Below is a 150-question U.S. Constitution candidate literacy test designed for someone running for the U.S. House or Senate. Passing at 95% means answering at least 143 out of 150 correctly.
U.S. Constitution Candidate Test

Section I — Constitutional Structure and Foundations

1. What is the supreme law of the United States?
2. What are the three main branches of the federal government?
3. Which Article creates Congress?
4. Which Article creates the presidency?
5. Which Article creates the federal judiciary?
6. What is meant by "separation of powers"?
7. What is meant by "checks and balances"?
8. What are the first ten amendments collectively called?
9. What is the purpose of the Preamble?
10. Name three goals listed in the Preamble.
11. What clause makes the Constitution, federal laws, and treaties superior to conflicting state law?
12. Does the Constitution allow a religious test for federal office?
13. Who must take an oath to support the Constitution?
14. What form of government must the United States guarantee to every state?
15. What Article explains how the Constitution may be amended?
    Section II — Congress
16. What does it mean that Congress is bicameral?
17. What are the two chambers of Congress?
18. How long is a House term?
19. How long is a Senate term?
20. How many senators does each state have?
21. How is representation in the House determined?
22. How often must an official census be taken?
23. Where must revenue bills originate?
24. Which chamber has the sole power of impeachment?
25. Which chamber tries impeachments?
26. What vote is required in the Senate to convict after impeachment?
27. Who presides over a presidential impeachment trial?
28. What vote is required to override a presidential veto?
29. Which branch has the power to declare war?
30. Which branch controls federal appropriations?
31. What is the Necessary and Proper Clause?
32. Name five powers specifically granted to Congress.
33. What is the Commerce Clause?
34. What is Congress forbidden from passing under the bans on bills of attainder and ex post facto laws?
35. What is the constitutional minimum quorum for each chamber to conduct business?
36. Can either chamber expel one of its members? If so, what vote is required?

37. What are the age, citizenship, and residency qualifications for the House?
38. What are the age, citizenship, and residency qualifications for the Senate?
39. What role does the Senate play in treaties?
40. What role does the Senate play in major presidential appointments?
41. Can Congress suspend habeas corpus whenever it wants?
42. What are the constitutional conditions for suspending habeas corpus?
43. What does the Speech or Debate Clause protect?
44. Can Congress grant titles of nobility?
45. What constitutional protection prevents Congress from changing its own pay immediately before voters can respond?

Section III — The Presidency

46. How long is a presidential term?
47. What are the constitutional qualifications for president?
48. What amendment limits presidents to two elected terms?
49. What is the Electoral College?
50. How many electoral votes does each state receive?
51. What happens if no presidential candidate receives an Electoral College majority?
52. What happens if no vice-presidential candidate receives an Electoral College majority?
53. What is the president's role as commander in chief?
54. Does the commander-in-chief power give the president the power to declare war?
55. What is the president's duty under the Take Care Clause?
56. What is the State of the Union requirement?
57. What is the president's veto power?
58. What is a pocket veto?
59. What federal offenses can the president pardon?
60. Can the president pardon impeachment?
61. Can the president pardon state crimes?
62. What vote is required in the Senate to approve a treaty?
63. What offices does the president appoint with Senate advice and consent?
64. What is the Foreign Emoluments Clause?
65. What amendment governs presidential vacancy and disability?
66. If the president is removed, dies, or resigns, who becomes president?
67. What is the vice president's constitutional role in the Senate?
68. What are the constitutional grounds for impeachment?
69. Does impeachment require violation of a criminal statute?
70. What is the president's oath of office centered on preserving, protecting, and defending?

Section IV — The Federal Judiciary

71. What court is created directly by the Constitution?
72. Who creates lower federal courts?
73. How long do federal judges serve?
74. What does "during good Behavior" mean for federal judges?
75. Can Congress reduce a sitting federal judge's salary?

76. What types of cases fall within federal judicial power?
77. What is the difference between original and appellate jurisdiction?
78. In what kinds of cases does the Supreme Court have original jurisdiction?
79. Can Congress make exceptions to the Supreme Court's appellate jurisdiction?
80. What is judicial review?
81. Is the phrase "judicial review" written explicitly in the Constitution?
82. What is the constitutional definition of treason?
83. What evidence is required to convict someone of treason?
84. What does Article III say about criminal jury trials?
85. Why are federal courts generally limited to actual cases or controversies?
86. What is due process?
87. Which amendment applies due process to the federal government?
88. Which amendment applies due process to the states?
89. What is incorporation?
90. What amendment is primarily used to apply many Bill of Rights protections to the states?

