

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Practice Exam #2

Time – 45 minutes

60 Questions

- Television coverage is:
 - allowed in the Senate, but not in the House
 - allowed in the House, but not in the Senate
 - allowed in both houses, but radio is not
 - allowed in both houses
 - not allowed in either house
- In U. S. history, third parties often have been effective vehicles for change when they:
 - repeated slogans and issues that a major party stood for
 - threatened violence as a means of drawing attention to an issue
 - were based on definite political ideologies
 - appealed to regional issues
 - addressed issues and suggested remedies that were being ignored by the major parties
- In both houses of Congress, a committee chairman is traditionally:
 - the committee member with the most knowledge of the subject
 - the committee member with the longest service in Congress
 - elected by all members of the committee
 - elected by all members of the House or Senate
 - the majority member of the committee with the longest continuous service on the committee
- All of the following statements reflect strengths of a federalist structure of government EXCEPT:
 - Federalism encourages political experimentation
 - Federalism provides unity and allows for diversity
 - Federalism allows for political participation and keeps governed and governors in closer contact
 - Federalism prevents factions from taking over the government
 - Federalism is more efficient than either the unitary or confederal forms of government
- Cloture is a technique used in the Senate to:
 - discharge a bill from committee
 - place a bill on a calendar
 - create a select committee
 - end a filibuster
 - prohibit the mark-up of a bill
- An important difference between political parties and interest groups is that interest groups usually do NOT:
 - try to influence the president's proposal for legislation
 - contact agencies within the executive branch
 - try to influence the decisions of congressional committees
 - try to place their members in public office
 - organize on the state and local levels
- Which powers of the presidency are specifically mentioned in the Constitution?
 - commander of the armed services
 - pardons for individuals accused of offenses against the U.S.
 - with the advice and consent of the Senate, making of treaties and appointments
 - initiation of legislation
 - I and II only
 - II and III only
 - I, II and III only
 - I, II and IV only
 - I, II, III and IV
- About what percentage of the American population may be considered to be complete political activists, participating in all forms of political behavior?
 - 1
 - 10
 - 20
 - 35
 - 50

9. Which of the following statements accurately depicts the usual relationship between the president and the cabinet?
- (A) The full cabinet meets weekly and closely advises the president on policy issues.
 - (B) The president meets weekly with individual members of the cabinet but never in full cabinet meetings.
 - (C) The full cabinet rarely meets since not all issues involve all cabinet departments.
 - (D) Cabinet members are usually more loyal to the president's policy agenda than to their own department's priorities.
 - (E) Cabinet members usually have a good working relationship with the White House staff, and therefore have easy access to the president.
10. Which of the following excerpts from the Constitution is most directly related to the Supreme Court decision *McCulloch v. Maryland*?
- (A) "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers."
 - (B) "No bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed."
 - (C) "The Vice President of the U.S. shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided."
 - (D) "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted."
 - (E) "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."
11. Who is primarily responsible for the bureaucracy?
- (A) the president
 - (B) Congress
 - (C) the cabinet
 - (D) no single source of responsibility
 - (E) the public
12. All of the following statements are accurate descriptions of PACs EXCEPT:
- (A) The number of business PACs has increased more rapidly since 1974 than have labor PACs and public interest PACs.
 - (B) The overall number of PACs has increased dramatically since 1974.
 - (C) PAC money goes overwhelmingly to incumbents in congressional races.
 - (D) A substantial number of PACs contribute to both Democrats and Republicans running for the same seat.
 - (E) More and more candidates are resisting PAC money because of the risk of scandal.
13. All of the following serve at the pleasure of the president and can be dismissed at any time EXCEPT:
- (A) the White House Chief of Staff
 - (B) the Secretary of State
 - (C) the director of NASA
 - (D) the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board
 - (E) the White House Press Secretary
14. Research on nonvoting indicates all of the following EXCEPT:
- (A) Voting is related to income
 - (B) Young people have a lower turnout rate than older people
 - (C) Whites are more likely to vote than minorities
 - (D) Southerners vote less frequently than do Northerners
 - (E) Voting frequency is strongly related to gender
15. The provisions for presidential succession in the twenty-fifth amendment have been used twice:
- (A) Franklin Roosevelt's death and Nixon's resignation
 - (B) Spiro Agnew's resignation as part of a plea bargain, and the forced resignation of Nixon
 - (C) the assassination attempts on Ford and Nixon
 - (D) the inaugurations of Carter and Reagan
 - (E) Kennedy's assassination and the appointment of Ford as President

