

**DBQ 2 (The Constitution)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Pappas

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

Directions for DBQ# 2 (The Constitution)

Due Monday, January 4, 2010

**Checklist (DO NOT HAND THIS IN UNTIL YOU HAVE DONE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:)**

- 1. Your essay must be typed and double-spaced
- 2. You must use **both** of the graphic organizers (provided) to prepare your documents
- 3. Your essay must include the following:
  - a. **Introductory paragraph** (write the historical context in your words, write about the background of the time period, and introduce the tasks)
  - b. **Body paragraph 1**
    - i. must have a topic sentence
    - ii. must include information from the documents
    - iii. must include **outside information**
  - c. **Body paragraph 2**
    - i. must have a topic sentence
    - ii. must include information from the documents
    - iii. must include **outside information**
  - d. **Conclusion** (rewrite your thesis (the two tasks), what you found to support the tasks and predict what might happen as a result)
- 4. You must **all 6 documents** in your essay
- 5. As you read the documents, highlight what information will help your essay
- 6. At the top of the document write which task the document answers (1 or 2)
- 7. On the essay, each **document you cite (use)**, highlight it with a yellow highlighter
- 8. On the essay, each piece of **outside information (textbook, your input)**, use a pink (or green) Highlighter
- 9. Be sure to reference each document as you go along **for example:** As stated in document 1, (name of the document) "....."

**STAPLE YOUR ESSAY TO BACK OF THIS PACKET!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**Final Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Comments**

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## Part B

### Document Based Question

#### *Directions:*

- Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Use evidence from the documents to support your response.
- Include specific related outside information

**Historical Context:** Following their victory in the American Revolution, the colonies were organized under the Articles of Confederation. This document proved to be flawed, however. The delegates quickly decided that a new constitution should be written. This document, the US Constitution, was completed in September 1787 and approved by the states in June 1788. Its approval was neither automatic nor unanimous (agreed on by everyone), and it was widely debated throughout the nation

**Task:** Using information from the documents and your knowledge of Social Studies, write an essay in which you:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify one major difference between the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution</li><li>• Discuss two issues (problems) that Americans debated before ratifying the Constitution</li></ul> |
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**Be sure to include specific historical details. You must also include additional outside information from your knowledge of social studies.**

**Directions:** Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document in the space provided.

**Document 1**

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

**Article 1, Section 1.** All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

**Article 1, Section 2.** The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several States ...

**Article 1, Section 3.** The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof for six years, and each Senator shall have one vote.

- U.S. Constitution, 1788

*1a* Identify three purposes of the U.S. Constitution (look at your preamble chart!).

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*1b* Who holds the legislative authority (power) of the United States? How are these two groups chosen?

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## Document 2

These lawyers, and men of learning, and moneyed men, that talk so finely, and gloss over matters so smoothly, to make us poor illiterate people swallow down the pill, expect to get into Congress themselves ... and then they will swallow up all us little folks ...

- *Amos Singletary on the Constitution, 1788*

2a Why is Amos Singletary upset about the Constitution?

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b What kind of people does Amos Singletary represent?

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### Document 3

Sir, give me leave to demand, what right had they to say, "We, the People." My political curiosity leads me to ask who authorized them to speak the language of "We, the People" instead of "We, the States"? States are the characteristics, and the soul of the Confederation ... The people gave them no power to use their name. That they exceeded their power is perfectly clear.

- Patrick Henry, speech for the Articles of Confederation, 1788

3 What problem does Patrick Henry have with the Constitution saying "We, the People"?

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b Who is the "soul" of the Confederation?

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Document 4

II. Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.

- Article II of the Articles of Confederation

4a Under the Articles of Confederation, what rights do the states have (retain)?

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b How is this idea of states' rights different from the Constitution? Who is given rights under the Constitution?

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Document 5

To all general purposes, we have uniformly been one people, each individual citizen everywhere enjoying the same national rights, privileges, and protection. As a nation we have made peace and war; as a nation we have vanquished our common enemies; as a nation we have formed alliances, and made treaties, and entered into various compacts and conventions with foreign states ...

It is worthy of remark that not only the first, but every succeeding Congress, as well as the late convention, have invariably joined with the people in thinking that the prosperity of America depended on its union. Why is it suggested that three or four confederacies would be better than one? Those who promote the idea of substituting a number of distinct confederacies seem to clearly foresee that the rejection of it would put the continuance of the Union in the utmost jeopardy.

-John Jay, *The Federalist Papers* (Pro-Constitution), 1788

5a What form of government does the Jay support (example: together/separate)?

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b What does the author believe is most important for America to survive?

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## Document 6

The first consideration ... is the omission of a Bill of Rights, ascertaining and fundamentally establishing those unalienable and personal rights of men, without the full, free and secure enjoyment of which there can be no liberty ... Thus it appears, that the liberties, happiness, interests, and great concerns, of the whole United States may be dependent upon the integrity, virtue, wisdom, and knowledge of twenty-five or twenty-six men. How inadequate and unsafe a representation! Inadequate, because the sense and views of three or four million people ... cannot be collected in so small a body; and besides, it is not a fair and equal representation of the people ... for the smallest state has as much weight in the Senate as the largest ...

- *Reasons for Dissent* (Problems with the Constitution), 1788

6a What does this writer think is the major flaw (omission) in the new Constitution?

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b Why does the writer argue that the twenty-five or twenty-six men in the Congress cannot be trusted to safeguard (represent) the rights of the people?

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<b>DOCUMENT #</b>	<b>TASK #</b>	<b>INFORMATION FROM DOCUMENT</b>	<b>OUTSIDE INFORMATION</b>

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# Social Studies Graphic Organizer

Cut and Paste (Historical Context)	
Address Bullets (Task)	

Topic Sentence	
Inside Info (Documents)	
Outside Info	

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Inside Info (Documents)	
Outside Info	

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Summarize Task	
Effects/Personal Input	

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