

Questions related to Alexander Hamilton on Impeachment

1. What does it mean for the House of Representatives to “have the sole Power of Impeachment” and for the Senate to “have the sole Power to try all Impeachments”?
2. Write down Alexander Hamilton’s two-sentence description in *Federalist No. 65* of the type of wrongdoing that is meant by “high Crimes and Misdemeanors.”
3. According to Hamilton, in which country did this process of impeachment and trial originate, and did any of the state constitutions already follow this example?
4. Hamilton defends having impeachment trials take place in the Senate but is also concerned with the partisan passions that might be aroused. To what degree does Hamilton believe these passions could affect the outcome of an impeachment trial?
5. The framers of the Constitution set a very high bar for removing the President from office, namely a two-thirds majority vote in the Senate. Given that reality, does it make sense for the House of Representatives to impeach a President when it is obvious that the Senate will not convict? Explain.