Section V — Federalism and State Powers

91. What is federalism?
92. What are enumerated powers?
93. What are reserved powers?
94. Which amendment reserves undelegated powers to the states or the people?
95. What happens when a valid federal law conflicts with a state law?
96. What is the Full Faith and Credit Clause?
97. What is the Privileges and Immunities Clause?
98. What is extradition between states?
99. Can a state enter into a treaty with a foreign nation?
100. Can a state coin money?
101. Can a state pass an ex post facto law?
102. Can a new state be formed from part of an existing state without that state's consent?
103. What branch admits new states?
104. What does the Guarantee Clause require the United States to guarantee every state?
105. What authority does Congress have over militias?
106. What authority do states retain over militias?
107. How did the Eleventh Amendment alter federal judicial power over suits against states?
108. How did the Fourteenth Amendment alter the federal-state relationship?
109. Can states deny equal protection of the laws?
110. Can states deprive a person of life, liberty, or property without due process?

111. Section VI — Individual Rights
112. Name the five freedoms protected by the First Amendment.

113. What is the Establishment Clause?
114. What is the Free Exercise Clause?
115. What does the Second Amendment protect?
116. What does the Third Amendment restrict?
117. What does the Fourth Amendment protect against?
118. What must a warrant generally be based on?
119. What must a warrant particularly describe?
120. Name five protections in the Fifth Amendment.
121. What is the Takings Clause?
122. What does "just compensation" mean?
123. What rights are protected by the Sixth Amendment?
124. What does the Confrontation Clause protect?
125. What does the Assistance of Counsel Clause protect?
126. What does the Seventh Amendment protect?
127. What does the Eighth Amendment prohibit?
128. What does the Ninth Amendment say about unenumerated rights?
129. What does the Tenth Amendment say about powers not delegated to the federal government?
130. What did the Thirteenth Amendment abolish?
131. What exception is written into the Thirteenth Amendment?
132. What are the major protections of the Fourteenth Amendment?
133. What is birthright citizenship under the Fourteenth Amendment?
134. What does the Fifteenth Amendment prohibit?
135. What does the Nineteenth Amendment prohibit?
136. What does the Twenty-Fourth Amendment prohibit?
137. What does the Twenty-Sixth Amendment protect?
138. Can the government punish speech simply because it is unpopular?
139. Are constitutional rights absolute in every circumstance?
140. What is the difference between procedural due process and equal protection?
141. Why should a candidate understand both the text of the Constitution and constitutional precedent?

Section VII — Elections, Representation, and Accountability

142. Who sets the "Times, Places and Manner" of congressional elections, subject to congressional alteration?
143. What amendment provides for the direct election of senators?
144. Before the Seventeenth Amendment, how were senators chosen?
145. What are the qualifications for voters in House elections tied to?
146. When do congressional terms begin under the Twentieth Amendment?
147. When does the presidential term begin under the Twentieth Amendment?
148. What does the Twenty-Third Amendment do?
149. What does the Twelfth Amendment change about presidential elections?
150. Can Congress change the number of Supreme Court justices by statute?
151. What is the constitutional purpose of impeachment?

Answer Key

1. The U.S. Constitution.
2. Legislative, executive, judicial.
3. Article I.
4. Article II.
5. Article III.
6. Dividing government power among branches.
7. Each branch has tools to limit or oversee the others.
8. The Bill of Rights.
9. To state the Constitution's purposes.
10. Examples: form a more perfect Union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for common defense, promote general welfare, secure liberty.
11. Supremacy Clause.
12. No.
13. Federal and state officers, legislators, judges, and executive officers.
14. A republican form of government.
15. Article V.
16. Congress has two chambers.
17. House and Senate.
18. Two years.
19. Six years.
20. Two.
21. By population.
22. Every ten years.
23. House of Representatives.
24. House.
25. Senate.
26. Two-thirds of senators present.
27. Chief Justice.
28. Two-thirds of both chambers.
29. Congress.
30. Congress.
31. Congress may make laws needed to carry out its constitutional powers.
32. Examples: tax, borrow money, regulate commerce, coin money, declare war, raise armies, maintain navy, establish post offices, create lower courts, naturalization, bankruptcy.
33. Congress may regulate commerce with foreign nations, among states, and with Indian tribes.
34. Punishing without trial; retroactively criminalizing conduct or increasing punishment.
35. A majority.
36. Yes, by two-thirds vote.
37. 25 years old, 7 years a citizen, inhabitant of the state.
38. 30 years old, 9 years a citizen, inhabitant of the state.

