Study Guide: The American Revolution and the Constitution

Part A: Terms: Instructions: Below are important terms for the upcoming test. Know these terms well. On a separate sheet of paper, write down at least one sentence explaining why that term is significant in the history of Exploration, Colonization, & the French and Indian War.

A. The Proclamation line of 1763  
B. The French and Indian War  
C. Sons of Liberty  
D. Samuel Adams  
E. Paul Revere  
F. Stamp Act  
G. Coercive Acts  
H. Common Sense (The book)  
I. Thomas Jefferson  
J. The Declaration of Independence  
K. George Washington  
L. Thomas Gage  
M. Loyalists  
N. Patriots  
O. Cornwallis  
P. Saratoga  
Q. Hessians  
R. Articles of Confederation  
S. Republic  
T. James Madison  
U. Roger Sherman  
V. Montesquieu  
W. Bill of Rights  
X. Amendments  
Y. Federalists  
Z. Antifederalists

Part B: Short Answer: Instructions: Answer the following questions

1. Why did Cornwallis have to surrender in the American Revolutionary War?

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2. How did the Bill of Rights help calm the tension between Federalists and Antifederalists?

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A. The Proclamation line of 1763: This was the boundary area Britain did not want the colonists to pass.
B. The French and Indian War: Britain felt they had the right to tax the Colonies due to the debt they acquired in this conflict.
C. Sons of Liberty: A group that formed to protest British taxes.
D. Samuel Adams: Leader of the Sons of Liberty.
E. Paul Revere: Warned the colonists of Britain’s attempt to take the weapons at Concord.
F. Stamp Act: Taxed printed documents.
G. Coercive Acts: A variety of laws that tried to increase Britain’s control of the colonies, including quartering soldiers.
I. Thomas Jefferson: Write the Declaration of Independence.
J. The Declaration of Independence: The document that the colonies used to declare their breaking away from Britain.
K. George Washington: Led the continental army against Britain.
L. Thomas Gage: a British General that fought colonists in the American Revolution.
M. Loyalists: Colonists who wanted to remain loyal to Britain.
N. Patriots: Colonists who wanted independence from Britain.
P. Saratoga: After this battle, France joined to fight with the USA in the Revolutionary War.
Q. Hessians: The German soldiers hired by the British to fight the Colonies.
R. Articles of Confederation: The first document that formed the federal government of the USA.
S. Republic: A system in which people elect their leaders.
T. James Madison: Proposed the Virginia Plan.
U. Roger Sherman: Proposed the idea for a Senate and House of Representatives.
V. Montesquieu: Enlightenment thinker who believed in the “separation of powers.”
W. Bill of Rights: The first 10 amendments to the Constitution.
X. Amendments: Any changes that are added to the Constitution.
Y. Federalists: Supported the ratification of the Constitution.
Z. Antifederalists: Did not want the ratification of the Constitution.

Part B: Short Answer: Instructions: Answer the following questions

1. Why did Cornwallis have to surrender in the American Revolutionary War?
Cornwallis was surrounded by the French and American alliance. He had no choice to surrender in Virginia. Washington led the Americans and Marquis de Lafayette led the French.

2. How did the Bill of Rights help calm the tension between Federalists and Antifederalists?
The Antifederalists wanted the guarantee of the protection of individual rights. The Bill of Rights did this very thing.

3. Why did Roger Sherman’s plan become the adopted plan to form a new legislative body for the USA?
James Madison proposed the Virginia Plan. It called for a two-house legislative “law making” body based on population. Large states liked it because it was based on population. Small states did not like it because they had smaller populations and would have less power.

Small states wanted William Paterson’s plan of one legislative body in which all states got the same amount of representation instead of the Virginia Plan. Large states felt this gave too much power to small states and did not like it.

The Great Compromise of Roger Sherman suggested having a Senate of equal representation and a House of Representatives based on population. Small and large states felt this was a good compromise that gave them equal
power in the Senate but based the power of the House on population. Therefore, this plan became the one that was actually adopted.