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## **МИНОБРНАУКИ РОССИИ**

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Кафедра иностранных языков



### **ИНОСТРАННЫЙ ЯЗЫК (английский) В ЮРИСПРУДЕНЦИИ**

методические указания для самостоятельной работы  
по изучению дисциплины для студентов направления подготовки  
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**Иностранный язык (английский) в юриспруденции:**  
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Предназначены для студентов всех форм обучения для самостоятельной работы по освоению курса английского языка в юриспруденции.

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**CONTENTS**

**1. LEXICAL AND TRANSLATION TRAINING:**  
    **AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.....4**

**2. GRAMMAR SECTOR .....23**

## AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Before reading :

*Comment on the quote. Do you agree or disagree? Why?*

*“If you are absolutely determined to make a lawyer of yourself, the thing is more than half done already” Abraham Lincoln*

### READING AND SPEAKING

#### Text A American Constitution

**Task:** *read and translate the following text.*

No document in American history can be compared with the Declaration of Independence (adopted July 4, 1776) in the place that it holds in the minds and hearts of American citizens. It is far more than the announcement of the birth of a new nation. In it one can find the key ideas about how the Americans of that generation thought free people should live, what form their governments should take, and what the natural responsibilities between a government and its citizens should be in order that both order and liberty could be sustained.

The Declaration laid the foundations for the Articles of Confederation (1781) - the United States' first constitution. Devised and amended in 1787, the Articles inspired a completely new document, the Constitution, adopted in 1789 in Philadelphia.

The American Constitution is the oldest still in force in the world. The basic idea is simple. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. It is the highest authority. No person and no branch of government – not the president, not

Congress, certainly not the police officer – has the right to set the Constitution aside and its rules are law. All governments and governmental groups, federal, state, and local must operate within its guidelines.

The Constitution is the highest law of the land, but it can be amended. Under Article V, Congress can propose amendments, which go into effect when “ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States”. The first ten amendments to the Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights (1791), stated fundamental rights of any American: freedom of speech, of the press, of worship, assembly, the right of trial by jury, right to be protected against unreasonable searches, arrest, seizures of property. Other amendments have followed, for the most part they have expanded the democratic nature of American society (by abolishing slavery, widening the suffrage or making elections direct) to meet the changing needs of the nation. The American Constitution has been amended twenty-seven times, some of the amendments have been extraordinarily important.

Americans have the great pride in their Constitution. Under the American Constitution all power belongs to the people (“We the people of the United States in Order to form a more powerful Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America”).

The Constitution has served the people of the United States admirably for over 200 years, in part because the framers were wise enough to recognize that they could not foresee every problem. Those who followed them thus had the ability to take the document and adapt it to new conditions.

The United States Constitution is made into living law through a variety of means. There is, very notably, enforcement through the courts, by means of “judicial review.” This refers to the power of the courts to decide if laws and acts of the other branches of government, or of the state and local governments, are valid or not, constitutionally speaking, and to reduce these acts to zero if they fail the test.

Judicial review is not, of course, solely a federal power. The state courts exercise it, too; each state, after all, has its own constitution. State legislatures must conform to the state constitution. The power of judicial review, state and federal, is now so deeply ingrained in American system that it is hard to imagine American legal world without it.

### Word Study

**Ex. 1. a)** *Read the international words and guess their meaning. Mind the stress.*

'nation	i'dea	decla'ration
'articles	a'nounce	demo'cratic
'federal	a'rrest	confede'ration
'natural		funda'mental
'dominate		
'problem		
'group		
'president		

**b)** *Pronounce correctly the following proper names:*

The Articles of Confederation ['RtIklz qv kqn "fedq' reIS (q) n]

Philadelphia ["fIlq' delfjq]

Declaration of Independence ["deklq' reIS (q) n qv

"IndI'pendqns]

Bill of Rights [bIl qv 'raIts]

**Ex. 2.** *Complete the list of derivatives. Use a dictionary if necessary.*

verb	noun (agent)	noun (concept)
to announce		
to find		
to divide		
to form		
to serve		
to follow	follower	the following

to make		
to invent		
to expand		
to ingrain		
to provide		
to promote		

**Ex. 3.** *Pair the words in column A with ones from column B.*

A	B
amendment	history
new	ideas
direct	liberty
guidelines	of speech
a variety	of property
the power	of checks and balances
freedom	of government
a system	document
citizen's	to the Constitution
American	elections
the branch	of Supreme law
key	of means
seizure	of the Court

**Ex. 4.** *How can you express the following ideas in one word?*

1. a paper that gives information, proof or support of something else;
2. habitually taking decisions alone;
3. freedom from control, service, being shut up, etc;
4. a written statement containing a record of something;
5. a change, made in or suggested for a rule, law, statement, etc.;
6. of or formed into a political federation;

7. a person owned in law by another;
8. the right to vote in national elections;
9. the head of government in many modern states that do not have a king or queen;
10. the choosing of representatives to fill a position, a political office, by vote.

