CE 2a Fundamental Principles

The Fundamental Principles are the building blocks of our countries government. These principles “define and shape American constitutional government.” (SOLPASS) The five principles set the tone of how our government is run. The basic idea that should be gotten from all of them is that, THE PEOPLE ARE IN CHARGE.

Consent of the governed: The **people** are the source of any and allgovernmental power*. If the word consent is replaced with “permission” and governed is replaced with “the people”, the term may be easier to understand. If the government wants to do anything, they need the “****permission of the people.”***

Limited government: Government is not all-powerful and may do only those things the ***people*** have given it the power to do. *This means that the government can only use the power that the people give it. If the government wants more power, they need to ask the people.*

Rule of law: The government and those who govern are bound by the law, as are those who are governed. *Everyone must obey all of the laws. No one is above the law.*

Democracy: In a democratic system of government, **the people rule**.

Representative government: In a representative system of government, the people elect public officeholders to make laws and conduct government on the people’s behalf. *Think of it like this: There are too many citizens for all of us to go to Washington D.C. to make the rules. So the people of each state pick (or elect) someone to speak for them and make the rules on their behalf.*

What do you know?

1. What is the main idea behind all of these principles?
2. anyone can make a law c) the people are in charge
3. one person makes all the decisions d) both a&b
4. Rule of Law means;
5. Important people do not have to obey laws
6. Everyone must obey the laws no matter who they are
7. Laws are meant to be broken
8. Government official cannot get speeding tickets

3) Limited Government:

a) Congress can do whatever it wants without getting permission from anyone.

b) Government has only so much power. If they need to do anything else, they need to ask the people.

c) Limited Government means that only a certain number of people can vote.

d) Government is based on how many parking places there are in Washington, D.C.