

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Practice Exam #2

1. In U. S. history, third parties often have been effective vehicles for change when they:
 - (A) repeated slogans and issues that a major party stood for
 - (B) threatened violence as a means of drawing attention to an issue
 - (C) were based on definite political ideologies
 - (D) appealed to regional issues
 - (E) addressed issues and suggested remedies that were being ignored by the major parties
2. In both houses of Congress, a committee chairman is traditionally:
 - (A) the committee member with the most knowledge of the subject
 - (B) the committee member with the longest service in Congress
 - (C) elected by all members of the committee
 - (D) elected by all members of the House or Senate
 - (E) the majority member of the committee with the longest continuous service on the committee
3. All of the following statements reflect strengths of a federalist structure of government EXCEPT:
 - (A) Federalism encourages political experimentation
 - (B) Federalism provides unity and allows for diversity
 - (C) Federalism allows for political participation and keeps governed and governors in closer contact
 - (D) Federalism prevents factions from taking over the government
 - (E) Federalism is more efficient than either the unitary or confederal forms of government
4. 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
5. Cloture is a technique used in the Senate to:
 - (A) discharge a bill from committee
 - (B) place a bill on a calendar
 - (C) create a select committee
 - (D) end a filibuster
 - (E) prohibit the mark-up of a bill
6. An important difference between political parties and interest groups is that interest groups usually do NOT:
 - (A) try to influence the president's proposal for legislation
 - (B) contact agencies within the executive branch
 - (C) try to influence the decisions of congressional committees
 - (D) try to place their members in public office
 - (E) organize on the state and local levels
7. Which powers of the presidency are specifically mentioned in the Constitution?
 - I. commander of the armed services
 - II. pardons for individuals accused of offenses against the U.S.
 - III. with the advice and consent of the Senate, making of treaties and appointments
 - IV. initiation of legislation
 - (A) I and II only
 - (B) II and III only
 - (C) I, II and III only
 - (D) I, II and IV only
 - (E) I, II, III and IV
8. 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."

9. 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
10. The prohibition of "separate but equal" schools was established with:
- (A) *Heart of Atlanta v. U.S.*
 - (B) *Mapp v. Ohio*
 - (C) *Brown v. Board of Ed.*
 - (D) *Plessy v. Ferguson*
 - (E) *Griswold v. Connecticut*
11. 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*
12. The policy of judicial restraint may also be referred to as:
- (A) intervention
 - (B) liberalism
 - (C) strict constructionism
 - (D) statutory construction
 - (E) justiciable disputes
13. 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
14. 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
15. "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
16. 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
17. 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
18. 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

19. The grand finale of the modern party convention is generally 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
20. 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
21. 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*
22. 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*
23. 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
24. 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
25. 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, much as for murder and rape
 - (E) necessary to control the growing prison population
26. Persons may be restrained from assembling in:
- (A) public libraries
 - (B) public schools
 - (C) public parks
 - (D) shopping malls
 - (E) private corporation buildings
27. 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
28. Which group is LEAST likely to vote for Democrats?
- (A) Asian Americans
 - (B) African Americans
 - (C) Cuban Americans
 - (D) Jewish Americans
 - (E) Mexican Americans
29. 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
30. 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