**Ex. 5.** *Match English and Russian equivalents.*

to propose amendments	закладывать основу
to go into effect	право рассмотрения дела с участием присяжных
to expand the democratic nature of the society	конфискация имущества
to widen the suffrage	разделение властей
to be valid	система сдержек и противовесов
to lay the foundation	демократическая сущность общества
freedom of worship	выбор вероисповедания
the right of trial by jury	законодательная, исполнительная, судебная власти
seizure of property	отменить рабство
legislative, executive, judicial branches	прямые выборы
separation of powers	предлагать поправки
system of checks and balances	вступать в силу
to abolish slavery	расширять избирательное право
14) direct elections	быть действительным

**Ex. 6.** *Choose the best alternative to complete the following sentences.*

1. The Constitution was adopted in *Philadelphia / Washington*.
2. The first ten amendments *stated / clarified* fundamental rights of any American.



3. The most *striking / unusual* feature of the Constitution is the separation of powers.
4. A great deal of power is in the hands of the *president / Congress*.
5. The Constitution has been repeatedly *amended / interpreted* to meet the needs of the nation.
6. Under the American Constitution all power *prevails/belongs* to the people.
7. The Constitution has *served / influenced* people for over 200 years.
8. Other *amendments/considerations* have *expanded/protected* the democratic nature of American society.
9. Under Article V *Congress/the House of Representatives* can *reject/pro-pose* amendments.
10. Judicial review *refers/regards* to the power of the *court/president* to decide if laws are valid.

**Ex. 7.** Complete the following text with the words and phrases from the box.

balanced	branches	compromise
system	serves	change
	powerful	

### **Checks and Balances**

The Constitution provides for three main \_\_\_\_\_ of government which are separate and distinct from one another. The powers given to each are carefully \_\_\_\_\_ by the powers of the other two. Each branch \_\_\_\_\_ as check on the others. This is to keep any branch from gaining too much power or from misusing its powers. The equal branches of government are connected and each

branch is dependent on the other two.

The system of checks and balances makes \_\_\_\_\_ and consensus necessary. Compromise is also a vital aspect of other levels of government in the United States. This system protects against extremes. It means, for example that new presidents cannot radically \_\_\_\_\_ governmental policies just as they wish. In the US, therefore, when people think of “the government”, they usually mean the entire \_\_\_\_\_, that is, the Executive Branch and the President, Congress, and the courts. In fact and in practice, therefore, the President (i. e. “the Administration”) is not as \_\_\_\_\_ as many people outside the US seem to think he is. In comparison with other leaders in systems where the majority party forms “the government”, he is much less so.

### **Text Study**

**Ex. 1.** *Choose the best way to complete the sentences.*

1. The Declaration of Independence is far more than ....
  - a) the argument of governments.
  - b) the announcement of the birth of a nation.
  - c) the appointment of a new government.
2. The Articles of Confederation were ...
  - a) not working well.
  - b) radical indeed.
  - c) devised and amended.
3. The Bill of Rights ....
  - a) stated fundamental rights of any American.
  - b) revised the Articles.
  - c) stated too few powers for defense, trade.
4. The most striking feature of the Constitution is ....
  - a) breaking with an age-old traditions.
  - b) the prevailing notion of separation of powers.

c) a new form of government.

5. A great deal of power is put in .....

a) hands of the Supreme Court.

b) hands of the Senate.

c) hands of the President.

6. The Constitution has been repeatedly .....

a) adopted by some status.

b) operated under federal government.

c) amended to meet the changing needs of the nation.

7. Other amendments have expanded .....

a) a vital aspect of the levels of government.

b) the democratic nature of American society.

c) local politics.

8. Those who followed the framers of the Constitution had ....

a) to strike down the unconstitutional ones.

b) to pass all laws.

c) to adapt the document to new conditions.

9. State legislatures must conform ...

a) to the federal constitution

b) to the state constitution

c) to the constitution of another country

10. Some ... of the Constitution have been extraordinarily important.

a) status

b) rules of law

c) amendments

11. Judicial review refers to the power of the ... to decide if laws are valid.

a) Congress

b) courts

c) police

**Ex. 2.** *Mark the statements which are true.*

1. The Bill of Rights stated fundamental rights of any American.
2. The Articles inspired a completely new document, the Constitution.
3. The most striking feature of the Constitution is prevailing notion of President's powers.
4. The Constitution didn't recognize the notion of separation of powers.
5. The system of checks and balances was of no use.
6. The Constitution still in force hasn't been changed.
7. Under the American Constitution all power belongs to the government.
8. In part the framers were wise enough to recognize that they couldn't foresee every problem.
9. The Articles of Confederation can propose amendments.
10. Amendments of the Constitution have expanded the social nature of the American society.
11. Any citizen has the right to set the Constitution aside.
12. Judicial review refers to the power of Congress to decide if laws are valid.

