

## Concepts of Democracy & the Constitution

### I. Basic concepts of Democracy

#### A. Fundamental worth of individual

- 1.
- 2.

#### B. Equality of all persons

- 1.
- 2.

#### C. Majority and minority rights

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### D. Necessity for compromise

- 1.
- 2.

#### E. Individual freedom

- 1.
- 2.

### III.) *Human Rights and the Origins of Democracy*

#### **A. Natural Law**

##### *1. Cyrus Cylinder*

#### B. Roots in Other Documents

1. Magna Carta (1215),
2. Petition of Right (1628),
3. Locke – *Two Treatises of Government*
4. *On the Spirit of Laws*
5. Bill of Rights

#### C. American Revolution

#### D. Theories on American Democracy

1. Pluralist Theory
- 2.

#### E. Why a Constitution and What's its purpose? Constitution sets out to:

1. Form more perfect union
2. Establish justice
3. Ensure domestic tranquility
4. Provide for a common defense
5. Promote general welfare
6. Secure blessings of liberty

## F. Replaced Articles of Confederation

### 1. What were the problems with the Articles?

## III. Constitutional Convention (1787 in Phil)

A. Many Prominent Statesmen

B. Not Present

-Patrick Henry

-Samuel Adams-

-Jefferson-

-John Adams-

C. Agreed Articles of Confederation were bad

D. Virginia Plan

E. New Jersey Plan

F. Connecticut Compromise

G. 3/5 Compromise

## IV Constitutional Convention-Why Secret?

A) Treason?

B) State your mind without worry of public backlash or pressure

C) Foreign perception

\*\*Federalists vs Anti-Federalists

## **V What are the Basic Principles of the Constitution?**

**A. Popular Sovereignty**

**B. Limited Government**

**C Separation of Powers**

**D. Checks and Balances**

**E. Judicial Review**

**F. Federalism**

## **VI Why has it Endured?-"Living Constitution"**

**A. Framers knew the Constitution had to be flexible. How can it be flexible?**

**AMENDMENTS**

**B. 2 Processes of amending the Constitution**

1) Formal Amending Process (4 methods)

### **PROPOSED**

a) by congress by 2/3 vote

b) by congress by 2.3 vote

c) by national convention called  
by congress at request of 2/3  
of state legis. Conventions

d) proposed at national convention  
called by congress at request  
of 2/3 of state legislature

a) state legislatures in 3/4

b) by convention in 3/4 states

c) by state leg. In 3/4 of the states

d~ ratified by 3/4 of states