16. A federal system of government differs from a confederation in that in a federal system:
- (A) state governments are stronger than the central government
 - (B) the central and state governments are more clearly distinct and separate
 - (C) the state government have no distinct and separate powers
 - (D) the central government shares governing powers with constituent states
 - (E) all policy making power is concentrated in a central government
17. All of the following are characteristic of the backgrounds of federal district and appeals court judges EXCEPT:
- (A) Most come from important positions in Congress or the bureaucracy
 - (B) Most are affiliated with the same political party of the president who appointed them
 - (C) Most affiliate with a Protestant church
 - (D) Most have previous judicial experience
 - (E) Virtually all are or have been lawyers
18. The prohibition of "separate but equal" schools was established with:
- (A) *Heart of Atlanta v. U.S.*
 - (B) *Mapp v. Ohio*
 - (C) *Brown v. Topeka*
 - (D) *Plessy v. Ferguson*
 - (E) *Griswold v. Connecticut*
19. American national parties can best be described as:
- (A) a loose aggregation of local and state parties
 - (B) centralized and orderly organizations
 - (C) a number of fragmented groups with virtually no organization
 - (D) large, efficient organizations headed by prominent government officials
 - (E) the most powerful structures in American politics; parties dominate Congress, the executive branch, and the bureaucracy
20. The chief justice of the Supreme Court is appointed by:
- (A) a joint decision of the sitting justices on the court
 - (B) the president, with Senate confirmation, but a sitting justice must be chosen
 - (C) the president, with Senate confirmation, and the choice may be either an associate justice or someone outside the court
 - (D) the president alone
 - (E) a vote by all current federal judges and justices
21. Today most public opinion polls are done by:
- (A) door to door interviews
 - (B) telephone with samples selected through random digit dialing
 - (C) mail, with pre-paid postage return envelopes included
 - (D) interviews of people on the streets
 - (E) college students, through university sponsored research
22. Which of the following Supreme Court decisions overruled a previous decision of the court?
- (A) *Marbury v. Madison*
 - (B) *Gibbons v. Ogden*
 - (C) *Roe v. Wade*
 - (D) *Brown v. Topeka*
 - (E) *Dred Scott v. Sandford*
23. The primary purpose of the modern political party convention is to:
- (A) set the rules for running the party
 - (B) write a platform which the nominee must support
 - (C) decide the rules and regulations for the ensuing presidential campaign
 - (D) select party candidates for major state and local elected positions
 - (E) ratify decisions already made by voters in primary elections and local caucuses
24. Which of the following court decisions were based on the right to privacy?
- (A) *Gitlow v. New York*
 - (B) *Roe v. Wade*
 - (C) *Regents of University of California v. Bakke*
 - (D) *Engel v. Vitale*
 - (E) *Miranda v. Arizona*

25. The policy of judicial restraint may also be referred to as:
- (A) intervention
 - (B) liberalism
 - (C) strict constructionism
 - (D) statutory construction
 - (E) justiciable disputes
26. The most important influence in an individual's political socialization is his or her:
- (A) school
 - (B) church
 - (C) occupational group
 - (D) family
 - (E) local government
27. "Now I should like to know that Judge Holmes was in entire sympathy with our views, that is with your views and mine. I should hold myself guilty of an irreparable wrong to the nation if I should appoint any man who was not absolutely sane and sound on the great national policies for which we stand in public life."
- Theodore Roosevelt to Senator Henry Cabot Lodge

The above passage indicates that an important criterion in Theodore Roosevelt's selection of a nominee for the Supreme Court was:

- (A) race
 - (B) gender
 - (C) judicial experience
 - (D) patronage
 - (E) political ideology
28. Which of the following affects the political socialization of American voters as they age?
- (A) Political allegiance of their parental family
 - (B) Peers
 - (C) Educational level
 - (D) Economic issues
 - (E) Mass media

29. In the late 1880s and early 1900s the Supreme Court most often interpreted the 14th amendment to:
- (A) protect black citizenship rights from hostile state action
 - (B) protect private property and corporations from unreasonable state action
 - (C) protect black citizenship rights from hostile actions of the legislative and executive branches
 - (D) limit the powers of states in relationship to national powers
 - (E) extend individual liberties and rights
30. "There's not a dime's worth of difference between the parties."
- George Wallace

Despite Wallace's famous statement in 1968, which two modern presidential candidates represent the BEST evidence of the ideological difference between Democrats and Republicans?

