

20 initial questions – Elements of correction

1 – True

Since the Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776), "We, the People" hold the ultimate political power. BUT it is not a direct democracy, it is a representative democracy for most decisions, especially at the federal level.

2 – True

Because elected representatives are chosen to exercise power for the common good.

3 – True

It is a Federal state in which power is shared between partially self-governing states (50) and the national government in Washington.

4 – 4 years

5 – Be a natural born citizen / be at least 35 years old / be a US resident for at least 14 years

6 – False

On Election Day, voters go to the polling station or mail their ballots and cast their vote for their preferred ticket.

BUT

The President is actually elected by the Electoral College.

States are allocated electors based on the number of seats they have in Congress + Washington DC gets 3 electors while other US territories don't get any.

In total there are 538 electors.

When all the popular votes are cast on Election Day, the candidate who wins the popular vote in a state wins all their electors in the electoral college (winner-takes-all procedure). Hence the importance of winning big states who have more electors.

A candidate has to "win" at least 270 electors in order to become President.

7 – False

The voting age is 18 and it is protected by the 26th amendment.

8 – The branch of government that enforces the laws

9 – All of the above

At the national level, the Executive power is held by the President, the VP and the Cabinet.

At the state level, it is mostly held by the Governor.

10 – True

A Governor serves as the chief executive and commander-in-chief in each of the 50 states and in the 5 territories. They are directly elected by the citizens during the Midterms.

11 – The branch of government that passes the laws

12 – Congress / The House of Representatives / The Senate

The Legislative power is held by Congress, which is composed of :

> the Senate : 100 Senators, 2 for each State, 6-year terms, renewed by third every 2 years

> the House of Representatives : 438 Representatives total, the bigger the states the more representatives there are, entirely renewed at each Midterm election

13 – True

The 10th Amendment to the Constitution states that the powers not delegated to the US by the Constitution nor prohibited by it to the States are reserved to the States or the people. They can make their own laws always bearing in mind that Federal law takes precedence over state laws and even state constitutions and that states are bound by Supreme Court decisions.

14 – The branch of government that interprets the laws and makes judgments based on those interpretations

15 – False

The US Supreme Court is the highest tribunal in the Nation for all cases and controversies arising under the Constitution or the laws of the US. It is the final arbiter of the law and functions as guardian and interpreter of the US Constitution BUT it doesn't consider a law before it is enacted as the French Conseil Constitutionnel does, it is a Court of Appeals and only rules on cases that are brought before it. Those rulings then becoming binding.

16 – False

It is composed of 9 Justices that are appointed by the President and then confirmed by a majority vote in the Senate.

17 – True

They are allowed to retire or can be impeached, but they are supposed to be thus free from politics. In theory, it serves to ensure that the changing views of a majority do not undermine the fundamental values common to all Americans.

18 – True

19 – False

Checks and balances make sure that each branch exercises certain powers that can be checked by the powers given to the other two branches.

20 – The elephant