# **Notes Outline**

# **Unit 2 Lesson 1 – The Constitution: Structure and Principles**

# **I. The U.S. Constitution**

## The Founders created the Constitution with the desire to set up a republic, power held in elected representatives. It set up a separation of powers to ensure this. Our government’s success depends on its citizens being informed. An understanding of the constitution is key to understanding American government.

## Compared with other Constitutions, the U.S. Constitution is simple and brief.

## The Constitution is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or guide, for government but does not spell out every aspect of how government will function.

## The Constitution contains \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and is divided into three parts: the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

# **II. Structure of the Constitution**

# *The Preamble*

## The introduction, which states why it was written.

## The founders wanted a government which would:

## 1.

## 2.

## 3.

# *Seven Articles*

## There are seven divisions, or articles, which cover a general topic.

## Article I

## Article II

## Article III

## Article IV

## Article V

## Proposing Amendments

## Ratifying Amendments

## Article VI

# *The Amendments*

## The final part is the amendments, or changes.

## It has been amended or changed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ times in our nation's history.

## The process provides a way to meet the needs of a changing nation.

# **III. Six Major Principles**

## The Constitution rests on the following principles of government:

# *Popular Sovereignty*

## 

# *Federalism*

# *Separation of Powers*

# *Checks and Balances*

# *Judicial Review*

# *Limited Government*