**Ex.3.** *Complete the following sentences by adding the phrases given in **part B**.*

**Part A**

1. No document in American history can .....
2. In Declaration one can find ....
3. Devised and amended in 1787, the Articles .....
4. The Bill of rights stated the right to be protected ....
5. The most striking feature of the Constitution is ....
6. A system of checks and balances ensured ....
7. All governments and governmental groups must operate ....
8. The great framers were wise enough to recognize that they .....
9. Amendments have expanded...

10. Judicial review refers to...

### **Part B**

1. the democratic nature of the society.
2. the power of the courts to decide if laws are valid.
3. against unreasonable searches.
4. the key ideas of future American generation.
5. be compared with Declaration of Independence.
6. the division of the legislative, executive and judicial branches.
7. inspired a completely new document.
8. within “the supreme law of the land” guidelines.
9. that no branch of the government would dominate the others.
10. could not foresee every problem.

**Ex. 4.** *Study the list. Chose one of the presidents and prepare the report about his activities. Use any source of information you like.*

### **The Presidents of the United States**

<b>№</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Years in office</b>
	George Washington	1789 – 1797
	Thomas Jefferson	1801 – 1809
	Theodore Roosevelt	1901 – 1909
	Franklin Delano Roosevelt	1933 – 1945
	Harry S. Truman	1945 – 1953
	John Fitzgerald Kennedy	1961 – 1963
	Lindon Johnson	1963 – 1969
	Richard M. Nixon	1969 – 1974
	Gerald Rudolf Ford	1974 – 1977
	James Earl Carter	1977 – 1981
	Ronald Wilson Reagan	1981 – 1989
	George Bush	1989 – 1993

.	William J. Clinton	1993 – 2001
.	George Walker Bush	2001 –2009
.	Barak Obama	2009 –

**Ex. 5.** *Choose someone to act as an American citizen and answer the tourists' questions.*

What do you mean by . the Declaration of Independence adopted;  
 What is (are) . the place that it holds in the minds and hearts of  
 Could you explain to me Americans;  
 Can you tell me . far more than the announcement of the birth of a  
 When was (were) new nation;  
 Where was (were) . the key ideas of the document;  
 Why is it . the first ten amendments to the Constitution;  
 . the most striking feature of the Constitution;  
 . the function of a system of checks and balances;  
 . the oldest still in force;  
 . the great pride of the nation;  
 ). the nature of other amendments.

**Ex. 6.** *Speak on the American Constitution. Include the following points.*

- 1. The Declaration of Independence:** to compare with, to hold in minds and hearts, key ideas, free people, to form the government, natural responsibilities, liberty, to sustain.
- 2. The Bill of Rights:** to lay foundations, the Articles of Confederation, to devise, to amend, to inspire, to adopt, the Bill of Rights, to state fundamental rights, freedom of speech, the right of trial by jury, to protect against unreasonable searches, arrest, seizures of property.
- 3. The Constitution:** striking feature, president, a system of checks and balances, the oldest in force, “The Supreme law of the land”, to belong to the people, to foresee

every problem, to adapt to new conditions, democratic nature, to abolish slavery, to widen suffrage, to make elections direct.

4. **Judicial Review**: to refer to; the power of the courts; to be valid; to conform; to be deeply ingrained; to be hard to imagine.

**Ex. 7.** *Render the following text into English using the topical vocabulary of the present unit:*

### **Конституция Соединенных Штатов Америки**

Статья I

*Раздел 8.* Конгресс имеет право:

устанавливать и взимать налоги, пошлины (*imposts*) и акцизы (*excises*), для того чтобы выплачивать долги, обеспечивать совместную оборону и всеобщее благоденствие Соединенных Штатов; причем все сборы, пошлины и акцизы должны быть единообразны (*uniform*) повсеместно в Соединенных Штатах;

занимать (*to borrow*) деньги в кредит Соединенных Штатов;

регулировать торговлю с иностранными государствами, между отдельными штатами и с индейскими племенами;

устанавливать повсеместно в Соединенных Штатах единообразные правила натурализации (*the rule of naturalization*) и принимать единообразные законы по вопросу о банкротствах;

чеканить монеты, регулировать ценность оной и ценность иностранной монеты, устанавливать единицы весов и мер (*to fix the standard of weights and measures*);

предусматривать меры наказания за подделку (*punishment for counterfeiting*) ценных бумаг и находящейся в обращении монеты Соединенных Штатов;

создавать (*set up*) почтовые службы и почтовые пути;

содействовать (*to promote*) развитию науки и полезных ремесел, закрепляя на определенный срок за авторами и изобретателями исключительные права

на их сочинения и открытия;

учреждать суды, нижестоящие по отношению к Верховному суду;

определять и карать акты пиратства (*copyright*), тяжкие преступления (*felonies*) и преступления против права наций.

