

**American Government – Civics**  
**Basic Principles of the Constitution**  
**Chapter 3, Section 1**  
**Pages 68 -77 in text**

***Read the chapter, define the vocabulary words (highlighted in text) and answer the following checkpoint questions.***

**Vocabulary Words:**

Political arena

Provisions

Popular sovereignty

Limited government

Constitutionalism

Rule of law

Prohibitions

Enshrine

Separation of powers

Vested

Checks and balances

Veto

Override

Partisan

Judicial review

Unconstitutional

Auxiliary

Federalism

**Checkpoint Questions:**

1. What is the purpose of the Preamble to the Constitution?
2. How does the separation of powers keep government from becoming too powerful?
3. Name one of the ways in which the President can check the powers of Congress.
4. Identify two powers that the States hold, but that the Federal government does not.

**Thinking Critically:**

1. Should the Supreme Court have the power to declare an act of Congress unconstitutional? Why or why not?
2. Explain why the power of judicial review is an important part of the system of checks and balances.