**United States History Klausur  
The John F. Kennedy School**Alexandra von Anhalt, Mercedes Gutierrez, Anthony Reid, Maddalen Ledahawsky, Aqueena Crisp

**Theme:** To what extent is the United States Constitution a Democratic document?

**Directions**: Write one unified essay, which evaluates two opposing visions for America embodied in the first political parties. The documents provided must be integrated into the body of your essay. You may paraphrase or quote the documents, but in either case you must cite the source (document, line number). When analyzing the material, provide *specific* historical references—utilizing both the documents provided and previous historical knowledge—to support your thesis.

Provide an appropriate title for your essay. Write on both sides of the paper, number the pages, leave five lines between paragraphs and underline your thesis statement.

1. Identify and describe five civil liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

2. Analyze the document and debate whether or not the Constitution was a democratic document.

3. Evaluate the the degree to which the United States Consitition is a Democratic document.

**Source A:** CIVITAS: A Framework for Civic Education, a collaborative project of the Center for Civic Education and the Council for the Advancement of Citizenship, National Council for the Social Studies Bulletin No. 86, 1991.

**CORE VALUES OF AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY**

Core democratic values are the fundamental beliefs and constitutional principles of American society, which unite all Americans. These values are expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the United States constitution and other significant documents, speeches, and writing of the nation. Below are definitions of some core democratic values.

**FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS**

LIBERTY: The right to liberty is considered an unalterable aspect of the human condition. Central to this idea of liberty is the understanding that the political or personal obligations of parents or ancestors cannot be legitimately forced on people. The right to liberty includes personal freedom: the private realm in which the individual is free to act, to think and to believe, and which the government cannot legitimately invade; political freedom: the right to participate freely in the political process, choose and remove public officials, to be governed under a rule of law; the right to a free flow of information and ideas, open debate and right of assembly; and economic freedom: the right to acquire, use, transfer and dispose of private property without unreasonable governmental interference; the right to seek employment wherever one pleases; to change employment at will; and to engage in any lawful economic activity.

JUSTICE: People should be treated fairly in the distribution of the benefits and burdens of society, the correction of wrongs and injuries, and in the gathering of information and making of decisions.

EQUALITY: All citizens have: political equality and are not denied these rights unless by due process of law; legal equality and should be treated as equals before the law; social equality so as there should be no class hierarchy sanctioned by law; economic equality which tends to strengthen political and social equality for extreme economic inequality tends to undermine all other forms of equality and should there fore be avoided.INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS: Fundamental to American constitutional democracy is the belief that individuals have certain basic rights that are not created by government but which government should protect. These are the right to life, liberty, economic freedom, and the "Pursuit of happiness." It is the purpose of government to protect these rights, and it may not place unfair or unreasonable restraints on their exercise. Many of these rights are enumerated in the Bill of Rights.