39. Approves treaties by two-thirds of senators present.
40. Advice and consent.
41. No.
42. Only in rebellion or invasion when public safety requires it.
43. Legislative speech and debate from being questioned outside Congress.
44. No.
45. Twenty-Seventh Amendment.
46. Four years.
47. Natural-born citizen, 35 years old, 14 years resident in the U.S.
48. Twenty-Second Amendment.
49. The constitutional system for electing the president and vice president.
50. Number of representatives plus senators.
51. House chooses president by state delegations.
52. Senate chooses vice president.
53. Commands armed forces.
54. No; Congress declares war.
55. Faithfully execute the laws.
56. President gives Congress information and recommends measures.
57. President may reject a bill, subject to override.
58. A bill fails if Congress adjourns within ten days, excluding Sundays, and the president does not sign it.
59. Federal offenses.
60. No.
61. No.
62. Two-thirds of senators present.
63. Ambassadors, public ministers, consuls, Supreme Court justices, other officers as provided by law.
64. Federal officers may not accept foreign gifts, offices, or benefits without congressional consent.
65. Twenty-Fifth Amendment.
66. Vice president.
67. President of the Senate; votes only to break ties.
68. Treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.
69. No.
70. The Constitution.
71. Supreme Court.
72. Congress.
73. During good behavior.
74. Life tenure unless removed through impeachment or resignation/retirement.
75. No.
76. Constitutional, federal law, treaty, ambassador, admiralty, U.S. party, state controversy, and related cases listed in Article III.
77. Original begins in that court; appellate reviews lower court decisions.

78. Cases involving ambassadors, public ministers, consuls, and those in which a state is a party.
79. Yes.
80. Courts' power to determine whether laws or government actions violate the Constitution.
81. No.
82. Levying war against the U.S. or adhering to enemies, giving them aid and comfort.
83. Two witnesses to the same overt act or confession in open court.
84. Criminal trials must be by jury, except impeachment.
85. Article III judicial power is limited to real disputes.
86. Fair legal process before deprivation of life, liberty, or property.
87. Fifth Amendment.
88. Fourteenth Amendment.
89. Applying Bill of Rights protections against state governments.
90. Fourteenth Amendment.
91. Division of power between national and state governments.
92. Powers specifically granted to the federal government.
93. Powers kept by states or the people.
94. Tenth Amendment.
95. Valid federal law prevails.
96. States must respect other states' public acts, records, and judicial proceedings.
97. States may not discriminate against citizens of other states in fundamental matters.
98. Returning a person charged with a crime to the state with jurisdiction.
99. No.
100. No.
101. No.
102. No.
103. Congress.
104. A republican form of government.
105. Organizing, arming, disciplining, and governing militia when in federal service.
106. Appointing officers and training militia according to congressional discipline.
107. Limited certain federal suits against states.
108. Imposed citizenship, due process, and equal protection limits on states.
109. No.
110. No.
111. Religion, speech, press, assembly, petition.
112. Government may not establish religion.
113. Government may not prohibit free exercise of religion.
114. Right to keep and bear arms.
115. Quartering soldiers in private homes.
116. Unreasonable searches and seizures.
117. Probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation.
118. Place to be searched and persons or things to be seized.
119. Grand jury, double jeopardy, self-incrimination, due process, just compensation.

120. Private property cannot be taken for public use without just compensation.
121. Fair payment for property taken.
122. Speedy and public trial, impartial jury, notice of accusation, confrontation, compulsory process, counsel.
123. Right to face adverse witnesses.
124. Right to legal counsel in criminal prosecution.
125. Civil jury trial in certain common-law cases.
126. Excessive bail, excessive fines, cruel and unusual punishment.
127. Listing some rights does not deny others retained by the people.
128. Undelegated powers are reserved to states or people.
129. Slavery and involuntary servitude.
130. Punishment for crime after conviction.
131. Citizenship, privileges or immunities, due process, equal protection, enforcement power.
132. Persons born or naturalized in the U.S. and subject to its jurisdiction are citizens.
133. Voting discrimination based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
134. Voting discrimination based on sex.
135. Poll taxes in federal elections.
136. Voting rights for citizens 18 and older.
137. No.
138. No.
139. Procedural due process concerns fair procedures; equal protection concerns unequal treatment under law.
140. Public officials must understand both constitutional text and how courts have interpreted and applied it.
141. State legislatures, subject to Congress.
142. Seventeenth Amendment.
143. State legislatures.
144. Qualifications for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature.
145. January 3.
146. January 20.
147. Gives D.C. presidential electors.
148. Requires separate Electoral College votes for president and vice president.
149. Yes.
150. To remove, and possibly disqualify, civil officers for serious misconduct or abuse of office.
151. Improve accuracy for structured artifacts