

Development of the US Constitution Grade 8

Score 4.0

In addition to score 3.0 performances, the learner demonstrates and in-depth understanding through inferences and applications that go beyond what was taught, such as:

- recent court decisions involving the principles and ideas in the Bill of Rights
- the freedoms and restrictions of the first amendment today
- modern ideas of individual rights
- explain the basic law-making process and how the Constitution provides numerous opportunities for citizens to participate in the political process and to monitor and influence government (e.g., function of elections, political parties, interest groups) (8.3.6)*

Score 3.5

In addition to Score 3.0 performance, in-depth inferences and applications with partial success.

Score 3.0

While engaged in tasks regarding the political principles underlying the U.S. Constitution and compare the enumerated and implied powers of the federal government, the learner demonstrates an understanding of important information such as:

- the major debates and compromises that occurred during the development of the Constitution and their ultimate resolutions in such areas as shared power among (three branches) institutions, divided state-federal power (dual sovereignty), separation of church and state, slavery, the rights of individuals and states (later addressed by the addition of the Bill of Rights) (8.2.3)*
- the political philosophy underpinning the ratification of the Constitution as specified in the Federalist Papers (authored by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay) (8.2.4)*
- the principles of federalism, dual sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, the nature and purpose of majority rule, and the ways in which the American idea of constitutionalism preserves individual rights (8.2.7)*

The learner exhibits no major errors or omissions.

Score 2.5

No major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details and process and partial knowledge of the more complex ideas and processes.

Score 2.0

There are no major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details and processes as the learner:

- recognizes or recalls specific terminology, events, people, and locations, such as:
 - federalism, federal/ national/central government, dual sovereignty, Executive, Judicial, Legislative, Amendment
- recognizes or recalls specific details, such as:

- ○ the powers of the three branches of the national government set forth in the Constitution
- ○ the fundamental liberties ensured by the Bill of Rights (i.e. separation of power between the federal and state government) (8.2.6)*
- ○ the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation (8.2.2)*
- ○ the causes and consequences of Shays' Rebellion (8.3.5)*
- ○ the Virginia Plan
- ○ The Great Compromise
- ○ the political beliefs and practices of James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and Alexander Hamilton

However, the learner exhibits major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and processes.

Score 1.5

Partial knowledge of the simpler details and processes but major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and procedures.

Score 1.0

With help, a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes and some of the more complex ideas and processes.

Score 0.5

With help, a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes but not the more complex ideas and processes.

Score 0.0

Even with help, no understanding or skill demonstrated.