

## MORE STUFF ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION

*What are the goals and principles of the U.S. Constitution?*




# BILL OF RIGHTS

Amendment 1	♦ Freedoms of <u>Religion</u> , <u>Speech</u> , and <u>Press</u> ; Rights to <u>Assemble</u> and <u>Petition</u> the Government
Amendment 2	♦ The Right to Keep and Bear Arms
Amendment 3	♦ Limits on Housing Soldiers in Private Homes
Amendment 4	♦ Limiting Searches, Seizures, and Warrants
Amendment 5	♦ Clarifying Rights of the Accused
Amendment 6	♦ Right to a Speedy Trial in Criminal Cases
Amendment 7	♦ Right to a Jury Trial in Civil Cases
Amendment 8	♦ Limiting Bails, Fines, and Cruel/Unusual Punishment
Amendment 9	♦ Rights Reserved to the People
Amendment 10	♦ Powers Reserved to the States

Federal Powers	Shared Powers	State Powers
• Print money	• Pass and enforce laws	• Provide licenses for driving, marrying, and other activities
• Carry out foreign policy	• Tax individuals and businesses	• Hold elections
• Make treaties with other countries	• Borrow money	• Form local governments
• Declare war	• Form courts	• Establish public schools
• Regulate commerce between states	• Build roads	• Approve amendments to the Constitution
• Maintain an army and navy	• Provide charters to banks and corporations	• Control commerce within the state
• Create post offices		

## U.S. & TEXAS CONSTITUTIONS: A COMPARISON | Questions 11-12

Characteristics	U.S. CONSTITUTION	TEXAS CONSTITUTION
Style	Brief and vague	Long and detailed
Length	7,000 words	93,000 words
BILL OF RIGHTS	YES (10—Amendments)	YES (34—Article I)
Separation of Powers	YES (3 branches: Leg Exe Jud)	YES (3 branches: Leg Exe Jud)
Checks and Balances	YES	YES
Legislative Structure	Bicameral	Bicameral
Executive Power	Unitary	Plural
Veto Power	Simple	Line-item
Judicial System	One supreme court	Two supreme courts
Amendments	27	450+
Amendment Process	Difficult	Relatively easy

<p><b>Executive Branch</b> (President carries out laws)</p> 	<p><b>Checks on the Legislative Branch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can propose laws</li> <li>Can veto laws</li> <li>Can call special sessions of Congress</li> <li>Makes appointments</li> <li>Negotiates foreign treaties</li> </ul>	<p><b>Checks on the Judicial Branch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appoints federal judges</li> <li>Can grant pardons to federal offenders</li> </ul>
<p><b>Legislative Branch</b> (Congress makes laws)</p> 	<p><b>Checks on the Executive Branch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can override President's veto</li> <li>Confirms executive appointments</li> <li>Ratifies treaties</li> <li>Can declare war</li> <li>Appropriates money</li> <li>Can impeach and remove President</li> </ul>	<p><b>Checks on the Judicial Branch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates lower federal courts</li> <li>Can impeach and remove judges</li> <li>Can propose amendments to overrule judicial decisions</li> <li>Approves appointments of federal judges</li> </ul>
<p><b>Judicial Branch</b> (Supreme Court interprets laws)</p> 	<p><b>Check on the Executive Branch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can declare executive actions unconstitutional</li> </ul>	<p><b>Check on the Legislative Branch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can declare acts of Congress unconstitutional</li> </ul>