

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Practice Exam #10

Time – 45 minutes

60 Questions

- All of the following were weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation EXCEPT
(A) nine of the thirteen states had to approve all laws.
(B) a national court system ruled on the constitutionality of laws.
(C) Congress worked in committees without a chief executive.
(D) all states were required to approve amendments.
(E) Congress could raise money by borrowing or by asking states for money.
- 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
- The Pendleton Act established
(A) the Federal Reserve System.
(B) the civil service system for federal jobs.
(C) the military draft.
(D) citizenship for Native Americans.
(E) direct primaries.
- The primary qualification needed to gain a top-level position in a presidential administration is to
(A) have prior government experience.
(B) be a political supporter of the president.
(C) be an expert in a particular field.
(D) be able to form alliances with the opposition party in Congress.
(E) be able to react well under stress.
- A major criticism of independent regulatory agencies is that
(A) they are separate from all three branches of government.
(B) they have both quasi-judicial and quasi-legislative functions.
(C) the amount of regulation the agencies enforce may add to the price that consumers pay for the goods or services of regulated industries.
(D) they write rules and regulations that have the force of law and then enforce them.
(E) commissioners often come from the very industries they are supposed to regulate.

- The nation's policy agenda is set by
(A) the House.
(B) the Senate.
(C) a joint conference committee.
(D) the president.
(E) the party in power.

QUESTION 7 REFERS TO THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

Turnover in Midterm Elections

Year	President's Party	Senate: Gain/Loss for President's Party	House: Gain/Loss for President's Party
1978	D	-3	-15
1982	R	+1	-26
1986	R	-8	-5
1990	R	-1	18
1994	D	-8	-52
1998	D	0	+5

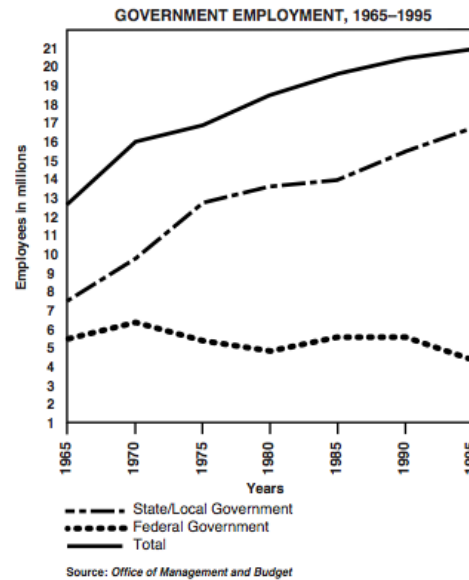
- The above table best supports which of the following statements about off-year elections?
(A) In 1998, the American people, sick of the Lewinsky scandal, showed their support for the president by voting out Republicans and voting in Democrats.
(B) The party of the president generally loses seats in the midterm election.
(C) The shift in voting pattern between 1994 and 1998 shows the fickleness of the American voter.
(D) The Democrats lost twice as many seats in Congress in 1994 as the Republicans did in 1982.
(E) Campaigning on the Contract with America in 1994, Republicans turned over a record number of seats.
- The Supreme Court uses which of the following standards in judging sex discrimination cases?
(A) Probable cause
(B) Due process
(C) Reasonableness
(D) Exclusionary rule
(E) Suspect classification

