



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 10.1.3**

## *Influence of the U.S. Constitution on World Political Systems*

**Specific Objective:** Consider the influence of the U.S. Constitution on political systems in the contemporary world.

**Read the chart to answer the questions on the next page.**

The U.S. Constitution has influenced political systems throughout the world. This chart shows how some of its fundamental principles have been enacted.

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>In the U.S. Constitution</b>	<b>In the World Today</b>
Federalism	The national government and the state governments share power.	Powers are shared between the national government and the 50 state governments.	In South Africa, power is shared between the national government and the governments of the nine provinces.
Separation of Powers	Government roles are divided among different branches, with no one branch holding all the power.	There are three branches of government: legislative (Congress), executive (the president), and judicial (the courts).	South Korea has three branches of government: parliament, a court system, and a president.
Popular Sovereignty	The government gets its authority from the people and reflects their will.	The preamble says, "We the people of the United States... do ordain and establish this Constitution..." which indicates that government power comes from the people.	The Japanese Constitution begins by saying that the government's power comes from the people and shall be used by them for their own benefit.
Individual Rights	Liberties and privileges are guaranteed to each citizen.	The Bill of Rights guarantees freedom of speech, religion, the press, and other rights.	The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights says that "all human beings are born free and equal" and should have certain rights.



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**Directions:** Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

“We, the Japanese people... do proclaim that sovereign power resides with the people and do firmly establish this Constitution.”

—The Constitution of Japan, 1946

- 1 **What principle is reflected in the quotation from the Japanese Constitution?**
  - A federalism
  - B separation of powers
  - C popular sovereignty
  - D individual rights
  
- 2 **The U.S. Constitution reflects the principle of federalism by**
  - A sharing power between the national and state governments.
  - B dividing the government into three branches.
  - C guaranteeing all citizens equal protection under the law.
  - D granting voting rights to all citizens 18 years and older.
  
- 3 **A new government based on the principle of popular sovereignty *must***
  - A ensure freedom of speech for all citizens.
  - B have a directly elected president or prime minister.
  - C affirm the idea that its power comes from the people.
  - D divide government roles among different branches.
  
- 4 **The division of South Korea’s government into three branches with distinct powers reflects the principle of**
  - A federalism.
  - B separation of powers.
  - C popular sovereignty.
  - D individual rights.
  
- 5 **What guarantees freedom of speech to U.S. citizens?**
  - A the preamble to the U.S. Constitution
  - B the Bill of Rights
  - C Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution
  - D the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights