**Analysis activity 8.1: Document analysis**

**George Mason’s objections: Letter to Washington, September 1787**

*Objections to The Constitution of Government formed by the Convention*.

*There is no Declaration of Rights; and the Laws of the general Government being paramount to the Laws and Constitution of the several States, the Declarations of Rights in the separate States are no Security. Nor are the people secured even in the Enjoyment of the Benefits of the common-Law which stands here upon no other Foundation than its having been adopted by the respective Acts forming the Constitutions of the several States.*

*In the House of Representatives there is not the Substance, but the Shadow only of Representation; which can never produce proper Information in the Legislature, or inspire Confidence in the people; the Laws will therefore be generally made by Men little concerned in, and unacquainted with their Effects and Consequences.*

*The Senate have the power of altering all Money-Bills, and of originating Appropriations of Money, and the Salaries of the officers of their own Appointment, in conjunction with the President of the United States; although they are not the Representatives of the People, or amenable to them. These with their other great powers (viz: their Power in the Appointment of Ambassadors and all public Officers, in making Treaties, and in trying all Impeachments) their Influence upon and Connection with the supreme Executive from these Causes, their Duration of Office, and their being a constant existing Body almost continually sitting, joined with their being one complete Branch of the Legislature, will destroy any Balance in the Government, and enable them to accomplish what Usurpations they please upon the Rights and Liberties of the People.*

*The Judiciary of the United States is so constructed and extended, as to absorb and destroy the Judiciaries of the several States; thereby rendering Law as tedious intricate and expensive, and Justice as unattainable, by a great Part of the Community, as in England, and enabling the Rich to oppress and ruin the Poor.*

*The President of the United States has no constitutional Council (a thing unknown in any safe and regular government) he will therefore be unsupported by proper Information and Advice; and will generally be directed by Minions and Favourites – or He will become a Tool to the Senate – or a Council of State will grow out of the principal Officers of the great Departments; the worst and most dangerous of all Ingredients for such a Council, in a free Country; for they may be induced to join in any dangerous or oppressive Measures, to shelter themselves, and prevent an Inquiry into their own misconduct in Office; whereas had a constitutional Council been formed (as was proposed) of six members; viz two from the Eastern, two from the Middle, and two from the Southern States, to be appointed by Vote of the States in the House of Representatives, with the same Duration and Rotation of Office as the Senate, the Executive wou’d always have had safe and proper Information and Advice, the President of such a council might have acted as Vice President of the United States, protempore, upon any Vacancy or Disability of the chief Magistrate; and long continued Sessions of the Senate wou’d in a great Measure have been prevented.*

*From this fatal Defect of a constitutional Council has arisen the improper Power of the Senate, in the Appointment of public Officers, and the alarming Dependence and Connection between that Branch of the Legislature, and the supreme Executive. Hence also sprung that unnecessary and dangerous Officer the Vice President; who for want of other Employment, is made President of the Senate; thereby dangerously blending the executive and legislative Powers; besides always giving to some one of the States an unnecessary and unjust Pre-eminence over the others.*

1. What does Mason mean when he states ‘the Judiciary of the United States is so constructed and extended, as to absorb and destroy the Judiciaries of the several States’?

1. What are three problems Mason has with the Constitution? Use quotes from the source document in your answer.

1. What is Mason’s greatest concern regarding the position of the president?