9. What is the major cause for nonvoting?
 (A) Poll taxes
 (B) Red tape involved in registering to vote
 (C) Status as a legal alien
 (D) Lack of a sense of political efficacy
 (E) Lack of interest
10. "Soft money" in an election campaign is
 (A) money provided through the Federal Election Commission to presidential candidates.
 (B) money raised by state and local party organizations for activities related to building the party but not to electing a particular candidate.
 (C) contributions by Political Action Committees.
 (D) contributions by corporations and labor unions.
 (E) individual contributions to any one candidate up to a limit of \$2,000 for a federal primary and for a federal general election.
11. The results of the Census are used by which arm of government to reapportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives?
 (A) The Executive branch
 (B) The Judiciary
 (C) The House itself
 (D) The House and Senate
 (E) State legislatures
12. All of the following were sources for the U.S. Constitution EXCEPT
 (A) John Locke's *Two Treatises of Government*.
 (B) the Articles of Confederation.
 (C) Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Social Contract*.
 (D) William Blackstone's *Commentaries on the Laws of England*.
 (E) Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*.
13. Most incumbents in Congress win reelection for all of the following reasons EXCEPT
 (A) incumbents find it easier than their challengers to raise money.
 (B) by reason of their position, incumbents are better known than their challengers.
 (C) many districts are drawn in such a way as to favor a particular political party, thus giving it a safe seat in the House.
 (D) voters feel more comfortable with the kind of continuity in policy that incumbents represent.
 (E) incumbents use their office to solve problems for their constituents, thus building loyalty.
14. Party unity in each house of Congress is maintained by
 (A) logrolling.
 (B) party votes.
 (C) committee assignments.
 (D) the whip system.
 (E) the pork barrel.
15. The Supreme Court has interpreted which of the following to extend to a right to privacy?
 I. Bill of Rights
 II. Tenth Amendment
 III. Fourteenth Amendment
 (A) I only
 (B) II only
 (C) II and III only
 (D) I and III only
 (E) I, II, and III
16. Which of the following has the biggest impact on short-term voting behavior?
 (A) Gender and age
 (B) Income and occupation
 (C) Region of the country and family
 (D) Party identification
 (E) Candidates and issues
17. All of the following are generally true about third parties in the United States EXCEPT
 (A) they have often been organized around a single issue.
 (B) a single strong personality has often dominated a party.
 (C) some economic discontent has often spurred the formation of third parties.
 (D) most of the important third parties have not split from the major political parties but have rallied the politically disenfranchised to join the new party.
 (E) third parties have often forced the major parties to deal with issues they would rather have continued to ignore.
18. Since the 1950s, the major business of Congress has centered on
 (A) civil rights.
 (B) the budget process.
 (C) foreign policy issues.
 (D) immigration issues.
 (E) social policy.

19. Congress's purpose in passing the line-item veto was to
- (A) enable the president to veto specific spending items in appropriations bills only.
 - (B) enable the president to veto only a portion of any bill in the hope that an entire bill would not be vetoed.
 - (C) delegate some of the legislative responsibility of Congress to the president in an attempt to speed up the law-making process.
 - (D) replace the use of the pocket veto.
 - (E) satisfy campaign promises to conservatives.

20. All of the following are examples of the interdependence of government and the economy EXCEPT
- (A) the Federal Reserve System.
 - (B) the Federal Housing Administration.
 - (C) the Savings and Loan bailout.
 - (D) Medicare.
 - (E) federal investments in research and development for the Internet.

QUESTIONS 21–22 REFER TO THE FOLLOWING GRAPH.



21. Which of the following conclusions is supported by the graph?
- (A) While employment in the federal government leveled off in the 1980s, employment on the state and local levels continued to grow.
 - (B) The single largest growth period in the combined number of government employees— federal, state, and local— occurred between 1965 and 1970.
 - (C) The employment figures for the federal government in the years 1970, 1980, and 1990 include temporary employees hired to work for the Census Bureau.
 - (D) For the period shown on the graph, state and local government has grown consistently.
 - (E) There is a relationship between the growth or decline in the number of employees on the state and local level and on the federal government level.

22. Which of the following is the most likely explanation for the data on the graph?
- (A) The size of the federal workforce has remained constant in relation to the size of the total civilian workforce.
 - (B) As more programs have been turned over to the states, state and local government workforces have grown.
 - (C) The federal workforce grows at a rate that keeps pace with the economy.
 - (D) Efforts have been made to control and even cut the size of the federal bureaucracy, but no similar efforts have been made at the state and local levels.
 - (E) The ratio of federal workers to state and local government workers is about 1 to 3.

