

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Practice Exam #1

1. The most significant power of the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives are
 - (A) determination of committee membership and selection
 - (B) limitation of debate time on a bill and determination of amendments allowed
 - (C) selection of Supreme Court justices and other federal judges
 - (D) authorization of government spending and preparation of the budget
 - (E) the choice of party leaders, including the Speaker of the House
2. The "wall of separation" theory refers to
 - (A) the competing demands of free expression and national security
 - (B) the judicial treatment of libel for celebrities and non-celebrities
 - (C) freedoms guaranteed to adults vs. those guaranteed to children
 - (D) the principle that religious beliefs and practices should be prohibited in public schools
 - (E) the rights of ordinary citizens vs. those accused of crimes
3. In *Miller v. California*, obscenity is defined as a work that
 - (A) morally offends the majority of people that see it
 - (B) graphically describe sexual acts
 - (C) is sexually explicit and bears a relationship to sexual violence
 - (D) is sexually explicit and lacks serious political, artistic, or scientific value
 - (E) is not "safe and sanitary"
4. In the case of *U.S. v. Leon*, the Burger Court ruled that the exclusionary rule
 - (A) was an absolute rule without exceptions
 - (B) is unconstitutional, and should not be applied in any case
 - (C) could be excepted if information was seized mistakenly by the police "in good faith"
 - (D) could be excepted if the evidence gathered led to a conviction
 - (E) could be excepted if the evidence led to a discovery the police would not have made otherwise
5. Which of the following are included in the Miranda rights?
 - I. Suspects must be told that they have a constitutional right to remain silent and may stop answering questions at any time.
 - II. Suspects must be warned that what they say can be used against them in a court of law.
 - III. Suspects must be told that they have a right to have a lawyer present during question.
 - (A) III only
 - (B) I and II only
 - (C) I and III only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
6. The main agency for making monetary policy intended to be formally beyond the control of the president and Congress is the
 - (A) Federal Reserve System
 - (B) Department of the Treasury
 - (C) Congressional Budget Office
 - (D) Office of Management and the Budget
 - (E) Internal Revenue Service
7. The length of time a bill will be debated in the House of Representatives is determined by
 - (A) the Rules Committee
 - (B) specialized caucuses
 - (C) the majority and minority leaders jointly
 - (D) the Speaker and the president pro tem
 - (E) the majority party
8. Which of the following statements most clearly reflects liberal political opinion?
 - (A) Supreme Court justices should not take activist roles in the political process.
 - (B) Textbooks containing disparaging remarks regarding government officials should be censured.
 - (C) Funding for programs to help the poor should be increased.
 - (D) Corporations should be given more tax breaks.
 - (E) Officials should get tougher on the subject of crime and law and order.

9. The most important leadership position in the Senate is the
 (A) majority leader
 (B) president pro tempore
 (C) vice president
 (D) speaker
 (E) majority whip
10. Which of the following types of powers are specifically granted to the national government by the Constitution?
 (A) expressed
 (B) implied
 (C) inherent
 (D) concurrent
 (E) reserved
11. All of the following represent differences between the House and the Senate EXCEPT:
 (A) Power in the House is more centralized in the leadership than in the Senate.
 (B) Party-line voting is more common in the House than in the Senate.
 (C) The House has a Rules Committee, the Senate does not.
 (D) The Senate allows the filibuster, the House does not.
 (E) The House ratifies all treaties, the Senate does not.
12. The power to make and approve treaties is vested in
 (A) the president, with a 2/3 ratification by the Senate
 (B) both Houses of Congress
 (C) the Secretary of State
 (D) the president alone
 (E) the Pentagon
13. An example of the "revolving door" is
 (A) a former member of Congress being employed in a government agency
 (B) a state representative being elected to the national House of Representatives
 (C) a recently elected president appointing his campaign manager as his chief of staff in the White House
 (D) a government official leaving his or her position for a job with a business or an interest group
 (E) a representative who fails to win a second term of office
14. Which of the following is a government corporation?
 (A) NASA
 (B) Securities and Exchange Commission
 (C) Council of Economic Advisors
 (D) Amtrak
 (E) Food and Drug Administration
15. Statistics reflect all of the following patterns of voter behavior EXCEPT:
 (A) Middle-aged people are more likely to vote than are younger people.
 (B) Politically active people are more likely to vote than those who are inactive.
 (C) Better educated people are more likely to vote than those with less education.
 (D) Upper middle class people are more likely to vote than are working class people.
 (E) Latino men are more likely to vote than African-American men.
16. Which of the following is the most potent weapon a president may use to gain support in Congress for his programs?
 (A) a threat to line item veto a different bill that Congress supports
 (B) a threat to insure the electoral defeat of members of Congress who do not support his programs
 (C) a direct persuasive appeal to the public, using mass media
 (D) pressure on the Supreme Court Justices to declare unconstitutional a bill that Congress supports
 (E) the transfer of uncooperative members of Congress to undesirable committees
17. In *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, Missouri's law prohibiting the use of state money to fund abortions was
 (A) declared unconstitutional because the right to privacy is guaranteed in the Constitution
 (B) upheld by the Supreme Court, thus overturning the basic right to an abortion
 (C) upheld by the Supreme Court, but the basic right to an abortion was not overturned
 (D) declared unconstitutional, although the Supreme Court later overturned its own decision
 (E) upheld, but the Supreme Court guaranteed that the federal government would continue to fund abortions