- (A) Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon
 - (B) Jimmy Carter and George Bush
 - (C) Barry Goldwater and George McGovern
 - (D) John Kennedy and Walter Mondale
 - (E) Gerald Ford and Michael Dukakis
31. In the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the court did not limit its decision to Linda Brown's right to attend an unsegregated school, but extended it to cover all "others similarly situated." This type case is known as a(n):
- (A) class action suit
 - (B) diversity case
 - (C) federal question case
 - (D) litmus test
 - (E) original jurisdiction case
32. According to the classic Verba and Nie study on American political participation, in which of the following kinds of political activities are Americans most likely to participate?
- (A) contacting a public official
 - (B) giving money to a political party
 - (C) working in a political campaign
 - (D) voting in presidential elections
 - (E) joining political groups

33. The purpose of a discharge petition is to pressure:
- (A) the president to sign a bill sent by Congress
 - (B) a committee to send a bill to the full House or Senate
 - (C) Congress to support a bill that the president promotes
 - (D) one house to support a bill that the other house has passed
 - (E) individual members of Congress into supporting a bill
34. The grand finale of the modern party convention is always the:
- (A) nomination of the vice president
 - (B) the presentation of the party platform
 - (C) keynote speech by the party chairperson
 - (D) announcement of the next convention site
 - (E) acceptance speech by the presidential nominee
35. Which of the following represent significant differences between the powers and/or procedures of the House and the Senate?
- I. The Senate allows a filibuster, the House does not
 - II. The Senate may add nongermane amendments to a bill; the House may restrict adding nongermane amendments
 - III. The House has a committee of the Whole; the Senate does not.
- (A) I only
 - (B) I and II only
 - (C) I and III only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
36. According to the Supreme Court's interpretation of the establishment clause, public schools may allow:
- (A) the teaching of creation science
 - (B) display of religious symbols
 - (C) religious clubs to meet on school grounds
 - (D) non-denominational prayers at the beginning of each school day
 - (E) teacher directed voluntary prayers at the beginning of the school day
37. The work that presented a carefully laid out defense of the proposed Constitution was:
- (A) The Federalist
 - (B) The Economic Interpretation of the Constitution
 - (C) Democracy in America
 - (D) Gettysburg Address
 - (E) Common Sense
38. How many U.S. presidents have served more than two terms?
- (A) one
 - (B) two
 - (C) four
 - (D) six
 - (E) ten
39. European political parties for farmers, labor, or environment concerns most often take the form in the U.S. of:
- (A) political parties
 - (B) interest groups
 - (C) political ideology
 - (D) political action committees
 - (E) subcommittees in Congress
40. Which of the following is an accurate description of the relationship between the state and federal court systems?
- (A) They are completely separate
 - (B) Federal courts are always superior
 - (C) Most cases that go to federal court originate in state courts
 - (D) A controversy between two state governments is the only example of a case that can be heard in both courts
 - (E) They have interrelated responsibility
41. The 1833 Supreme Court decision holding that the Bill of Rights restrained only the national government, and not the states and cities, was:
- (A) *Barron v. Baltimore*
 - (B) *Gitlow v. New York*
 - (C) *McCulloch v. Maryland*
 - (D) *Gregg v. Georgia*
 - (E) *Dartmouth College v. Woodward*
42. The chief weapon that the federal courts have within the government's system of checks and balances is the power of:
- (A) impeachment of government officials
 - (B) judicial review
 - (C) class action suits
 - (D) judicial restraint
 - (E) judicial activism
43. Persons may be restrained from assembling in:
- (A) public libraries
 - (B) public schools
 - (C) public parks
 - (D) shopping malls
 - (E) private corporation buildings