23. A member of which of the following demographic groups would be least likely to support a Democratic candidate for president?
- (A) African American
 - (B) Upper income**
 - (C) Urban
 - (D) Northern Protestant
 - (E) Under 30 years of age
24. Which of the following is a key concept of federalism?
- (A) Federalism is based on a unitary form of government.
 - (B) State constitutions may override the national constitution in certain matters.
 - (C) The line between national and state powers is often unclear and flexible.**
 - (D) In the federal system, state governments cannot exercise any powers other than those delegated to them in the U.S. Constitution.
 - (E) The treatment of states depends on the size of their population in relation to that of other states.
25. A major reason for rewriting the laws regarding presidential primaries was to
- (A) ensure the end of winner-take-all primaries.
 - (B) end the practice of "front loading" the primary schedule.
 - (C) transform the primaries into ineffective tools for selecting a party's presidential candidate in order to make it easier for the party's influential members to select their choice.
 - (D) end preference primaries.
 - (E) increase the participation of the average voter.**
26. All of the following are true of the Supreme Court's rejection of a writ of certiorari EXCEPT
- (A) the Supreme Court agrees with the lower court's ruling.**
 - (B) the Supreme Court may not think the case involves an important enough issue.
 - (C) the lower court's ruling will stand.
 - (D) the Supreme Court may not wish to take up the subject.
 - (E) the Supreme Court may not think the merits of the case are the best for addressing the issue.
27. A president's success in winning passage of legislation is directly related to
- (A) how close the next midterm elections are.
 - (B) whether the president's party holds the majority in both houses of Congress.**
 - (C) whether the president is in the last year of a second four-year term.
 - (D) how well received the annual State of the Union speech is by the American people.
 - (E) whether the nation is involved in a military conflict abroad.
28. The guarantees of the Bill of Rights were extended to protect citizens against actions of the states through
- (A) passage of a series of civil rights acts in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
 - (B) ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment.
 - (C) ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment.**
 - (D) ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment.
 - (E) a series of Supreme Court decisions.
29. All of the following are current tools of U.S. foreign policy EXCEPT
- (A) containment.**
 - (B) economic aid.
 - (C) the United Nations.
 - (D) collective security.
 - (E) mutual deterrence.
30. To call the formulation of public policy in the United States "government by public opinion" is inaccurate for all of the following reasons EXCEPT
- (A) the form of government is a representative democracy.
 - (B) because the federal judiciary is appointed rather than elected, it hands down decisions without the pressure of having to please voters.
 - (C) the Constitution safeguards the civil rights and liberties of those who hold minority opinions as well as those who hold majority opinions.
 - (D) public policy is influenced by a number of factors in addition to public opinion, such as the workings of interest groups, PACs, and political parties.
 - (E) public opinion never shapes public policy, only reflects it.**

31. The Twelfth Amendment is a direct result of which of the following?
 (A) The reform efforts of progressives
 (B) The election of Jefferson over Burr as president
 (C) The suffrage movement
 (D) The outcome of the election of 1824
 (E) The temperance movement
32. The agenda for the Senate is controlled by
 (A) the majority leader.
 (B) the majority and minority leaders.
 (C) the president pro tempore.
 (D) the vice president of the United States.
 (E) House caucus.
33. The most significant effect of iron triangles is the
 (A) Whistleblower Act of 1989.
 (B) difficulty in changing entrenched agencies.
 (C) revolving door between agency employees and clientele organizations.
 (D) tendency for waste and duplication in the federal government.
 (E) difficulty in creating new agencies to take on additional work.
34. A significant reason for reforming the organizational structure and procedures of Congress in the 1970s was to
 (A) establish the sunshine rule for hearings.
 (B) increase the number of subcommittees.
 (C) allow committee members who disagree with their committee chairs to present their opinions.
 (D) reduce the power of committee chairs.
 (E) end the use of secret ballots to pick committee chairs.
35. All of the following are constitutional protections for people accused of a crime EXCEPT
 (A) writ of habeas corpus.
 (B) freedom from unreasonable search and seizure.
 (C) bill of attainder.
 (D) right to confront witnesses.
 (E) no double jeopardy.
36. Interpretations of which of the following clauses of the Constitution have been used to define the practice of federalism?
 (A) Due process
 (B) Nonenumerated rights
 (C) Commerce
 (D) Necessary and proper clause
 (E) Supremacy

37. Among the common set of fundamental political beliefs and opinions that Americans hold is a belief in
 (A) affirmative action.
 (B) freedom for the individual.
 (C) the value of government solutions over private sector solutions to national problems.
 (D) the status quo.
 (E) deregulation of industry.
38. According to *The Federalist* #10, which of the following would not have surprised Madison?
 I. Proliferation of public interest groups
 II. Political activism by labor unions
 III. Establishment of PACs
 (A) I only
 (B) II only
 (C) III only
 (D) I and II only
 (E) I, II, and III

QUESTION 39 REFERS TO THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

Federal Government Revenue (in billions of dollars)

Year	Individual Income Tax	Corporate Income Tax	Social Insurance & Retirement	Exercise Taxes	Other	Total
1940	0.9	1.2	1.8	2.0	0.7	6.5
1950	15.8	10.4	4.3	7.6	1.4	39.4
1960	40.7	21.5	14.7	11.7	3.9	92.5
1970	90.4	32.8	44.3	15.7	9.5	192.8
1980	244.1	64.6	157.8	24.3	26.3	517.1
1990	466.9	93.5	380.8	35.3	56.2	1,032.0
1999	868.9	182.2	608.8	68.1	78.3	1,806.3