18. In the Constitution, the concept of equal protection of the law is referred to in
 (A) the preamble
 (B) the 2nd, 4th, and 6th amendments
 (C) Article III
 (D) the 14th amendment
 (E) Article IV
19. The core function of political parties is to
 (A) educate young people to the duties of citizenship
 (B) articulate policies
 (C) provide voters with information about candidates
 (D) win elections
 (E) control interest groups
20. Federal judges and justices can be removed from office only by
 (A) the president
 (B) the chief justice of the Supreme Court
 (C) senatorial courtesy
 (D) impeachment
 (E) the Senate Judiciary Committee
21. For Madison, in the *Federalist* #10, "the most common and durable source of factions has been..."
 (A) unequal natural abilities of people
 (B) the unequal distribution of property
 (C) religion and ideology
 (D) the various regional interests within the country
 (E) the various political views held by the elites
22. The process through which an individual acquires his/her particular political views, knowledge, and evaluations is called
 (A) political socialization
 (B) political articulation
 (C) political aggregation
 (D) political efficiency
 (E) public opinion
23. The famous *Gibbons v. Ogden* case established the precedent of
 (A) judicial review
 (B) dual federalism
 (C) broad interpretation of interstate commerce
 (D) states' rights, according to the compact theory
 (E) right to privacy
24. "An act of the legislature repugnant to the Constitution is void . . . it is emphatically the province of the judicial department to say what the law is."
 John Marshall, 1803
- The above quote from the majority opinion of *Marbury v. Madison* establishes which important power of the court?
 (A) strict construction
 (B) appellate jurisdiction
 (C) judicial review
 (D) certiorari
 (E) class action suits
25. All of the following are explanations for why individuals with lower socio-economic status do not vote EXCEPT:
 (A) Higher status people are more likely to see policy differences between the parties.
 (B) Higher status people are more likely to feel greater political efficacy.
 (C) Lower status people may find bureaucratic hurdles of voter registration harder to deal with.
 (D) Lower status people may find it more difficult to get to the polls.
 (E) Lower status individuals are less likely to be able to pass the literacy test than are wealthier, better educated voters.
26. De jure segregation
 (A) still exists in many parts of the South today
 (B) was all but done away with after the Civil War
 (C) still exists in major U.S. cities
 (D) is illegal in most states
 (E) is prohibited by judicial interpretation
27. "But the ultimate question must be, what do the words of the text mean in our time? For the genius of the Constitution rests not in any static meaning it might have in a world that is dead and gone, but in the adaptability of its great principles to cope with current problems and current needs."
 Justice William Brennan
- The above passage reflects the philosophy of
 (A) judicial activism
 (B) judicial restraint
 (C) judicial activism in some areas but judicial restraint in others
 (D) conservatism
 (E) liberalism

28. The type of interest group that is LEAST LIKELY to give money to Democratic candidates is
 (A) corporations
 (B) labor unions
 (C) women's groups
 (D) civil rights organizations
 (E) "public interest" organizations
29. All of the following are powers of the Speaker of the House of Representatives EXCEPT:
 (A) presiding over the House when it is in session
 (B) voting only when there is a tie vote
 (C) exercising substantial control over which bills get assigned to which committees
 (D) serving as a national spokesperson for the party, especially if the Speaker's party is different from the president's party
 (E) controlling committee assignments
30. The overwhelming majority of the bills introduced in both houses of Congress are
 (A) passed
 (B) pigeonholed (killed) in committee
 (C) voted down on the floor
 (D) withdrawn by their author
 (E) vetoed by the president
31. The Hatch Act, controlling the political activities of federal employees, permits bureaucrats to participate in all of the following activities EXCEPT:
 (A) assist in voter registration drives
 (B) contribute to a political campaign
 (C) join a political party
 (D) run for office in a partisan campaign
 (E) take part in non-partisan campaigns
32. The number of representatives from New York, Ohio, and Michigan has been reduced because of
 (A) the lack of a requirement for equal single member voting districts
 (B) the introduction of a proportional system of representation
 (C) a shift of population from the eastern part of the state to the western part
 (D) a reduction of the number of districts in those states, due to corrupt gerrymandering processes
 (E) greater proportionate gains in population by other states
33. In *U. S. v. Nixon*, the tradition of executive privilege was
 (A) declared unconstitutional
 (B) upheld, but restricted during criminal investigations
 (C) upheld as an absolute right
 (D) extended to the vice president and to the cabinet
 (E) suspended for Nixon but guaranteed for future presidents
34. The relationship between Congress and the president was designed by the framers to be
 (A) naturally antagonistic, since both branches serve different constituencies
 (B) cooperative since both branches need each other to govern
 (C) an equal relationship since each branch has complementing powers
 (D) a relationship in which the executive is superior to Congress because the executive branch initiates law
 (E) a relationship designed for efficient running of the government
35. Which of the following voter qualifications is (are) required of all voters in the U.S.?
 I. ability to read and write
 II. property ownership
 III. legal residence in a voting district
 IV. basic knowledge of U.S. government
 (A) III only
 (B) I and II only
 (C) III and IV only
 (D) I, II, and III only
 (E) I, II, III, and IV
36. The War Powers Resolution (1973) was an effort by
 (A) the president to check the power of Congress to declare war
 (B) Congress to check the power of the Pentagon
 (C) Congress to check the power of the president
 (D) the House to balance the Senate's power to ratify treaties
 (E) the Senate to control military commitments made by the U. S. to the United Nations

37. In comparison to candidates to the House of Representatives, senatorial candidates usually spend
- (A) about the same amount of money
 - (B) much more
 - (C) much less
 - (D) nothing, because they get federal money
 - (E) more than representatives from small states, but not as much as representatives from large states
38. Forty-three percent of respondents say that they approve of George W. Bush's performance as president, and the sampling error is 3%. We can predict accurately that
- (A) George Bush will lose the next election (assuming he could run).
 - (B) Between 40 and 46% of the voters approve of Bush's performance.
 - (C) The likelihood that 43% support Bush is 97%.
 - (D) 3% of the supporters can't be counted.
 - (E) The next election will be a close one.