44. A representative is most likely to spend the largest part of a typical work day:
- (A) in the House chamber
 - (B) in committee meetings
 - (C) in his or her office
 - (D) with constituents at the capital
 - (E) in party meetings
45. The doctrine of nullification expressed by Madison, Calhoun, and Jefferson supports:
- (A) national supremacy
 - (B) states rights
 - (C) dual federalism
 - (D) full faith and credit
 - (E) concurrent powers
46. Which of the following is an example of the use of a power exclusive to the U.S. Senate?
- (A) the selection of the president in 1876 when the contested presidential election gave neither candidate a clear majority of the electoral vote
 - (B) the declaration of war against Germany in 1917
 - (C) the enactment of the War Powers Resolution
 - (D) the removal of Jim Wright as Speaker of the House in 1989
 - (E) the trial of President Andrew Johnson after his impeachment
47. Which of the following is NOT a common problem in conducting an accurate political opinion poll?
- (A) Different phrasing of questions may give very different results.
 - (B) Questionnaires often are not returned when mailed to selected participants.
 - (C) Representative sampling is sometimes difficult or expensive to obtain.
 - (D) When people talk to pollsters, they tend to underestimate the amount of their political participation.
 - (E) People often respond to questions about issues that they know nothing about.
48. Which of the following is the LEAST likely to be a chief advisor to the president on economic policy?
- (A) chairman of the Senate Finance Committee
 - (B) Secretary of the Treasury
 - (C) Director of the OMB
 - (D) a member of the Council of Economic Advisors
 - (E) chairperson of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors
49. Which of the following is typically the largest part of a Congressional campaign budget?
- (A) travel
 - (B) research
 - (C) television and radio advertising
 - (D) stamps
 - (E) polls
50. Which of the following lobbying techniques is LEAST commonly used by interest groups?
- (A) contacting government officials directly to present a point of view
 - (B) presenting research results or technical information
 - (C) entering into coalitions with other organizations
 - (D) helping to draft legislation
 - (E) engaging in protests or demonstrations
51. The president's "State of the Union" message is:
- (A) a courtesy to Congress, but no president has to make one
 - (B) a custom that goes back to Washington's presidency
 - (C) a practice of recent years
 - (D) a Constitutional requirement
 - (E) usually given by the vice president
52. Which group is least likely to vote for Democrats?
- (A) Asian Americans
 - (B) African Americans
 - (C) Cuban Americans
 - (D) Jewish Americans
 - (E) Mexican Americans
53. Which problem of an American president would almost certainly NOT be a problem for the British prime minister?
- (A) bad publicity from a negative press conference
 - (B) a misunderstanding with another head of state concerning a U.N. resolution
 - (C) a lack of funds to enact a favorite project
 - (D) an impasse with the legislature concerning a policy
 - (E) a military leader that refuses to follow orders

54. According to the Court's ruling in *Gregg v. Georgia*, the death penalty is:
- (A) not cruel and unusual punishment, and may be allowed
 - (B) cruel and unusual punishment, and may not be allowed
 - (C) not to be banned in any state
 - (D) mandatory for certain crimes, such as for murder and rape
 - (E) necessary to control the growing prison population
55. Which of the following statements accurately describes controls on voting requirements and elections in the U.S.?
- (A) States have always controlled who could vote and for what offices.
 - (B) The national government has always controlled who could vote and for what offices.
 - (C) Congress has steadily increased state controls so that today the national government has few controls.
 - (D) States have gradually but steadily lost many of the controls over elections and voting.
 - (E) The Supreme Court has traditionally defined voter requirements and has set precedents for election procedures.
56. Lobbyists are most useful to members of Congress in providing the service of:
- (A) speech writing
 - (B) direct mail fund raising
 - (C) conducting public opinion polls
 - (D) providing specialized information
 - (E) making public endorsements of candidates for office
57. Which of the following basic American values set forth in the Declaration of Independence are MOST OFTEN in conflict?
- (A) individualism vs. practicality
 - (B) resourcefulness vs. self reliance
 - (C) materialism vs. freedom
 - (D) equality vs. civic duty
 - (E) liberty vs. equality
58. Which of the following forms of discrimination against prospective voters have been declared illegal by the federal government?
- I. the white primary
 - II. the poll tax in state and local elections
 - III. literacy tests
- (A) I only
 - (B) I and II only
 - (C) I and III only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
59. The equal protection clause has been interpreted to do all of the following EXCEPT:
- (A) forbid school segregation
 - (B) require draft boards to draft men and women for front line military duty
 - (C) prohibit job discrimination
 - (D) reapportion state legislation
 - (E) permit forced busing and affirmative action
60. All of the following positions within the Department of Defense must be filled by civilians EXCEPT:
- (A) Secretary of Defense
 - (B) Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
 - (C) Secretary of the Air Force
 - (D) Secretary of the Navy
 - (E) Secretary of the Army