaration of Rights;
- C. The Bill of Rights; D. The First Charter of New York.

8. (1 point) A group of five men was appointed to write a draft of what became the Declaration of Independence. But Thomas Jefferson was asked to take the lead because

- A. He was young;
- B. He worked quickly;
- C. He had a talent for writing;
- D. He came late to the meeting.

9. (1 point) Laws for the United States are made by

- A. the President;
- B. the Senate;
- C. Congress;
- D. the Supreme Court.

10. (1 point) The Fifth Amendment gives a constitutional right that

“No person shall ... be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.”

Therefore, invoking (to use) the Fifth Amendment means that an accused man

- A. refuses to testify against himself;
- B. refuses to be tried again;
- C. demands a grand jury;
- D. wants to appeal his case.

11. (1 point) The Bill of Rights is

- A. the first ten Amendments; B. the Fifteenth Amendment;
- C. the entire Constitution; D. all of the Amendments.

12. (1 point) The President is elected if he

- A. wins a majority of the electoral votes;
- B. wins most of the country's vote;
- C. wins all of the States' votes;
- D. wins most of the States' votes.

13. Some historians think July 2nd ought to be the American Independence Day.

What do you guess is the reason for this (1 point)?

- A. On July 2nd, all the delegations met in Independence Hall.
- B. On July 2nd, they had a debate about why it would be a good idea to separate from England.
- C. On July 2nd, twelve of the thirteen colonies voted for their independence from England.
- D. On July 2nd, the document of the Declaration was received by the King of England.

14. Which of the following was NOT one of the three different opinion groups leading up to the Declaration of Independence (1 point)?

- A. Electing a new king for the colonies;
- B. Independence from England; C. Reconciliation with England.

15. Why was signing the Declaration of Independence considered such a dangerous act (1 point)?

- A. Those that signed might be put in a British prison.
- B. Those that signed might have their business taken away by the British government.
- C. Those that signed might be hung for treason against the British government.

16. What did Jefferson do when he needed a break from writing (1 point)?

- A. He took long naps to regain his strength.
- B. He went for walks in the countryside or on the waterfront.
- C. He sat by the fireplace and read books from famous philosophers.

17. Into which category would the Declaration of Independence fall (1 point)?

- A. Important historic document
- B. Major work of art
- C. Popular written work read by many people

18. In National Constitution Center's *Constitution 101* lectures, the first module explores the question why **civil dialogue** is needed, or is important—listening to perspectives that you might not agree with. Write a response to answer this question, according the video lecture and based on your own understanding, using the format below (7 points).

Lecture link: <http://constitutioncenter.org/education/constitution-101-curriculum>

Main Reasons to Have Civil Dialogues:

Other Reason(s):

Supporting Explanations, and Evidence/Examples:

Conclusion:

19. What are normally considered the three major compromises, at the Constitution Convention? According to module 4 in *Constitution 101* and your own words, elaborate each of these compromises (8 points).

Lecture link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGUhtXfrN28>

Answer 1: August, 1776. The Declaration was adopted on July 4, 1776, but no one was able to sign it until August 2, 1776. Until August 2, 1776, there was only one signature on the Declaration of Independence and that was of John Hancock.

Answer 2: Thomas Jefferson

Answer 3: B. The second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence states that the inalienable rights given the Americans are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This line is considered the preamble to the Declaration of Independence.

Answer 4: Delaware: December 7, 1787. Pennsylvania: December 12, 1787. New Jersey: December 18, 1787.

Answer 5: C.

Answer 6: A.

Answer 7: B. Thomas Jefferson drew on the Virginia Declaration of Rights, written by George Mason, among other documents.

Answer 8: C. Thomas Jefferson was asked to take the lead in writing the first draft of the document in part because he had a talent for writing — or, in the words of John Adams, his writing had a “peculiar felicity of expression.”

Answer 9: C.

Answer 10: A.

Answer 11: A.

Answer 12: A. Based upon the electoral process as described in the Constitution in Article 2, Section 1, Clause 3:

“The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed ...”

Answer 13: C.

Answer 14: A.

Answer 15: C.

Answer 16: B.

Answer 17: A.