

# INTRODUCTION and CHAPTER ONE: THE ROOTS OF ARIZONA GOVERNMENT

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. **What is a constitution?** A constitution is a lasting document which organizes and sets the boundaries of a government by delineating responsibilities, limiting actions, and sometimes stating ideals and goals.

---

---

---

---

---

2. **Discuss the history and tradition of constitutions in the United States.** The United States was the first modern nation to have a constitution. There is a history in this country of writing constitutions dating back to colonial times.

---

---

---

---

---

3. **Why do you think constitutions are so popular in the United States?** Possible responses include: the United States has had a very stable government with the constitution; people appreciate stability; constitutions make the rules known.

---

---

---

---

---

4. **Which of the following would most likely be included in a constitution?**

<input type="checkbox"/> speed limits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> election process
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> term of office	<input type="checkbox"/> tax rate
<input type="checkbox"/> process of changing rules or laws	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> organization of the courts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> automobile registration fees	

5. Look at your answers to question four. Why would your answers be included in a constitution and the other items not be included? A constitution is a lasting document of the major features of

government which are not easily or readily changed.

---

---

---

---

6. The following are aspects of Arizona law. Categorize them according to whether they were derived from Hispanic or British influences.

British equality before the law

Hispanic water rights

British three part system of government

British checks and balances

Hispanic mining laws

Hispanic community property

British two-house legislature

7. In order to make a mental outline of the period of Hispanic influence, fill in the following timeline with the significant event for each date.

1519 Spaniards established empire in the New World

---

1751 Tubac, first presidio in Arizona

---

1775 Presidio moved to Tucson

---

1821 Mexico becomes an independent country

---

1836 Republic of Texas

---

1845 State of Texas

---

1846 Declaration of war with Mexico

---

1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

---

1850 Compromise of 1850

---

1853 Gadsden Purchase

---