

**CHAPTER 2: THE CONSTITUTION  
WILSON GUIDED READING QUESTIONS**

**To test your ability to integrate and express the ideas that you have been studying in this chapter, practice writing extended answers to the following questions. You are to hand write your responses on separate sheets of paper. These will be collected for homework grades**

1. Describe the state of things during the eleven years between the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.
2. Identify some of the government's major structural features and power arrangements under the Articles and note some aspects of the government which might reasonably have been "weaknesses."
3. Describe what happened in Shays's Rebellion and discuss its impact.
4. Summarize the basic views of John Locke in regard to the state of nature, government and liberty.
5. Compare and contrast the Virginia and New Jersey Plans.
6. What are some aspects of our government which suggest popular rule was to be only one element of the new government?
7. Identify and explain the three categories of governmental powers in this country.
8. Identify eight examples of checks and balances in our system of government. In doing so, identify both the branch of government that has the check and which branch of government which is checked.
9. Describe Madison's view of the relationship between human nature and government. Also identify two aspects of the new government which he considered most relevant to the topic.
10. Explain Madison's view of the relationship between liberty and the size of a republic.
11. What are three reasons why the Constitution signed in Philadelphia did not contain a bill of rights?
12. Summarize Charles Beard's view of the Constitutional Convention and what subsequent research on the topic has concluded.
13. What are four to five suggestions that might be made in order to reduce the separation of powers in our system of government.