## **Text B** **System of Government**

**Task:** *read the text, get ready to compare federal and local systems of government.*

The United States is a federal union of 50 states. Federalism, of course, is much more than a formal plan. There are various levels of American government: federal, state, county and local. The whole system of American government is based on this principle.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the Constitution is the prevailing notion of separation of powers. Clear lines divide the legislative, executive and judicial branches. A great deal of power is put in the hands of the president. At the same time, a system of checks and balances provides that no one branch of the government would dominate the others. Thus, the Constitution divides the powers of the government into three branches - the Executive, headed by the President, the Legislative, which includes both houses of Congress (the Senate and the House of Representatives); and the Judicial, which is headed by the Supreme Court.

Members of Congress, the President, state officials and those who govern counties and cities are elected by popular vote.

The state governments follow much the same pattern as the federal government. Each has a governor as the chief executive, with power divided among the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches. State governments arrange such affairs as maintaining order, educating children and young adults, and building highways. The federal government deals with regional problems that involve more than one state. Laws affecting the daily lives of citizens are enforced by police in



the cities and towns. Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation track down criminals who cross state borders or who break federal laws.

The President of the United States is head of the Executive branch. President is assisted by Vice-President and the Cabinet. The President and Vice-President are elected for a term of four years and can be re-elected for another term, but not longer than that. US President is assisted in Administration by a Cabinet of 12 members. Cabinet secretaries correspond to European ministers. They are heads of different departments and directly and fully responsible to President who appoints them for an indefinite time. Cabinet officials usually serve during his term. When the President's service ends, it is customary for the Cabinet to resign, so the new President can appoint new chiefs of executive departments. There are numerous executive departments. The Department of State, headed by the Secretary of State, advises the President on foreign relations, the Treasury Department manages government finance, collects taxes, mints coins and prints paper money, the Department of Justice, headed by the Attorney General, deals with legal matters, etc.

The main instrument of the Federal Judiciary is the Supreme Court, which watches over the other two branches. It determines whether or not their laws and acts are in accordance with the Constitution. Congress has the power to fix the number of judges sitting on the Court, but it cannot change the powers given to the Supreme Court by the Constitution itself. The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and eight associate justices. They are nominated by the President but must be approved by the Senate. Once approved, they hold office as Supreme Court Justices for life. A decision of the Supreme Court cannot be appealed to any other court. Neither the President nor Congress can change their decisions. In addition to the Supreme Court, Congress has established 11 federal courts of appeal and, below them, 91 federal district courts.

The Supreme Court has direct jurisdiction in only two kinds of cases: those involving foreign diplomats and those in which a state is a party. All other cases

which reach the Court are appeals from lower courts. The Supreme Court chooses which of these it will hear. Most of the cases involve the interpretation of the Constitution. The Supreme Court also has the “power of judicial review”, that is, it has the right to declare laws and actions of the federal, state, and local governments unconstitutional. While not stated in the Constitution, this power was established over time.

**Ex. 2.** *Put the following sentences in a logical order to speak about the American system of government.*

1. The Supreme Court also has the “power of judicial review”.
2. A decision of the Supreme Court cannot be appealed to any other court.
3. The main instrument of the Federal Judiciary is the Supreme Court.
4. The federal government deals with regional problems and international relations.
5. Those who govern counties and cities are elected by popular vote.
6. There are three levels of American government.
7. Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation track down criminals.
8. The state governments follow much the same pattern as the federal.
9. The Constitution divides the powers of the government into three branches.
10. The President of the United States is head of the Executive branch.
11. Laws affecting the daily lives of citizens are enforced by police in the cities and towns.
12. The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and eight associate justices.

### **Text C**

### **The Legislature**

**Task:** *read the text and get ready to discuss its main points.*

The legislative branch is of great importance for and the legal system. There are vast numbers of lawmaking bodies, arranged in a kind of pyramid. At the base of the pyramid are the lawmaking organs of local government. At the top there is a national legislature – Congress which is the legislative branch of the federal

government. It is divided into an upper house (the Senate) and a lower house (the House of Representatives). There are 100 Senators, two from each state. One third of the Senators are elected every two years for six-year terms of office. The Constitution says that a Senator must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the US for nine years and a resident of the state from which he is elected. The House is elected on a population basis, but every state is entitled to at least one representative, no matter how tiny its population is. There are 435 members, or roughly one for every 600,000 people. They are elected every two years for two-year terms. A Representative must be at least 25 years of age, a US citizen for seven years and live in the state from which he is elected. There are 16 “standing”, or permanent, committees in the Senate and 22 in the House. Congressmen on a committee are experts in certain fields.

Congress makes all laws, and each house of Congress has the power to introduce legislation. If both houses agree legislation becomes law. The President has the right to veto laws passed by Congress. To overcome President’s veto the bill must get a two-thirds majority in each chamber.

