

New Nation Primary Document Analysis

Directions: 10-Point Primary Document Assignment. Answer all questions in complete sentences. The use of conventions can not deter from the readability of the content. Responses that are not in complete sentences or are unreadable may result in reduction of your grade.

Document 1

The following are words Benjamin Franklin used to urge his fellow delegates to the Constitutional Convention to adopt the Constitution.

. . . When you assemble a number of men to have the advantage of their joint wisdom, you inevitably assemble with those men all their prejudices, their passions, their errors of opinion, their local interests and their selfish views. From such an assembly can a perfect production be expected? It therefore astonishes me, sir, to find this system approaching so near to perfection as it does . . . Thus I consent, sir, to this Constitution, because I expect no better, and because I am not sure that it is not the best. The opinions I have had of its errors I sacrifice to the common good.

—Henry D. Gilpin, Ed., *The Papers of James Madison* (New York, 1841)

What surprised Ben Franklin despite the diversity of the people? (1 point)

Document 2

HAMILTON

All the communities divide themselves into the few and the many. The first are the rich and well born; the other, the mass of the people. The voice of the people has been said to be the voice of God; and however generally this maxim has been quoted and believed, it is not true in fact. The people are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right. Give therefore to the first class a distinct, permanent share in the government. They will check the unsteadiness of the second; and as they cannot receive any advantage by a change, they therefore will ever maintain good government. (1787)

Take mankind in general, they are vicious—their passions may be operated upon. . . . Take mankind as they are, and what are they governed by? Their passions. There may be in every government a few choice spirits, who may act from more worthy motives. One great error is that we suppose mankind more honest than they are. Our prevailing passions are ambition and interest; and it will be the duty of a wise government to avail itself of those passions, in order to make them subservient to the public good. (1787)

JEFFERSON

Men . . . are naturally divided into two parties. Those who fear and distrust the people. . . . Those who identify themselves with the people, have confidence in them, cherish and consider them as the most honest and safe . . . depository of the public interest. (1824)

Every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers . . . alone. The people themselves are its only safe depositories. (1787)

I have such reliance on the good sense of the body of the people and the honesty of their leaders that I am not afraid of their letting things go wrong to any length in any cause. (1788)

Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government; whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them to rights. (1789)

I have great confidence in the common sense of mankind in general. (1800)

How did each view people's involvement in government? You must address both men's point of view for credit. (1 Point)

Document 3

My principal objections to the plan are, that there is no adequate provision for a representation of the people; that they have no security for the right of election; that some of the powers of the legislature are ambiguous, and others indefinite and dangerous; that the executive is blended with, and will have an undue influence over, the legislature; that the judicial department will be oppressive; that treaties of the highest importance may be formed by the President, with the advice of two thirds of a quorum of the Senate; and that the system is without the security of a bill of rights. These are objections which are not local, but apply equally to all the states.
- Hon. Elbridge Gerry Esq.

What does Gerry say is necessary to provide security of the system? (1 point)

Document 4

"It is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is. Those who apply the rule to particular cases, must of necessity expound and interpret that rule. If two laws conflict with each other, the courts must decide on the operation of each?" - Chief Justice John Marshall, Marbury v. Madison Decision 1803

What power is John Marshall establishing with this statement? (1 point)

US History Fall Practice
Primary Documents Rubric

Student name: _____
Class: _____
Teacher name: _____
School: _____

New Nation Rubric

All answers must be in complete sentences. The use of conventions cannot deter from the readability of the content. Responses that are not in complete sentences or are unreadable may result in a maximum of a 2-point reduction.

Teacher Tips for Grading

- allow accurate synonyms
- use no half points
- judge ultimately: Do they know the content?

Document 1: Constitutional Convention

_____/ (1) What surprised Franklin despite the diversity of the people?
-that they could work together to create a perfect document

Document 2: Hamilton/Jefferson

_____/ (1) Each say about People?
-Hamilton: negative: turbulent, changing, vicious
-Jefferson: positive: trusted, common sense, well informed

Document 3: Elbridge

_____/ (1) What is necessary to provide security of the system?
-A Bill of Rights?

Document 4: Marbury vs. Madison

_____/ (1) What power is John Marshall establishing?
-Judicial review

Essay Extension: (Concept 4: PO5) New Nation

_____/ (6) What were key developments in the first presidential administration under the Constitution:

ANY THREE of THESE or other accurate examples

- _____/ (2) French Revolution
- _____/ (2) Growing developments of the Party
- _____/ (2) excise tax
- _____/ (2) Bank of the United States
- _____/ (2) Establishment of the Cabinet
- _____/ (2) judicial review
- _____/ (2) whiskey rebellion
- _____/ (2) Marbury vs. Madison
- _____/ (2) Alien/Sedition Acts

Content Subtotal/ _____/10
Incomplete sentences/ _____ (-1)
Poor Conventions/ _____ (-1)

Section Total: _____/ 10