

American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course

Guided Reading

Section 1.4: Institutions, Systems, and Power

Name _____
Date _____ Class _____

 **Before you read**

Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.

Learning Target: Describe a constitutional republic.

AP® Key Concepts

political institutions

constitutional republic

 **While you read**

Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.

U.S. Constitution	Constitutional republic

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 **After you read**

Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.

1. Totalitarian states and authoritarian states are similar in that both:
 - A. allow for some dissent from social institutions not under government control.
 - B. seek to suppress their citizens' voices to maintain a grip on power.
 - C. give the government unlimited authority without any restraint.
 - D. allow the people to choose their representatives.

2. The structures of government, including the executive, legislature, and judiciary are known as _____.

3. Why is the assertion of popular sovereignty placed where it is in the Constitution?
 - A. to win support for the document among skeptics
 - B. to assert its primacy over all branches of government
 - C. to place it rhetorically underneath the presidency
 - D. to remind people that the courts are more important than the people

4. In a constitutional republic, _____ make most of the laws and policies of the nation.
 - A. the president and his/her council
 - B. the people directly
 - C. elected representatives
 - D. justices of the court system

5. Michelle is a resident of Alabama. She wants to sue for her civil rights but wants to do so in a way that will be hardest to overturn and will be applicable nationwide. She should base her legal argument on principles found in:
 - A. U.S. federal law.
 - B. Alabama's constitution.
 - C. Alabama law.
 - D. the U.S. Constitution.