The legislative system, like the rest of American legal structure, is influenced by federalism and, more significantly, by the American habit of decentralization. Voters take it for granted that the people they elect represent localities and local interest. The representatives in Congress must please the people in their districts, or they will find themselves out of a job. Congress is to provide for the “common defense and general welfare” of the country. Although the three branches are presumably coequal, the legislature takes the lead in formulating the structure and duties of the other two branches. No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law. This is one of the legislature’s most powerful weapons in overseeing the executive, “the power of the purse”. There are two main components of this power: taxing and spending. Congress possesses broad powers over the nation’s economic well-being and political security. It may coin money, incur debts, regulate commerce, establish post offices,

issue patents and copyrights, provide for a militia, repel invasions and suppress rebellions. Congress's enumerated powers are not boundless, there are light specific limitations on Congress's powers noted in Article 1 Section 9 of the Constitution. They deal with criminal proceedings, slave trade, taxation, appropriations, titles of nobility.

The output of Congress or a state legislature, in any session, consists of dozens and dozens of statutes. Some are long, complicated, and important; some are short. It is hard to generalize about the form or content of statutes. A statute can be about any subject that law touches on, which means, in practice, anything. The form, too, is infinitely various. Usually we think of statutes as being general directives, unlike decisions, which apply to particular cases. Every statute, then, has a double message. In the first place, the statute delivers to the public (or some part of it) a statement of do's or don'ts, or rights and privileges. In the second place, the statute also contains a message to some legal authority, giving instructions about carrying out the law. A legislature is an institution, a system; its members know each other, and they must learn to live and work with their colleagues. Congress is not "an anonymous group of men and women who occasionally meet to pass legislation"; on the contrary, it is a continuing body, with "an elaborate formal and informal structure, traditions, norms, and agreed-upon practices." The same is true of state legislatures.

**Ex. 1.** *State the main idea of each passage of the text.*

**Ex. 2.** *Suggest how we call ...*

1. the highest law-making body of the US;
2. a person who wants or whom others want, to be chosen for a position in an election;
3. a person acting in place of one or more others;
4. one's choice in favor of (a person or political party) at an elections;

5. protection against law-breaking, violence;
6. something owed to someone else;
7. the money paid in accordance with the law to the government.

**Ex. 3.** *Fill in the following chart.*

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Congress is the legislative branch | .....   |
| which provides                        |   |
| 2. ....                               | becomes the legislature's most powerful weapon. |
| 3. Congress possesses broad powers    | .....   |
| which may                             |   |
| 4. Congress's powers in Article 1     |   |
| Section 9 deal with                   | .....   |
| 5. The House of Representatives is    |   |
| elected to represent                  | .....   |
| 6. ....                               | becomes laws.                                   |

### **Text D**

### **Political Parties**

**Task:** *read the text and give your understanding of the underlined parts of the sentences.*

The two leading parties in the U.S. are the Democrats and the Republicans. The Democratic Party was founded in 1828, representing Southern planters – slave owners and part of Northern bourgeoisie, as well as groups of petty bourgeoisie and farmers. The Republican Party was founded in 1854. It united industrial and trade bourgeoisie from North-East, farmers, workers, craftsmen who were interested in destroying the political power of the South.

Today the Democrats are thought of as associated with labor, and the Republicans with business. Democrats tend to favor an active role of the central government in social matters, Republicans tend to oppose the greater involvement

of the federal government in public life which they consider to be the responsibility of the states and communities. To distinguish between the parties is often difficult, however. The traditional European terms of “right” and “left”, or “conservative” and “liberal” *do not quite fit the American system*. Representatives or Senators are not bound to a party program if they have been elected as Democrats and the Republicans. Both Representatives and Senators are elected to serve the interests of the people and areas they represent, that is, their “constituencies”.

The main task of the parties is to win elections. But once a President is chosen, the parties again become amorphous bodies. In the U.S., the parties cannot win seats which they are then free to fill with party members they have chosen. As a result, the political parties have much less actual power than they do in other nations.

There are other minor parties but they do not play role in national politics.

### **Text E**                                      **American President**

**Task:** *read the text and insert a suitable verb from the box.*

to reelect	to resign	to convince
to approve	to stand	to dispose

The President of the United States is chosen in a national election for a four-year term, and may be \_\_\_\_\_ for a second term. The President must be a native-born citizen at least 35 years old. He is elected directly by the voters.

President is head of the executive branch. The President’s policies and appointments of federal judges and government officials must be \_\_\_\_\_ by Congressmen. Therefore he must be able \_\_\_\_\_ the Representatives and Senators of his point of view. The rule is “the President proposes, but Congress \_\_\_\_\_”.

Under the US Constitution President is made to \_\_\_\_\_ before the expiry of his term of office only by an impeachment process. He is \_\_\_\_\_ trial in

the Senate, with the Chief Justice of the U.S. acting as the judge and the Senators as the jury.

