Constitution Test Review

**Articles of Confederation**

To change the Articles all 13 states had to agree to change, to pass a law 9 out of 13 had to agree.

Some weaknesses of the Articles were no separate executive branch (no president), no ability to enforce law, no ability to collect taxes. The lack of collecting taxes led to money problems and resulted in Shays’ Rebellion.

**Constitutional Convention**

Federalists supported the Constitution and wanted a strong national government.

Anti-Federalists were against the Constitution because they feared a strong government. Their other complaint was that the Constitution needed a Bill of Rights to protect people from the government.

Remember a republic is a representative democracy where people elect people to represent them and vote on issues.

The original purpose of the Constitutional Convention was to fix the Articles of Confederation.

The Great Compromise called for a 2 house legislative branch with some ideas of Virginia and NJ plans. The VA Plan called for representation to be based on state population and the NJ Plan called for equal representation.

**Structure of the Constitution**

Remember LEJRASR (Article 1 **L**egislative branch or Congress, Article 2 **E**xecutive Branch or president, Article 3 **J**udicial Branch or Courts, Article 4 **R**ights of states, Article 5 **A**mendments, Article 6 **S**upremacy Clause and Article 7 **R**atification. Focus on remembering the first three articles and know that when there is an issue between state and federal law the Supremacy Clause says that the national/federal law is supreme to state law.

You have to know the Preamble and what it says.

An amendment (change) to the Constitution must be approved by ¾ of the states.

**Constitutional Principles**

Federalism is a system of government where the national government shares power with the states, but the national power is always supreme to state power. The opposite of this is a confederation, in this type of government state power is supreme.

Enumerated powers refer to powers of the national government and reserved powers refer to powers of the states, concurrent powers are powers that national and state governments share. Refer to Venn diagram to see what are national powers, state powers and shared powers.

Separation of Powers is the constitutional principle that divides the government into three branches, this idea comes from Baron de Monstesquieu.

The rule of law means that no government official is above the law. The Congress can remove government officials from office if they break the law. The law applies to everyone equally.

The principle of checks and balances prevents one branch from becoming too powerful.