**Outline/Study Guide on U.S. Constitution**

Civics Exam Questions: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, 41, 42, 65, 66, 67, 68

* The Constitution of the United States is the Supreme Law of the Land, written by the Founding Fathers at the Constitutional Convention in 1787.
  + The Constitution lays out the structure of the government and states the rights of those who are subject to the Constitution.
    - The “rule of law” means that everyone must follow the law, including leaders and government obeying the law.
  + The Constitution also protects the basic rights of Americans.
    - The Bill of Rights is the first ten Amendments to the Constitution.
  + The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution: “We the People”.
* Rights of the First Amendment are speech, religion, assembly, press, and petitioning the government.
  + Freedom of religion allows for the practice of any religion, or no religion at all.
* There are 27 amendments in the Constitution.
* It is possible to amend the Constitution
  + By a 2/3 majority of Congress and ¾ of the state legislatures.
  + An amendment is a change or addition to the Constitution
* In order to prevent one branch of government from becoming too powerful, there are the checks and balances and the separation of powers written into the Constitution.
* In the Constitution, powers are split between the Federal and State governments.
  + Some of the powers of the federal government are to print money, declare war, create an army and make treaties, issue passports.
  + Some of the powers of the state government are to provide schooling and education, provide police and fire departments, issue driver’s license, and approving zoning/land use.
* The Federalist Papers supposed the passage of the Constitution. Writers of the Federalist Papers were James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and Publius
* Benjamin Franklin is well known for being the oldest member at the Constitutional Convention. He was also a U.S. Diplomat, the first Postmaster General of the United States, started the first free libraries, and author of “Poor Richard’s Almanac”.

Quizlet flash cards: <https://quizlet.com/430284263/law-of-the-land-questions-flash-cards/?i=cf87b&x=1jqY>

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