

**Massachusetts Grade 8 Civics
State-Level Performance Task Paper-Based Practice Test
Answer Key and Sample Responses**

This document includes the grade 8 civics content standard, the HSS practice standard, and the number of points for each state-level performance task item. The correct answer for each machine-scored item is provided in the table. Examples of student responses for each constructed-response question are given on pages 1–3.

Item Number	2018 Standard	HSS Practice Standard	Points	Correct Answer
1	8.T2.1	PS1	1	A
2	8.T2.2	PS1	1	C
3	8.T2.2	PS1	1	A
4	8.T2.2	PS6	1	See sample student responses on page 1. (maximum of 1 point)
5	8.T2.3	PS2	1	C
6	8.T2.3	PS3	1	C;A
7	8.T2.3	PS6	1	See sample student responses on page 1. (maximum of 1 point)
8	8.T2.4	PS4	1	D
9	8.T2.5	PS3	1	B
10	8.T2.4	PS6	1	See sample student responses on page 2. (maximum of 1 point)
11	8.T2.3	PS6	4	See sample student responses on pages 2 and 3. (maximum of 4 points)

Question 4: Sample Student Responses

Score	Student Responses
1	One weakness of the government under the Articles of Confederation is that the government has no power. This prevents them from being able to collect taxes. Without this power the government is unable to sustain it's army, to pay government officials, or provide for any other needs of the nation.
0	One weakness in the government is the fact that the state government didn't have any power, or had less power than the national government. "It is not possible that a government can last long under these circumstances." Meaning the national government taking over and not being fair to the farmers and villagers.

Question 7: Sample Student Responses

Score	Student Responses
1	North Carolina most likely voted for the Virginia Plan because they have a large population of about 400,000 people. The Virginia plan benefitted the states with a larger population because it said that states were given a number of votes and/or representatives based off of their population. The Virginia Plan would have benefitted North Carolina the most.
0	I think Delaware supports the New Jersey plan because it doesn't have a big government. The New Jersey plan likes small central governments so that's why I think Delaware is apart of that.

Question 10: Sample Student Responses

Score	Student Responses
1	The Anti-Federalist believe a federal government that could create laws and make decision would take all the power away from the state governments. However the Federalists believe that a central government created by the constitution would help the country and it people.
0	The federalists want the power to be divided by all 13 states so everyone has equal power. the anti federalists still want a central and national government to make decisions for the 13 states.

Question 11: Sample Student Responses

Score	Student Responses
4	<p>Part A: One compromise that was made during the creation of the constitution is known as the great compromise. It was the compromise that decided what to do about the New Jersey Plan and the Virginia Plan. It was decided that there would be two houses, one of the houses would have the amount of representation depending on the population of the states. This is called the House of Representatives today. The other house would have every state getting two representative each. This house is called the Senate today.</p> <p>Part B: This strengthened the constitution by making it so there is not too much power for either the large or small states.</p> <p>Part C: Another comprimies is between the Federalists and AntiFederalists. It is debating it the constitution gives people enough enough safty from the government. The comprimies is that the constitution is the same, but there will be a bill of rights that gives the people some safty from the government.</p> <p>Part D: This strengthened the Constitution by giving everyone rights that the government can not take away if it wanted to, so everyone has some safty.</p>
3	<p>Part A: One compromise that delegates made would be that there would be two chambers of legislature and bothe the Virginia and New Jersey plan would get what they want.</p> <p>Part B: The way that this strengthened the U.S. Constitution is that they were able to give more power to the larger populations while still making sure that the small states were able to be aewujal to them in some way.</p> <p>Part C: Another compromise that the delegates made during the Constitutional Convention was that the states could still have power but it would be the powers that were not given to the federal government.</p> <p>Part D: The way this strengthened the the U.S. constitution is that it allowed for there to not be a strong central government that would have too much power over the people and for the states to still have power over matters that would effect ther areas more strongly than the whole nation.</p>
2	<p>Part A: A compromise to form the bill of rights (the first 10 amendments) was needed for the federalists and anti-federalists to have their ideas put in the constitution.</p> <p>Part B: The central government was the powerhouse, but state do have their self-government. No government is more powerful than the other.</p> <p>Part C: The great compromise was important to solve the argument between the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey plan.</p> <p>Part D: This used a two-housed legislature from the Virginia plan, but each house supported different plans. This meant that no plan has a higher advantage than the other.</p>

1	<p>Part A: One compromise was that the federal government would have more power over the states.</p> <p>Part B: this benefitted the U.S. constitution because now states have to pay taxes and do other things that they weren't able to do before.</p> <p>Part C: Another compromise was that there was a Bill of Rights added to the constitution</p> <p>Part D: this benefitted the constitution because now the people of the US have rights written out for them that are important to there freedom.</p>
0	<p>Part A: One compromise that was made is that there would be two houses but each would have the same number of representatives and senats.</p> <p>Part B: The State problem strengthened the US constitution because it brought everyone together and everyone got a part iof what they wanted.</p> <p>Part C: On source one had a letter talking about the Shays rebeliation what they where going to do and it shows how the weakness of it and now its more suportive.</p> <p>Part D: The federalist problem strethened the US constitution because they made it so nothing was forced on anything people could still think what they wanted without having a problem with anyone and things still happened between the federalusts and anti-federalists but there was no huge problem.</p>