

SS.7.C.1.8 Low Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	What was the Anti-Federalists' greatest concern about ratifying the U.S. Constitution?	Identify the Anti-Federalists' central concern about ratifying the U.S. Constitution. The correct answer should focus on the Anti-Federalists' concern that a bill of rights should be included in the U.S. Constitution in order to prevent the federal government from violating individual rights.
A	The lack of a federal court system.	Incorrect – A federal court system was included in the U.S. Constitution.
B	The lack of legislative veto power.	Incorrect – The legislative veto power did not concern the Anti-Federalists.
C	The lack of a strong military.	Incorrect – The U.S. Constitution provided that Congress had the power to raise and support armies and navies, which allowed for the new government to create a strong military.
D	The lack of a bill of rights.	Correct – The Anti-Federalists' greatest concern was that the newly proposed Constitution did not include a bill of rights that would protect individual rights in the proposed federal system.



SS.7.C.1.8 Moderate Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	Which statement supports the Anti-Federalists in the struggle over ratification of the U.S. Constitution?	<p>The statement describes an Anti-Federalist viewpoint.</p> <p>The correct answer should identify an argument that the Anti-Federalists' would have supported.</p>
A	The Constitution should limit state government.	Incorrect – The Anti-Federalists argued for strong state governments.
B	The Constitution should protect fundamental rights.	Correct – The Anti-Federalists supported an enumerated bill of rights to be included in the U.S. Constitution because they feared that a strong federal government would violate individual freedoms.
C	The Constitution should create a strong national government.	Incorrect – The Anti-Federalists opposed a strong national government and supported strong state government; the Federalists supported a strong national government.
D	The Constitution should prevent the election of amateur politicians.	Incorrect – Neither the Anti-Federalists nor the Federalists debated the election of amateur politicians during the struggle over the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.



SS.7.C.1.8 High Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	<p>The passage below was written by James Madison in 1787.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>Extend the sphere, and you take in a greater variety of parties and interests; you make it less probable that a majority of the whole will have a common motive to invade the rights of other citizens;...</p> </div> <p>Source: <i>Federalist Paper #10</i></p> <p>Based on this passage, what change in modern political society would Madison support?</p>	<p>Recognize Madison’s concern about protecting the needs of the minority and what has developed that agrees with Madison’s goals.</p> <p>The correct response will address the needs and concerns of a larger number of citizens.</p>
A	Expanding the size of the Cabinet.	Incorrect – The President’s Cabinet is not identified or discussed in the passage.
B	Expanding the size of the Electoral College.	Incorrect – The Electoral College is not identified or discussed in the passage. The Electoral College also limits the expansion of the number and variety of parties involved in presidential elections.
C	Expanding the number of candidates in campaigns.	Incorrect – The number of candidates in campaigns may not result in a greater variety of parties and interests; the increased number of candidates may represent the two major political parties (Democrat, Republican) which does not expand the number of parties and interests.
D	Expanding the role of special interest groups in campaigns.	Correct – Special interest groups are created to represent the interests of citizens. An increase in the number of groups will provide more opportunities for individuals to take part in campaigns.

