

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Practice Exam #3

- The phrase "political machines" describes
 - the current control of political campaigns by media and polling experts
 - the various organizations that ensure that the majority party in Congress maintains their control
 - local party organizations that controlled government and politics during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries
 - the efficient way in which votes are counted today
 - large, wealthy interest groups that have disproportionate influence over members of Congress
- Which of the following is the most common form of political participation in the United States?
 - voting in presidential elections
 - voting in local elections
 - attending local meetings for government and/or political organizations
 - participating in political demonstrations
 - helping in campaigns of candidates for public office
- Which of the following best describes the attitude of most of the founders toward the development of political parties?
 - The founders believed that political parties are divisive, and they hoped that they would not form in the new nation.
 - Political parties were already well developed by the time the Constitution was written, and the founders accepted them as part of politics.
 - The founders intended to create a multi-party system because they feared two parties would monopolize power.
 - Most of the founders belonged to political parties, and many parts of the Constitution reflect their desire to promote their development.
 - The founders supported the development of political parties on the state level, but not on the national level.
- The 26th amendment passed in 1971 allowed which group of people to vote?
 - women
 - naturalized citizens
 - Puerto Ricans
 - 18-21 year olds
 - blacks
- Gideon v. Wainwright* guaranteed the right of individuals to
 - defense counsel in a criminal case
 - a trial by jury
 - plea bargain
 - counsel in both civil and criminal cases
 - standing to sue
- Which of the following is an important consequence of "divided government"?
 - Very few federal regulations are consistently applied throughout all fifty states.
 - The judicial system is usually "out of step" with the other two branches of government.
 - Since the legislature is dominated by one party and the presidency by another, the resulting "gridlock" means that government business is significantly slowed down.
 - Since the president cannot agree with the vice president, Congress generally takes the lead in policymaking.
 - So much disagreement exists among the state governments that policies vary widely and unfairly from state to state.
- All of the following are restrictions on voter eligibility today EXCEPT:
 - Voters must be citizens.
 - Citizens usually must reside within a state's borders for anywhere from 10 to 30 days before they are eligible to vote.
 - Citizens must be at least 21 years old before they can vote.
 - Citizens must register to vote in the state in which they reside before they can vote.
 - Most states do not allow people in prison to vote.
- All of the following may be called "linkage institutions" EXCEPT:
 - Courts of Appeals
 - interest groups
 - political parties
 - PACs
 - the media

9. Assume that an opinion poll conducted in a 1998 congressional race found that on election eve, 54% of the voters supported Congressman Smith and 44% supported Challenger Jones. Also assume that the poll had a +/- 3% margin of error. What would the pollster be able to safely predict?
- (A) Congressman Smith would defeat Challenger Jones.
 - (B) Challenger Jones would probably win because challengers almost always pick up last-minute support.
 - (C) The election is too close to call.
 - (D) Congressman Smith would win by a landslide.
 - (E) Congressman Smith would win, provided voter turnout is good.
10. A bill debated under "closed rules"
- (A) can exist only in the Senate
 - (B) may be considered with strict time limits and no amendments allowed from the floor
 - (C) exists in both houses, but may have nongermane amendments only in the Senate
 - (D) may have strict time limits, but amendments from the floor must always be allowed
 - (E) may have amendments from the floor, but no time limits may be imposed
11. All of the following are characteristics of congressional elections EXCEPT:
- (A) Elections in the House of Representatives are more competitive than are presidential elections.
 - (B) A lower percent of those eligible vote in off-presidential years than during years when a president is elected.
 - (C) Presidential popularity often affects the results of congressional elections.
 - (D) Candidates for congressional seats can rely on more direct communication with constituents than a presidential candidate can.
 - (E) A challenger for a congressional seat can more easily blame what's wrong with government on the incumbent.
12. "To the victor goes the spoils."
The phrase above best describes a system of hiring people for government jobs based on
- (A) patronage
 - (B) merit
 - (C) appointment by members of Congress
 - (D) constitutional principles
 - (E) representation
13. The final, and usually most important, event of the party conventions held before a presidential election is
- (A) the development of the party platform
 - (B) the state-by-state vote of the delegates
 - (C) the speech by the presidential nominee
 - (D) speeches by the party's most promising new faces for the future
 - (E) a vote for the location of the next party convention
14. All of the following are hurdles a bill must pass in BOTH houses before it becomes a law EXCEPT:
- (A) introduction on the floor by a member of the body
 - (B) committee consideration and debate
 - (C) the Rules Committee
 - (D) floor debate
 - (E) a vote by a quorum of the membership
15. Which of the following was established in the election of 1960 as an important tradition for presidential campaigns?
- (A) presidential primaries
 - (B) party conventions
 - (C) televised presidential debates
 - (D) television ads/promotions
 - (E) the use of election polls to guide campaign strategy
16. In which way are interest groups most likely to influence decisions of the Supreme Court?
- (A) by controlling the decisions that reach the Court
 - (B) by calling the Court's attention to legislation they dislike
 - (C) by encouraging the Court to police actions taken by agencies in the executive branch
 - (D) by filing amicus curiae briefs supporting one side of a case that the Court is considering
 - (E) by seeing that recent law school graduates that support their causes are hired as clerks for the Court
17. The practice of one member of Congress supporting another member's pet project in return for support for his or her own project is known as
- (A) pork barrel legislation
 - (B) logrolling
 - (C) gerrymandering
 - (D) congressional courtesy
 - (E) filibustering