Source: Office of Management and Budget

39. The data in the table support which of the following statements?
 (A) Consistently since 1940, individual income taxes have been the largest revenue source for the federal government.
 (B) The total receipts taken in by the federal government have grown threefold since 1940.
 (C) The amount of money generated through social insurance and retirement receipts has grown at the same rate as individual income tax receipts.
 (D) Among the receipts in the other category are estate and gift taxes.
 (E) The period between 1980 and 1999 saw the greatest increase in the amount of revenue generated by social insurance and retirement receipts.

40. Congress has limited the power of the president to
- (A) appoint ambassadors.
 - (B) issue executive orders.
 - (C) negotiate treaties with other countries.
 - (D) claim executive privilege.
 - (E) commit troops to military action abroad.
41. The power of the Supreme Court to review and determine the constitutionality of state constitutional provisions and laws and state court decisions is based on the
- I. principle of judicial review.
 - II. supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution.
 - III. Judiciary Act of 1789.
- (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) III only
 - (D) I and II only
 - (E) II and III only
42. The role of television in shaping public perceptions of events and politicians became important as a result of
- (A) the televised Army-McCarthy hearings.
 - (B) television news coverage of the Korean War.
 - (C) the televised Kennedy-Nixon debates in 1960.
 - (D) television's coverage of the Vietnam War.
 - (E) television's coverage of the civil rights movement.
43. In order to enforce desegregation, all of the following had to be in place EXCEPT
- (A) appropriate legislation.
 - (B) courts willing to hand down court orders to force school districts to desegregate.
 - (C) an extension of the interpretation of the due process clause to cover school desegregation.
 - (D) executive branch support on the department and agency levels to implement court decisions.
 - (E) political support.
44. Which of the following appears to be how the news media use election polls?
- (A) To educate the public about the issues
 - (B) To decide which candidates are the most likely to win and then follow those candidates closely
 - (C) To report information as polling organizations release it
 - (D) To educate the public about the candidates
 - (E) To shape public opinion
45. Attempts to reform campaign finance laws have met with resistance because
- (A) interest groups cannot agree on what the reforms should include.
 - (B) political campaigns have become so expensive that legislators are reluctant to vote for changes in the laws.
 - (C) no one will sponsor a reform bill in Congress.
 - (D) PACs provide access to the political process, and interest groups join to defend that access.
 - (E) many feel that money spent for issues advocacy by interest groups should be regulated also.
46. The power of the federal courts was enlarged in the 1960s and 1970s
- (A) as a way to bring about policy changes.
 - (B) through a series of procedural changes.
 - (C) by establishing the right of groups to file class action suits.
 - (D) but reduced through a series of Supreme Court appointments by Presidents Reagan and Bush.
 - (E) as a result of decisions the Supreme Court handed down in civil rights cases.
47. All of the following control the flow of cases to be heard by the Supreme Court EXCEPT the
- (A) justices themselves.
 - (B) solicitor general.
 - (C) justices' law clerks.
 - (D) Federal Bureau of Investigation.
 - (E) federal appeals courts.
48. All of the following are true about the pocket veto EXCEPT
- (A) both the House and the Senate need two-thirds majorities to overturn it.
 - (B) the president receives a bill less than ten days before Congress will adjourn and does not act on it.
 - (C) it is a tool to make Congress modify the bill if both houses do not have the votes to override the veto.
 - (D) the president chooses not to go on record as opposing a particular bill.
 - (E) the president sends the bill back to Congress with a veto message.
49. The conservative coalition in Congress refers to
- (A) the members of the Religious Right.
 - (B) pro-life advocates and Christian fundamentalists.
 - (C) Dixiecrats.
 - (D) Republicans and Southern Democrats.
 - (E) Reagan Democrats and Republicans.

50. The managerial presidency is a direct outgrowth of
- (A) an interest on the part of recent presidents to make use of scientific concepts of management.
 - (B) the desire to control the growing bureaucracy of the executive branch.
 - (C) reforms mandated by Congress.
 - (D) Reagan's attempts to decentralize the executive branch.
 - (E) Clinton's National Performance Review program.