## GRAMMAR SECTION

### Grammar to be revised: *Modal Verbs*

**Ex. 1.** *Analyse and translate the sentences paying attention to the modal verbs and their equivalents.*

1. The Constitution *may* be defined as a system or body of fundamental principles according to which a nation or state is constituted and governed.
2. The President, the head of the Executive Branch *must* carry out the government programs adopted by Congress.
3. In domestic as well as in foreign policy the President *can* seldom count upon the automatic support of Congress, even when his party has a majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.
4. To become a law a bill *must* be approved by both Houses of Congress, but any bill passed by Congress *may* be vetoed by the President.
5. Many reasons have been offered to explain why the U.S. *has been able* to go from a small struggling economy to the leading industrial and agricultural country.
6. The presidential elections in the USA *are* to be held in two stages: first the people elect the Electoral College, the total number of 538 persons, who then elect President.
7. The President is elected for four years of service and *may* be reelected for four additional years.
8. Being afraid of a powerful Federal Government the Americans *had* to add 10 amendments to the Constitution – the Bill of Rights – in 1791 which guaranteed liberties to the people and since then 17 more amendments have been added to the Constitution.

9. Some Americans say that the press is not and *should* not be part of the government.
10. The newspapers *might* support one candidate or the other but one year he/she *might* be a Republican and the next a Democrat.
11. “It is evident that the future of civilization and the chief possibility for mankind *is* to be found in America,” said Bernard Russell.
12. The Fourteenth Constitutional Amendment (1868) says “No state *shall* make or enforce any law which *shall* abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States, not *shall* any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law ...”

**Ex. 2.** *Ask and answer the questions working in pairs:*

1. How may the Constitution be defined?
2. Can the President veto laws passed by Congress?
3. Can Congress pass laws over the President’s veto?
4. Could the country prosper if the states continued to quarrel among themselves?
5. Could Americans win the trust of other nations if they refused to pay the debts just after the Revolution?
6. I wonder if each House of Congress may initiate legislation.
7. May the House of Representatives and the Senate reject each other’s bills?
8. Where must a bill be sent if it is introduced?
9. Must the Senate confirm the President’s judicial appointments?
10. What problems did the Democratic and the Republican parties have to deal with after the Civil War?
11. Why did Americans have to add ten first amendments to their Constitution soon after it had been adopted?
12. What should a candidate do to persuade electors to vote for him?



**Ex. 3.** *Complete the sentences using “can” or “be able to”:*

1. Only the House of Representatives ... impeach officials, but only the Senate ... try the officials and decide if the official ... stay in office. 2. In 1776 Americans ... break with old traditions. 3. The President ... (not) declare war without the approval of Congress. 4. A decision of the Supreme Court ... (not) be appealed to any other court. 5. Neither President nor Congress ... change the decision of the Supreme Court. 6. It was very difficult but we ... persuade our opponent. 7. He is a well-known politician, he ... be nominated as the Democratic presidential candidate. 8. In spite of hostility between Indians and colonists the chief of the Wampanoag tribe ... conclude a peace treaty with Pilgrim Fathers in 1621. 9. He is a Secretary, so he ... (not) serve in Congress. 10. Thomas Jefferson who mostly wrote the Declaration of Independence explained that the purpose of the government was to protect the rights of the people, then the people ... (not) be blamed for trying to change the government. 11. The President must ... convince Congressmen of his point of view.

**Ex. 4.** *Use the modal verbs denoting obligation in their correct form: “must”, “have to”, “be to”, “should”, “ought to”, “shall”:*

1. The American colonists were not free to settle west of the Appalachian Mountains, and they ... to allow British soldiers to live in their homes. 2. The government ... do something about employment. 3. The committee may ... continue the discussion of the problem. 4. In many countries citizens ... take part in the elections whether they want it or not. 5. The commission will start its sitting tomorrow. The President ... answer a lot of questions. 6. You ... (not) make this information known to wide public. 7. I ... (not) to type the documents. My secretary is supposed to do it. 8. Being elected by the people the President ... compromise to be supported by the voters. 9. Federal laws such as Clean Air Act and Water Pollution Control Act ... have led to many specific improvements in the environment. 10. Even in small cases the government ... provide the lawyer to a

defendant if he or she cannot afford one. 11. It was decided that Congress ... to consist of two parts, the Senate and the House of Representatives. 12. The Constitution said exactly what powers the Federal Government ... have and what powers ... be reserved for the states.

**Ex. 5.** *Express suppositions using the prompts. Mind the form of the Infinitive.*

Model 1: **a)** What party does he belong to? (a Republican)

– He must be a Republican.

**b)** Is the name of a new President known already? (to announce)

– They must have announced the name of a new President.

