

# **INDIANA BAR**

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## FOUNDATION

### **We the People**

## **2020 High School Regional Questions**

**Unit 1:** What Are the Philosophical and Historical Foundations of the American Political System?

(Question 1) How did both classical republicans and the natural rights philosophers influence the Founders' views about government?

- What are the essential differences between classical republicanism and natural rights philosophy?
- Why do both classical republicans and natural rights philosophers stress the need for education and preparation for citizenship?

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#### **Unit 2: How Did the Framers Create the Constitution?**

(Question 1) How does the Constitution limit government power to protect individual rights while promoting the common good?

- Why did the Federalists and Anti-Federalists disagree on whether the Constitution sufficiently protected individual rights and promoted the common good?
- What responsibilities, if any, do citizens have for seeing that individual rights are protected and the common good is promoted?

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**Unit 3:** How Has the Constitution Been Changed to Further the Ideals Contained in the Declaration of Independence?

(Question 1) What are the basic purposes of the Fourteenth Amendment?

- How are questions left unresolved at the Philadelphia Convention addressed in the Fourteenth Amendment?
- How are the due process and equal protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment related to principles of limited government?

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**Unit 4:** How Have the Values and Principles Embodied in the Constitution Shaped American Institutions and Practices?

(Question 2) How and why has presidential power expanded since the ratification of the Constitution?

- How have wars, emergencies, and the media contributed to the expansion of presidential powers?
- How have the other branches of government responded to the expansion of presidential power? Do you think they have done so adequately? Explain.

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#### **Unit 5: What Rights Does the Bill of Rights Protect?**

(Question 2) How are individual rights protected in the body of the Constitution?

- Given the protection of rights in the body of the Constitution, would you have agreed or disagreed with the Anti-Federalists' argument for the addition of a bill of rights? Why?
- What additional rights, if any, do you think should be added to the Constitution? Why?

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**Unit 6:** What Challenges Might Face American Constitutional Democracy in the Twenty-First Century?

(Question 3) What do you think are the best ways to achieve constitutional change?

- Thomas Jefferson argued that the Constitution should be revised every generation. The Founders provided instead for an amendment process to take place only if and when revisions may be deemed necessary. Which method do you think is better? Why?
- In what ways, if any, have constitutional amendments helped the United States become “a more perfect union”? Explain.