

Question:

"Though the Philadelphia convention was convened to amend the Articles of Confederation, it resulted in the framing of an altogether new Constitution."
Comment.

Restructure this intro

1. Introduction:

The convention of Philadelphia which formed the constitution of U.S.A, was actually convened to amend the Articles of Confederation. But, as the members met in convention, they discussed several issues and found that the confederation has many defects. And, these defects cannot be removed by mere amending, so they felt the need of new constitution and presented their plans

2. What is Philadelphia Convention?

The convention of Philadelphia has been regarded as the greatest of all the conventions ever held in America. It was organized in the same building, where declaration of independence

was made. All the leaders of confederation and founding fathers of USA participated in it. Representatives from every state were required to present and render upon both conventional and necessary needs of time. They gathered there to amend the ~~Articles of Confederation~~ confederation. But delegates started discuss new document beyond their powers and realized Articles of confederation are irreparable.

3. Problems before Philadelphia convention:

These were numerous problems to which convention was confronted and some were so critical that they almost broke the convention. Some of them are:

1. Convention was expected to produce document which will be acceptable to every one.
2. Congress was not true representative of common people and represented wealthy therefore ignored rights of masses.

4. Plans Presented in the convention:

(a) Virginia plan:

Virginia was large

state. It gave plan of bicameral house with proportional representation. Lower house to be directly elected by people and Senate by legislatures and executive to be chosen by legislature. This plan also gave provision for Supreme Court and lower courts. This plan was in favour of populated states but was against the interests of small states. Thus, it was abandoned.

Not asked!

Make a flowchart instead

(b) New Jersey Plan:

The New Jersey was a small state. It gave a plan of equal representation for all. It wanted the concentration of power to congress to tax states, and regulate foreign affairs and interstate commerce. They also pledged for plural executive with no veto and a Supreme court. This plan also insisted to consider the laws of congress to be the supreme laws in the states. This plan was however not accepted by bigger states and both led to a controversy.

5. Controversies arose between Both plans:

(a) Controversies over Nature of Government:

Big states were in favour of strong central government, but small states were in favour of confederation so they can fully exercise their freedom in all domains.

(b) Controversy over Representation:

The controversy over representation emerged when big states wanted proportional representation and small states demanded for equal representation. If proportional representation would have been accepted the larger states would rule the smaller.

(c) Slave States and Free States Conflict:

Slavery was prominent in southern areas and northerners were free from it. Therefore southerners wanted slaves representation in congress too which northern states rejected.

(d) Point of Non-Agreement Between Commercial and Agricultural States:

Northern states were commercial and southern were agricultural. They (southern) did not want abolition of slavery as it was the engine of agriculture there. The northern states wanted the abolition of slavery which would ultimately affect the economy of slave states and halt their production. Therefore, point of conflict emerged.

6. A Dire Need of Compromise.

In view of all these controversies, an agreement or a compromise was needed to take any decision. Discussions remained for many weeks but no result found. Benjamin Franklin pleaded representatives: "All have gathered here to consult not to contend."

7. Connecticut Compromise As a Tool of Controversy Resolution:

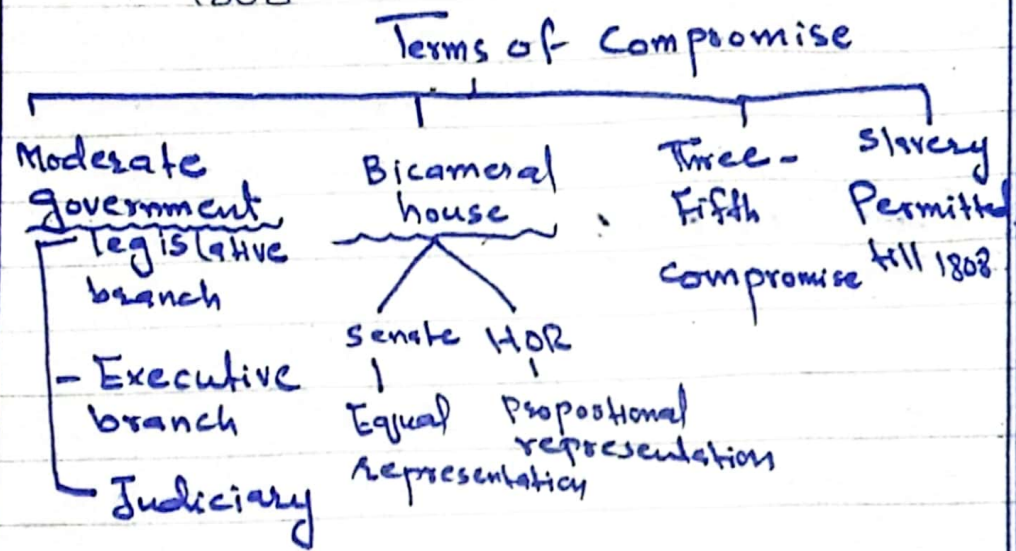
Connecticut suggested a compromise which was mostly accepted by all. It was in the form of twenty-three resolutions which gave basis to draft constitution.

(a) Terms of Compromise:

1. Connecticut suggested the government should neither be too powerful nor too loose. It was to be a coordinate government, not supreme and it should have three traditional branches.
2. It suggested that representation should be on the basis of that Senate should have equal representation with each state having two votes. While lower house should work on the formula of population basis. Larger states were reluctant to accept this
3. This compromise gave "Three fifth compromise" for slaves. Slaves should not be given representation in lower house but in general election three out of five selected slaves should be recognized.

5 Citizens = 5 votes	→ 3/5th compromise
5 Slaves = 3 votes	

4. On the issue of slave and commerce south and north ^{both} agreed to each others' plans and slavery permitted until 1808.



8. Ratification of the Constitution By the States:

.. Nine out of thirteen states were required to rat pass the constitution. There were many apprehensions in the mind of people. So James Madison, John Jay and others wrote eighty-five article to educate

people. The process of actual ratification started with Delaware then followed by Georgia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut. Massachusetts raised objection that constitution does not include 'Bill of Rights' and demanded it to be included later. New York and Virginia ratified in 1787 and ultimately it was ratified in 1788. Bill of Rights were included through first eight amendment.

9. Conclusion:

U.S.A is a newly independent state felt the need of a document to govern the country. They formerly made "Articles of Confederation". But, it was not as per the expectation of the leaders of U.S.A and passed certain difficulties to govern the country. Therefore states gathered in Philadelphia in 1787 to amend the 'Articles of Confederation', but did not reach a consensus. They discussed a new constitution. The Constitution body initially faced controversies but then through Connecticut compromise a draft was agreed and in 1788 it was ratified by all states.

Concise it

You need to make headings that connect all your points properly!

You have got potential just a few changes are required. Practice more and get evaluated on regular basis.

Good luck!