51. Voters in elections at the state level are more likely to cast their ballots based on
- (A) party loyalty.
 - (B) how personable the candidates are.
 - (C) specific issues.
 - (D) the economy at the state level.
 - (E) perceptions gained through media coverage of the candidates.

QUESTION 52 REFERS TO THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

Selected Federal Aid to State and Local Governments (in millions of dollars)

Budget Category	1970	1980	1990
Administration of Justice	42	529	473
Agriculture	604	569	1,382
Energy	25	499	438
Transportation	4,599	13,087	18,700
Community and Regional Development	1,780	6,486	5,128
Education, Worker Training, Social Services	6,417	21,682	22,833
Health	3,849	15,758	42,928
Income Security	5,795	18,495	35,403

Source: *Office of Management and Budget*

52. Which of the following statements is supported by the data in the above table?
- (A) About 20 percent of state and local government revenue comes from the federal government as intergovernmental revenue.
 - (B) The number of federal regulatory mandates to state and local government has increased as federal funding has declined.
 - (C) The largest amount of federal funding goes to state and local governments to support health and human services programs.
 - (D) Federal funding of state and local governmental programs increased across the board between 1970 and 1990.
 - (E) In general, the impact of federal regulations on state and local governments increased more between 1970 and 1980 than between 1980 and 1990.

53. Which of the following is NOT true about education policy in the United States?
- (A) The federal government is the single largest provider of funding for education.
 - (B) The federal government sets national education goals, but the states implement them as they see fit.
 - (C) The federal government provides student loans for higher education.
 - (D) The federal government establishes job training programs.
 - (E) The federal government established a tuition tax credit system for parents of students and for adult students.
54. The controversy over affirmative action has centered around
- (A) the argument that ensuring diversity in a group is misguided social engineering.
 - (B) whether there is a compelling need to remedy past injustices when they are not currently present in specific instances.
 - (C) the use of quotas.
 - (D) whether the Constitution is color blind.
 - (E) how to eliminate discrimination and provide opportunities for all Americans.
55. An independent federal judiciary is the purpose of
- (A) having federal judges elected every seven years.
 - (B) having the president appoint federal judges with the advice and consent of the Senate.
 - (C) using the impeachment process for alleged wrongdoing by a federal judge.
 - (D) lifetime tenure for almost all federal judges.
 - (E) congressional hearings into the fitness of a person to serve as a federal judge before his or her appointment.
56. Grants-in-aid programs are used by the federal government to
- (A) provide aid to foreign nations.
 - (B) ensure certain minimum standards for programs within the states.
 - (C) finance the student loan program.
 - (D) underwrite community policing programs.
 - (E) replace categorical-formula grants.
57. At the committee stage, which of the following is most likely to influence the thinking and decision of a member of Congress?
- (A) Constituents
 - (B) Party loyalty
 - (C) Lobbyists
 - (D) Fellow members of Congress
 - (E) The member's staff
58. Which of the following behaviors illustrates the weakening of political parties since the 1960s?
- I. Split-ticket voting
 - II. Increase in the number of independents
 - III. The growth of a gender gap among voters
 - (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) III only
 - (D) I and II only
 - (E) I and III only
59. The most important result of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was the
- (A) increase in registered voters among African Americans in the South.
 - (B) increase in the number of African Americans who held public office.
 - (C) influence that African Americans were able to wield in Southern politics.
 - (D) increase in African American officeholders in Northern states.
 - (E) right of the federal government to step in and register African American voters in districts where less than 50 percent of adult African Americans were registered.
60. A major outcome of the New Deal in terms of public policy was the
- (A) dominance of the Democratic party on the national level for much of the twentieth century.
 - (B) shift made by African Americans from the Republican to the Democratic party.
 - (C) emergence of the farm vote.
 - (D) end of attempts to change the number of Supreme Court justices.
 - (E) delegation of policy-making power by Congress to the president.

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. B
5. E
6. D
7. B
8. C
9. E
10. B
11. C
12. E

13. D
14. D
15. D
16. E
17. D
18. B
19. A
20. D
21. B
22. B
23. B
24. C

25. E
26. A
27. B
28. C
29. A
30. E
31. B
32. B
33. D
34. D
35. C
36. D

37. B
38. E
39. A
40. E
41. E
42. C
43. C
44. B
45. D
46. B
47. E
48. E

49. D
50. B
51. A
52. C
53. A
54. C
55. D
56. B
57. C
58. D
59. C
60. E