

# LESSON 4

## Federalism

### LESSON ASSIGNMENTS

Pay very close attention when watching the video program. Review the video objectives and be prepared to record possible answers, in abbreviated form, as you view the video. The titles and numbers of the textbook chapters may differ from the video program. Keep in mind that the video program examines contemporary examples to illustrate your government in action. An attempt is made to show how you can participate in the political arena and bring about changes in the political process.

#### Video:

“Federalism,” from the series, *Voices in Democracy: United States Government*.

#### Activities:

One or more activities may be assigned to this lesson. Refer to your syllabus.

### OVERVIEW

This lesson examines the U.S. system of federalism: its advantages and disadvantages, its different faces over various periods of time, and its impact on United States governance and politics. The chapter also examines the tension and conflict between the national and state governments that is created by the system. Finally, the chapter explores the relationship between federalism, federal and state spending, and the size of government. In the video, federalism is examined as it functions using varied examples of conflict and cooperation between the national government and the state governments when solving problems.

### LESSON GOAL

Explain the balance of power question that federalism created and list some of the conflicts that have resulted over the last two hundred years.

### VIDEO OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are designed to help you get the most from the video segment of this lesson. Review them, then watch the video. You may want to write notes to reinforce what you have learned.

Video: “Federalism”

1. Explain the balance of power question that federalism created, and list some of the conflicts that have occurred over the last two hundred years.
2. Explain the role federalism plays in addressing the national transportation issue.
3. Discuss the question of federalism following the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City.
4. Explain the problem immigration presents for federalism.

## WEB ACTIVITIES

These activities are not required unless your teacher assigns them. They are offered as suggestions to help you learn more about the material presented in this lesson.

Contact the Web page for your Department of Public Safety and the Web page for Advocates for Highway Safety.

Determine the state speed limits established on the interstate since the national government has relinquished speed limit control to the states.

Evaluate the roles of the national, state, and local governments regarding interstate highways in your area.

Gather information about the speed limits relative to the increase in accidents. Is there a relationship between the increase of automobile accidents and the increase of speed limits.

Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the speed limits on the interstate highways in your state.

Compare your findings to the Washington DC based group, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, represented in the video.

Prepare a written summary of your findings and your conclusions about states' rights to determine interstate highway policies in our national system. Submit your findings via U.S. mail or e-mail.

Visit <http://www.mcs.net/~knautzr/fed/> and read Federalist #10.

Identify the key concerns that bothered Madison and note how he suggested the new system of government should deal with these problems.

## PRACTICE TEST

After reading the assignment, watching the video, and addressing the objectives, you should be able to complete the following Practice Test. Some essay questions in this Practice Test may be included in your exams. When you have completed the Practice Test, turn to the Answer Key to score your answers.

### MULTIPLE-CHOICE

Select the single best answer.

1. The federal form of government, established by the 1787 constitution, contained all of the following provisions EXCEPT...
  - A. distribution of authority between the national government and the states
  - B. delegation of certain powers to the national government
  - C. sharing of some powers between the national government and the states
  - D. all powers not granted to the state governments were reserved for the local governments
2. The interstate highway system is a partnership between the...
  - A. northern and southern states
  - B. eastern and western states
  - C. national government and the states
  - D. national government and the adjacent countries
3. Which of the follow statements is NOT true, concerning the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City?
  - A. Federal law enforcement officers were murdered.
  - B. Timothy McVeigh was found guilty in a federal court and sentenced to death.
  - C. Concerning which people were responsible for the bombing, federal, state, and local officials refused to cooperate during the investigation.
  - D. The national government provided millions of dollars to help with the rebuilding of buildings damaged by the bombing.
4. The trend in the United States in the 1930's and 1960's was to extend more power to...
  - A. local governments
  - B. the national government
  - C. the state governments
  - D. All of the above
5. Which of the following statements is true concerning immigrants who come to the United States?
  - A. Most legal immigrants arrive by airplane.
  - B. A visa enables an immigrant to stay in the United States for an unlimited amount of time.
  - C. The federal government assumes about 90% of the cost of educating all immigrants who enter the United States.
  - D. Legal immigrants cost the United States economy far more than they contribute to it.

### ESSAY/PROBLEM QUESTIONS

6. Explain the pros and cons of federalism in dealing with transportation. When should the national government determine the law and when should the state government determine the law?
7. Describe how our system of federalism worked after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City.

## ANSWER KEY

The following provides the answers and references for the practice test questions. Objectives are referenced using the following abbreviation: V= Video Objectives.

1. D Ref: V 1 (Video)
2. C Ref: V 2 (Video)
3. C Ref: V 3 (Video)
4. B Ref: V 1 (Video)
5. A Ref: V 4 (Video)
6. Ref: V 2 (Video)
7. Ref: V 3 (Video)