**3. The Formation of a National Government**

**(1776 – 1791)**

(lecture worksheet)

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| **Important dates:** | **1787 (the Constitutional Convention), 1791 (Constitution ratified), 1791 (ratification of the Bill of Rights)** |
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| **Names & Places:** | **G. Washington, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Daniel Shays, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams** |
|  | **The Articles of Confederation, the Constitutional Convention, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Bank of the United States, the Federalists, the Democratic Republicans (also known as Antifederalists), the Whiskey Rebellion** |
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|  | **Philadelphia** |
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| **Vocabulary:** | **the authority of the federal government, the individual states' powers, the institution of slavery, to devise a new form of government, to raise an army, to borrow money, to conclude treaties, to ratify (e. g. a constitution), to issue a currency, nationalists, to propose amendments to (e. g. constitution), to drew up a new constitution, to submit for ratification, to guarantee freedoms not specifically named in the constitution, to lay the foundations for a national union, to establish a government of three branches, the executive branch, the legislative branch, the judicial branch, the principle of ‚checks and balances‘, protection of states‘ rights,** |

**Exam Questions:**

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| 1. | Describe the agenda, debates and the outcome of the Constitutional Convention with the emphasis on the structure of the federal government devised in 1787. (Include references to the three branches of government, issue of representation in Congress, checks and balances, the Bill of Rights.) |
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| 2. | Discuss the historical background of the passage of the Bill of Rights, outline its main provisions and explain the significance of this part of the American Constitution in the struggle of Americans for justice and equality. |
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| 3. | Outline the origins and explain the political ideology of the first political parties in the United States during the early decades of the American Republic. (Include references to the debates between Federalists and Anti-Federalists during ratification, Federalists versus Democratic Republicans, Hamilton versus Jefferson.) |