



AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

A. Principles of American Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land?

A: The Constitution

2. What does the Constitution do?

A: *sets up the government*

3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?

A: *We the People*

4. What is an amendment?

A: *a change (to the Constitution)*

5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

A: The Bill of Rights

6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?*

A: *speech*



7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?

A: twenty-seven (27)

8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?

A: announced our independence (from Great Britain)

9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

A: life

A: liberty

10. What is freedom of religion?

A: You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.

2

11. What is the economic system in the United States?*

A: market economy

12. What is the "rule of law"?

A: Everyone must follow the law.

B. System of Government

13. Name one branch or part of the government:*

A: Congress



14. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

A: checks and balances

15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?

A: *the President*

16. Who makes federal laws?

A: Congress

17. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?*

A: *the Senate and House (of Representatives)*

18. How many U.S. Senators are there?

A: *one hundred (100)*

19. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?

A: *six (6)*

20. Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators?*

A: *Barbara Boxer*

21. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

A: *four hundred thirty-five (435)*