1. Bella Abzug is a very extraordinary woman. (the most picturesque figure of American politics)
2. Do they know who they'll vote for? (to make their choice)
3. Are the debates over? (still, to go on)
4. She was elected sheriff of New County in Nevada. (to respect and trust)
5. Are the documents ready? (to type)
6. Was a new tax law adopted? (to veto)

Model 2: Do you know where senator Perryson is? – He may/might (to make) a speech in Congress.

– He may/might be making a speech in Congress.

1. What are these people doing here? – I am not sure, but they might (to protest) against tax raising.
2. Do you think the republicans gained a majority of delegate votes? – Well, they may (to win), but I am not sure.
3. What party does he support? – I know very little of his political views. He might (to be) a neutralist.
4. Will everybody vote for their proposal? – I don't think so. It may (to vote down).
5. When shall we know the results? – They may (to declare) at midnight.

6. Why aren't political meetings well attended nowadays? – There might (to be) a kind of distrust of political speeches and promises.
7. What did the rival party ask for? – I am not sure, but they may (to ask) for a recount.

**Ex. 6.** *Express different shades of meaning using Modal Verbs and the proper forms of the Infinitive:*

Model 1: *may, might, can, could (possibility):*

These public officials failed to perform their duties properly.

- They (to remove) from office.
- They *can be removed* from office.

1. Let's demand a recount. It (to show) majority in Wilcot's favour.
2. He has a great number of supporters. He (to win) the election.
3. The orator spoke in a dull flat voice. We (not to follow) him.
4. Associated Justices (not to elect), they are nominated.
5. A veto (to override) by a two-thirds vote of the Congress.
6. Government policies (not to change) by new president as they wish.
7. Congress (to refuse) to provide funds requested by the President.

Model 2: *(improbability or doubt):*

I don't believe that he has won the elections.

- He can't have won the elections.

1. Is he really making investigations all alone?
2. I don't believe that he resorted to sordid methods in running the elections.
3. Is it true that Bert Glimmer supports the Democrats? He has quite opposite political views.
4. I doubt that the proposal has been put to vote. I think it's still being discussed.
5. Is the commission still sitting? Unbelievable!

Model 3: (reproach):

Your supporters have helped you a great deal.(to thank them)

– You should have thanked them.

1. He is just a typical TV glamour boy (to vote for him).
2. Robert is upset about his failure (to support him).
3. People don't respect you any more (to sling mud your opponents).
4. Our candidate has lost the election (to nominate a recognized politician).
5. They said they could see practically no difference between your party program and that of your rivals (to have more clear-cut program).

**Ex. 7.** *Express the same idea using modal verbs.*

Model 1: **a)** Are we permitted to vote? (Are there any regulations against voting?)

– Can we vote?

**b)** Do you advise us to vote for this candidate?

– Should we vote for this candidate?

**c)** Are we required to vote at the elections?

– Must we vote at the elections?

1. It is necessary to register for local elections.
2. It is advisable to contact journalists.
3. It is not obligatory to be a party member to run in elections.
4. The committee decided to meet on Monday.
5. Perhaps he will change his decision.
6. I am not rich enough. I have no possibility to benefit the electoral campaign.
7. She managed to get a majority of ten in her favour.

Model 2: **a)** I am sure he is a party leader.

– He must be a party leader.

**b)** I doubt that he has won the elections.

– He might have won the elections.

c) It was a bad idea to join this lobby.

– You shouldn't have joined this lobby.

1. Everybody is sure that he appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.
2. I don't believe that such a minor party has won the majority of seats.
3. Why didn't you participate in decisions that concerned you?
4. Beyond doubt, he didn't do it!
5. Perhaps President vetoed the Act of Congress, but I don't know.
6. It can't be that Congress refused to provide funds for such a project!

**Ex. 8.** Use the proper modal verbs or their equivalents in the correct form: *can(not), may, must, shall, should, ought (to), be (to), have (to), be able (to)*:

1. To become President in the USA one \_\_\_\_\_ be born in the USA. One \_\_\_\_\_ also be 35 years old or more. One \_\_\_\_\_ be President for a term of 4 years. One \_\_\_\_\_ be re-elected again for one more term.
2. If the President dies, or resigns, or \_\_\_\_\_ (not) to work, the Vice President becomes President. So, the qualifications for Vice President \_\_\_\_\_ be the same as for the President.
3. The U.S. government \_\_\_\_\_ give protection (asylum) to refugees if they have reason to fear death or mistreatment in their native countries. Refugees no longer \_\_\_\_\_ to prove that their lives are in danger.
4. Although the national popular vote \_\_\_\_\_ be very close, one candidate \_\_\_\_\_ receive an overwhelming majority of Electoral College votes.
5. If citizens don't vote, the system of democracy \_\_\_\_\_ (not) be truly representative.
6. The Constitution says that a Senator \_\_\_\_\_ be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the U.S. for 9 years, and a resident of the state from which he is elected.
7. Only a member of the House \_\_\_\_\_ introduce a bill to raise money, says the Constitution.
8. During a two-year term of Congress, as many as 20,000 bills \_\_\_\_\_ be introduced.

