1. What does it mean to have “separation of powers”?

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2. Why is the legislative branch mentioned first, (as well as the longest and most detailed) in the Constitution (Article I)?

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3. What is its primary function?

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4. What is the primary function of the executive branch (Article II)?

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5. What is the primary function of the judicial branch (Article III)?

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6. Aside from the Supreme Court, to whom does the Constitution grant the power to create the rest of the court system?

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The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish." —U.S. CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE III, SECTION 1

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7. Explain the concept of “checks and balances.” How is this different (while related to) separation of powers?

8. List several examples of the legislative branch power (House and/or Senate) to “check and balance” the power of the executive branch. (Hint: Write fast!) Get them ALL.

9. List several examples of the legislative branch power (House and/or Senate) to “check and balance” the power of the judicial branch. (Hint: Play it again to not miss anything!)

10. Now, the executive’s turn—how can this branch check the legislative?

11. Describe the following presidential checks on the power of the judicial branch:
Nomination of justices and judges:

- Pardon: NOTES: What kind of crimes?
- Refusal to enforce decisions:

12. Why is the judicial branch considered the “weakest” by some observers?

13. Explain the checks the judicial branch has on both the legislative and executive.

14. Do you think “human nature requires that we build safeguards into our government to protect us from our leaders”?

- YES
- NO
- IDK

THOUGHT BUBBLE: Summarize the excerpt of Federalist 51 in your own words.

NOTES: If men were....?