THE CONSTITUTION AND FEDERALISM
FREE RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Directions: Use the FRQ template to compose your answers to each of the following questions. Research the questions first, but when you are ready to write, allot yourself 100 minutes to complete them (25 minutes each, with five of those minutes used for preparation).

1. The Constitution of the United States creates a government of separate institutions that share power rather than a government that delegates power exclusively to a single branch. Frequently, this means that presidents and Congress struggle with each other.
   a. For each of the presidential powers below, explain one way that congressional decision making is affected by that power.
      - Veto power
      - Power to issue executive orders
      - Power as commander in chief
   b. For each of the congressional powers below, explain one way that presidential decision making is affected by the power.
      - Legislative oversight power
      - Senate advice and consent power
      - Budgetary power

2. The United States Constitution’s ratification resulted from a political process that required compromise between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists. Many of the debates in government today continue to reflect the concerns of each perspective.
   a. Describe the positions of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists regarding the power of the national government.
   b. Describe two features of the original constitution that have led to a growth in power of the national government.
   c. Explain how each of the following additions to the Constitution addressed the Anti-Federalist concerns.
      - First Amendment
      - Tenth Amendment
   d. Explain how one of the following clauses of the fourteenth Amendment has altered the balance of power between the state and national governments.
      - Due Process Clause
      - Equal Protection Clause

3. The framers of the Constitution devised a federal system of government that affected the relationship between the national and state governments.
   a. Compare state sovereignty under the Articles of Confederation and under the Constitution.
   b. Explain how each of the following has been used to expand the power of the federal government over the states.
      - Commerce clause
      - Mandates
   c. Explain how each of the following has played a role in the devolution of power from the national government to the states.
      - Block grants
      - Supreme Court decisions

4. In The Federalist number 10, Madison expressed concern over the possibility that both majority and minority factions would have too much power over government, and he presented ways of minimizing that danger. The Constitution established a democratic government but also contained several provisions that limited majority rule. During the next two centuries, the role of majority rule in government and politics continued to change.
   a. Identify the part of the national government that was originally most closely tied to citizens and explain how it was tied to citizens.
   b. Explain two ways the United States constitution limited majority rule.
   c. Choose two of the following 20th century developments and explain how each moved the United States from a less democratic system to a more democratic system.
      - Primary elections
      - The 17th Amendment
      - Expansion of suffrage