

# Constitution

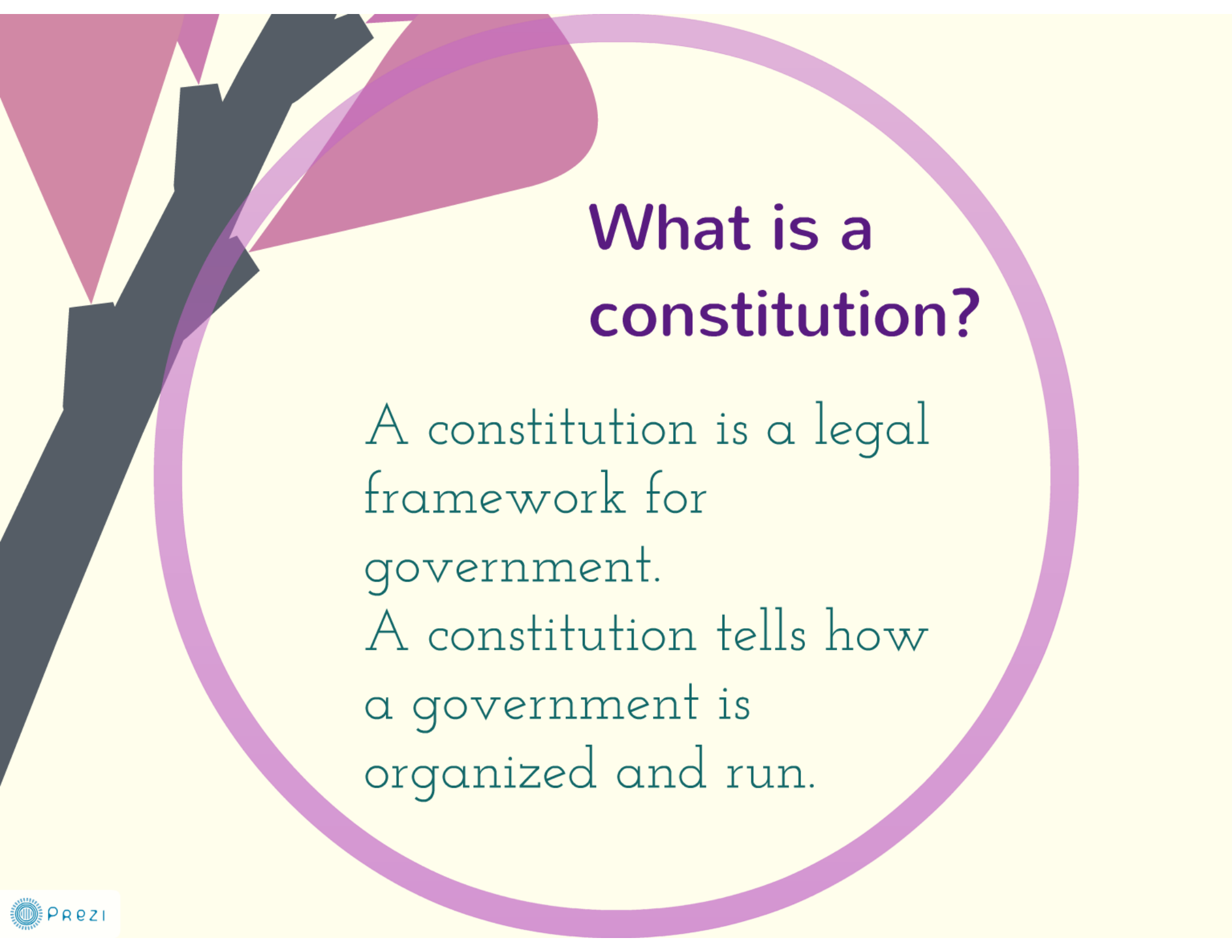
## Garith's Civics Assignment



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# What is a constitution?

A constitution is a legal framework for government.

A constitution tells how a government is organized and run.

## What purposes for government are given in the Preamble of the US Constitution?

The US Government is democracy and is better than before. It creates a fair legal system and keep things peaceful at home. Constitutional government unite people to defend against attacks and help keep the people safe and healthy, make sure that freedom and liberty is around today, and for our descendants. The people have created and agreed to follow this new plan of government, the constitution.

## What questions about government and citizens does a constitution answer?

What are the purposes of government?

What is the organization of government? What parts does it have? What does each part do?

How is government supposed to go about doing its business? For example, how does the government make its law?

How are people selected to serve in government?

Who is a citizen?

Are citizens supposed to have control over their government? If so, how is this control supposed to work?

What rights and responsibilities, if any, are the citizens supposed to have?

## What are five characteristics of a constitution?

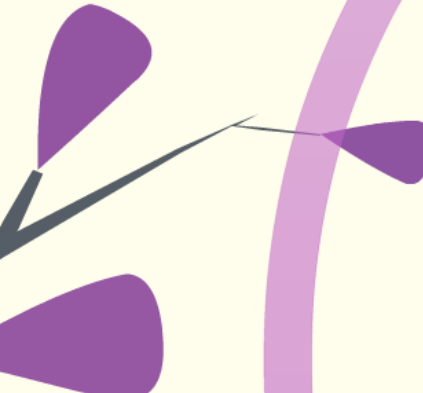
It lists the basic rights of citizens of life, liberty and property.

It establishes the responsibility of government to protect those rights.

It places limits on how the people in government may use their powers. Some examples of how our constitution limits the powers of government are citizens' rights, how resources are distributed and how conflicts are handled.

It establishes the principle of a private domain is that part of a person's life that is not the business of government.

It can only be changed with the widespread consent of citizens and according to certain set procedures.



# What are the four freedom of Expression?

Freedom of Speech;  
Freedom of Press;  
Right to Peaceably assembly;  
Right to Petition the Government  
for a redress of grievances

# What are the benefits of Freedom of Expression?

Individual development and human dignity  
Advancement of knowledge  
The maintenance of representative democracy  
Peaceful social change



## Should there be limits to Freedom of Expression?

Suppose your right to freedom of expression in a particular situation is dangerous to public safety, national security, or some other important interest. If the danger is great enough, the courts sometimes allow freedom of expression to be limited. Also, one person's right to freedom of expression may conflict with someone else's rights. The right to a free press might conflict with someone's right to a fair trial in a court of law. For this reason, we accept limitations that are intended to protect everyone's rights.

## What is Due Process of Law?

Due process means that the procedures or methods used to conduct hearings and to apply and enforce that law, must be fair and reasonable. All branches of the federal and state governments must use fair procedures when they are carrying out their responsibilities.

Due process also means that the content of laws that legislatures pass must be fair and reasonable.

Congress and the state legislatures cannot pass laws that place unfair or unreasonable limitations on people's right to life, liberty, or property.



## How can the rights of an individual and the rights of Society conflict?

Problems of due process involve two government responsibilities. These responsibilities are to: protect the rights of an individual who may have broken the law; protect everyone else from people who break the law and endanger the liveries, liberty, or property of others. These responsibilities sometimes conflict. Balancing them is a difficult job. It is the duty of government and the courts to balance these responsibilities.