9. Some bills \_\_\_\_\_ be important, some not, but no Congressman \_\_\_\_\_ know well enough 20, 000 bills to vote intelligently on them.
10. The Senators \_\_\_\_\_ block a treaty that the President has negotiated, but they \_\_\_\_\_ (not) make a treaty or force the President to make one.
11. The President's actions \_\_\_\_\_ involve the country in a state of war, leaving Congress no alternative but to recognize the fact.
12. Through the use of the veto power the President \_\_\_\_\_ to reject legislation unless Congress by a two-thirds vote of each House overrules him.

**Ex. 9.** *Complete the sentences with the most suitable modal verb.*

1. The President \_\_\_\_\_ remove any Cabinet member for refusing to carry out a duty.
2. The jurisdiction of the Federal courts \_\_\_\_\_ include cases which concern the interpretation of the Constitution, of treaties between the United States and foreign countries and of all Federal laws.
3. The Constitution provides that the electors \_\_\_\_\_ meet in the respective states to ballot for the President and Vice President.
4. The date for voting by electors, according to the Constitution, \_\_\_\_\_ be the same through the United States.
5. After the Civil War the Democratic and the Republican parties \_\_\_\_\_ to deal with difficult social, economic and human rights issues.
6. In the Declaration of Independence people \_\_\_\_\_ find the key ideas about how the Americans of that generation thought free people \_\_\_\_\_ live.
7. Modern society recognizes that the individuals who are called to serve on a jury \_\_\_\_\_ not be allowed to suffer financially as a result of such public service.
8. The American economy \_\_\_\_\_ to be built, as they say, from the ground up.
9. In the beginning there were simply no farms, no houses or factories and whatever was needed \_\_\_\_\_ to be made by the settlers themselves, or

it \_\_\_\_\_ to be imported at great expense.

10. The rapid progress of American industry and agriculture \_\_\_\_\_ be traced to a characteristic which has often been called typically American.
11. It is surprising but America's share of the world's land that \_\_\_\_\_ be used for farming is less than 8 per cent.
12. America \_\_\_\_\_ feed not only her own people – one of the few countries that does so – but a great many other people in the world as well.

**Ex. 10.** *Translate into Russian paying attention to the Emphatic Constructions:*

1. Whatever this evidence may appear at first glance it is of great importance for the investigation.
2. The law of a country, however much we may analyse it into separate rules, is something more than the mere sum of such rules.
3. Whoever else may object to these arguments, I shall approve.
4. He is innocent whatever people may say.
5. Hardly had the article been published when the author was accused of blackmail.

**Ex. 11.** *Respond to the following using Emphatic Constructions according to the models.*

Model 1: Your landlord may say what he likes but he has no right to get you out.

*Whatever your landlord may say he has no right to get you out.*

1. My reputation will be torn to shreds irrespective of the court decision.
2. Whatever .....
3. Every time legal problems arise he consults his attorney.
4. Whenever .....
5. Your company will be held liable for the loss of profit irrespective of its amount.
6. Whatever .....
7. He will be cross-examined no matter who he is.

8. Whoever .....
9. My husband has been absent for eight years and our marriage can be dissolved, no matter where he is now.
10. Wherever .....
11. You'll have to look through all the documents though it might take you too much time.
12. However much .....

Model 2: We must do this work though it is hard.

*Hard as (though) it is we must do this work.*

1. These results may be erroneous but they are still valuable.

Erroneous .....

2. He said nothing to prove his alibi. It was strange.

Strange .....

3. This offer must be turned down as unlawful though it is very profitable.

Profitable .....

4. The disagreement could be resolved by the parties though it is very serious.

Serious .....

5. The court was still sitting though it was late.

Late .....

**Ex. 12.** *Translate into English:*

1. Во многих городах и округах свои законы, определяющие, кто может и кто не может владеть оружием. 2. Штаты не могут принимать законы, идущие вразрез с конституционными правами личности. 3. Каждый отдельный политик должен уделять особое внимание нуждам своих избирателей. 4. Это политическое лобби, несомненно, ослабило позиции демократов. 5. "Мы способны поверить, что наше правительство глупое, слабое, неэффективное; но это, несомненно, самое лучшее правительство в мире". 6. Журналистам следовало бы проявить больше уважения к лидерам правительства. 7. Чтобы участвовать в выборах, не нужно быть членом



политической партии, можно просто объявить, что им являешься. 8. Думаю, вам придется проголосовать за наше предложение. 9. Только 53,3% из тех, кто мог проголосовать, сделали это. 10. Вам не следовало поддерживать эту политическую группировку, это было ошибкой. 11. Не может быть, что суд признал действия президента неконституционными! 12. Истец должен был доказать и доказал, что он выполнил условия контракта.