

Name _____

Date _____

U.S. Constitution Preamble and Amendments I & XIV Answer Key

Read the text below. As you read, highlight evidence of the following three democratic ideas. Number the highlighted text using the corresponding number of the democratic idea that it demonstrates.

1. Social contract
2. Rules for self-government
3. Equal laws for all people

Note: You can also annotate this passage for the following:

- Use a “?” to indicate things you have a question about
- Use a “!” to indicate things you find surprising or interesting

Preamble to The Constitution of the United States

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.¹

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.²

Amendment XIV

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.³

¹ U.S. Const. preamble

² U.S. Const. am. 1.

³ U.S. Const. am. 14. sect 1.