18. Under the 22nd Amendment, which of the following would be ineligible to run for president?
- (A) a sitting president running for a third full term
 - (B) a sitting vice president who had never run for president before
 - (C) a sitting president who had served 1 1/2 years of a previous president's term plus one full term of his own
 - (D) a sitting president running for a second term
 - (E) a sitting vice president who had been president for one term before
19. Today if a president becomes ill and cannot fulfill his duties, who determines whether the vice president becomes acting president?
- (A) the vice president alone
 - (B) the White House staff, with the approval of Congress
 - (C) both houses of Congress, but no one from the executive branch
 - (D) the vice president and the cabinet
 - (E) the vice president and the cabinet, but if the president disagrees, Congress decides the issue
20. Most litigation considered in the federal court system begins in
- (A) the Supreme Court
 - (B) a court of appeals
 - (C) a district court
 - (D) a local court
 - (E) a state court
21. Which of the following statements accurately reflects a voting trend in the South over the past half century?
- (A) The Democratic party has lost a significant amount of support in the South, especially from Christian fundamentalists.
 - (B) The Republican party has lost a significant amount of support in the South.
 - (C) The number of voters who claim to be "independents" has declined significantly.
 - (D) The percentage of eligible black voters who actually vote has increased significantly.
 - (E) The Democratic party has lost support in elections for state and local officials, but not in races that select national officials.
22. Which rationale did the Supreme Court use to explain their decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954?
- (A) The equal-protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment makes the Constitution "color-blind."
 - (B) The authors of the Fourteenth Amendment meant to ban segregated schools.
 - (C) Separate schools are constitutional if equal resources are spent on all schools.
 - (D) Segregated education has a detrimental effect upon black children by generating in them a feeling of inferiority.
 - (E) Since segregated public places, such as restaurants and hotels, had already been ruled as unconstitutional, segregated public schools are unconstitutional as well.
23. All of the following executive branch employees may be removed from office at any time, according to the president's wishes, EXCEPT:
- (A) the president's Chief of Staff
 - (B) the president's press secretary
 - (C) the Secretary of State
 - (D) the Secretary of Defense
 - (E) the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board
24. The dispute over representation in the national legislature was eventually settled by a proposal from the state of
- (A) New Jersey
 - (B) Virginia
 - (C) Connecticut
 - (D) New York
 - (E) South Carolina
25. All of the following topics are directly addressed in Article III of the Constitution EXCEPT:
- (A) Creation of the Supreme Court
 - (B) Jurisdiction of federal courts
 - (C) Guarantee of jury trial in criminal cases
 - (D) Definition and specification of the crime of treason
 - (E) Judicial Review
26. All of the following are Congressional checks on the judiciary EXCEPT:
- (A) Congress can pass legislation that restructures the court system.
 - (B) Congress may impeach judges and justices.
 - (C) Congress must approve all appointments of federal judges and justices.
 - (D) Congress may limit the terms of office of federal judges and justices.
 - (E) Congress may initiate constitutional amendments that change jurisdictions of courts.

27. Which of the following Supreme Courts of the past was most clearly liberal and activist in their decisions?
- (A) the Court from 1930 to 1936
 - (B) the Court from 1937 to 1945
 - (C) the Warren Court during the 1950s and 60s
 - (D) the Burger Court of the 1970s
 - (E) the Rehnquist court
28. "The Rule of Four" refers to the practice of
- (A) the Supreme Court accepting a case if four of the justices so desire
 - (B) limiting the number of appeals that anyone case may have to four
 - (C) dividing the country into four judicial circuits in order to more efficiently handle the large numbers of cases that come to federal court
 - (D) reconsidering a case in the Supreme Court if four justices dissent from the majority opinion
 - (E) allowing each attorney only four minutes to present his/her case to the Supreme Court
29. People accused of "Flag Desecration" have been protected somewhat under which right?
- (A) pure speech
 - (B) speech plus
 - (C) symbolic speech
 - (D) right to assemble
 - (E) right to petition
30. The primary purpose of the Motor-Voter Bill of 1993 was to
- (A) gather accurate statistics regarding Americans who were moving state to state.
 - (B) decrease the number of traffic-related deaths, particularly those related to alcoholic consumption.
 - (C) keep Americans with traffic violations from voting
 - (D) make voter registration easier, thus encouraging people to vote
 - (E) coordinate voter statistics among the states
31. Preferential hiring practices, intended to give opportunities to minorities who have suffered previous job discriminations, are known collectively as
- (A) reverse discrimination
 - (B) affirmative action
 - (C) comparable worth
 - (D) strict scrutiny
 - (E) public accommodation
32. Which of the following interest groups bases its philosophy on the protection of 2nd amendment rights?
- (A) American Medical Association
 - (B) Sierra Club
 - (C) National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
 - (D) AFL-CIO
 - (E) National Rifle Association
33. What process does the Twenty-fifth Amendment set in motion if the presidency is vacated?
- (A) The vice-president becomes the president and the Speaker of the House becomes vice-president.
 - (B) The vice-president becomes the president and the vice-presidency remains vacant until the next election.
 - (C) Congress must confirm the vice-president as president, and then they appoint a new vice-president.
 - (D) The vice-president becomes the president, and then selects an individual as his/her vice-president, subject to the approval of both houses of Congress.
 - (E) The Speaker of the House becomes president, and the president-pro tempore of the Senate becomes vice president.
34. According to the 25th Amendment, when the office of vice president is vacated,
- (A) it remains open until the next election
 - (B) it is automatically filled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
 - (C) it is automatically filled by the president pro tempore of the Senate
 - (D) it is filled by the president's appointment, with both houses of Congress approving the nomination.
 - (E) it is filled by the president's appointment, with the approval of the Senate by a 2/3 vote
35. The voter registration process is controlled
- (A) by the national government only
 - (B) primarily by state and local governments, although the federal government has regulated it
 - (C) entirely by state and local governments
 - (D) by the political parties; governments don't generally get involved
 - (E) primarily by the federal government, with some responsibility falling to the state and local governments