Civics & Economics Final Exam Practice Essay Prompts

* The United States has both a national government and 50 state governments. Each of these governments includes a separation of power within the government. Explain this separation of power, and explain the function of each part.
* The United States is considered a Two Party System even though there are more than 2 political parties. Why is the US considered a Two Party System, and explain the difference between the two political parties.
* Explain one amendment in the Bill of Rights. Explain one Supreme Court Case that dealt with that Amendment, and how it defined or changed the freedom guaranteed in this Amendment.
* United States citizens are provided certain protections from government interference in their lives. Explain (2) Amendments that protect the people from the government. For each amendment, explain one way it specifically protects citizens from the government.
* The United States Government is in control of fiscal policy and monetary policy. Explain what each of are, and provide a specific example of how these can influence the economy.
* Many countries throughout the world are working together to create fewer limitations to trading with one another. This movement known as globalization has both positive and negative consequences. Explain what it means to try to reduce barriers to trade. Explain one positive and one negative to free trade.
* In terms of personal finance, interest can be both a positive and negative. Identify when interest is a negative to an individual, and provide a specific example. Identify when interest is a positive to an individual, and provide a specific example.
* The United States Constitution created a government known as Federalism. Explain the system of Federalism and explain how the experience as colonies under British rule, and the 1st Constitution - The Articles of Confederation led to the establishment of Federalism.
* John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, and Baron de Montesquieu were all important Enlightenment thinkers. Explain the philosophy of at least one of these thinkers and how his ideas contributed to the development of American government.
* Explain how tensions between British governmental authority and the American colonists contributed to the American Revolution. Include a specific example in your response.
* Choose a North Carolina industry and explain its importance in the national economy. Include two examples of that industry’s global importance.
* No government can exist without taxation. This money must necessarily be levied on the people; and the grand art consists of levying so as not to oppress.

-Frederick the Great, eighteenth-century Prussian king

The power of taxing people and their property is essential to the very existence of government.

-James Madison, U.S. President

Take a position that argues for or against the point of view of these statesmen. Explain your position by providing one specific example that supports your argument.

* Establishing financial goals is an essential part of financial literacy. Explain how career and education can affect a person′s financial future.
* What role is fulfilled by automated transactions in checking and savings accounts? Give one example of an automated transaction that is a credit added to the account balance. Give a second example of an automated transaction that is a debit deducted from the account balance.
* Throughout its history, American democracy has upheld and strengthened citizens’ individual rights.

Take a position that argues for or against the above statement. Provide at least two specific historic examples (e.g., legislation, Supreme Court cases, executive orders, or other actions by the federal government) that support your position.

* The level of competition within market economic systems affects prices and profits. Explain how:

1. competition affects profits

2. competition affects prices

3. profits and prices interact

4. profits and prices may influence competition

* Tensions over power and authority at the time of the American Revolution affected the development of the U.S. Constitution. Name an American revolutionary who influenced the Constitution and explain how that revolutionary affected the Constitution.
* [The black man has] no rights which the white man [is] bound to respect.

- Chief Justice Roger Taney, Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)

We [reject] . . . the assumption that the enforced separation of the two races stamps the colored race with a badge of inferiority. If this be so, it is not by reason of anything found in the act, but solely because the colored race chooses to put that construction upon it.

- Justice Henry Billings Brown, Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)

We conclude that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of “separate but equal” has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.

- Chief Justice Earl Warren, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (1954)

Interpretations of the Constitution by the Supreme Court change over time. Use the quotes above to evaluate the rights of African-American citizens in 1857, 1896, and 1954. Explain the interpretations of the court during the period surrounding each case.

* A market economy is a system in which supply and demand regulate the economy, rather than the government. Some characteristics are:

 private ownership of property and resources

 economic decisions made by buyers and sellers

 profit motive

 free enterprise

Why is competition and some government regulation important to the successful growth of a market economy? Give two explanations for the importance of competition in a market economy and two reasons why it is important to have minimal government regulation in a market economy.