

Unit V Test Congress and the President Practice Test

1. The "revolving door" involves:
 - (A) members of Congress who travel extensively between Washington D.C. and their home states
 - (B) diplomats who engage in "shuttle diplomacy"
 - (C) presidents who travel extensively to foreign nations
 - (D) officials in the executive branch who alternate between jobs in the public sector and private sector
 - (E) constant changes in foreign and domestic policy
2. According to the Constitution, revenue bills must originate in the:
 - (A) Federal Reserve System
 - (B) House
 - (C) Senate
 - (D) Internal Revenue Service
 - (E) Treasury Department
3. The president's power is:
 - (A) originally intended to be unlimited and absolute, but gradually weakened over time
 - (B) always dominant in the U.S.
 - (C) unlimited
 - (D) very limited and largely ceremonial
 - (E) shared with other branches of government as part of the Madisonian system of checks and balances
4. According to public opinion polls, presidents seem to be most popular:
 - (A) just before they leave office
 - (B) during their second term of office
 - (C) after they leave office
 - (D) during mid-term elections
 - (E) when they first enter office
5. Senators have dominated the selection of judges for the federal district courts through:
 - (A) the use of the open rule
 - (B) the custom of senatorial courtesy
 - (C) their power over court jurisdictions
 - (D) their control of the budget
 - (E) the use of cloture
6. Most important congressional activity is done:
 - (A) in meetings of standing committees and their subcommittees
 - (B) on legislators' visits to their home districts
 - (C) on the House floor
 - (D) in the White House
 - (E) on the Senate floor
7. When the House and the Senate pass different versions of the same bill:
 - (A) a conference committee is appointed to resolve differences
 - (B) the president may select which bill to enact into law
 - (C) the Senate bill is changed to conform with the House bill
 - (D) the House bill is changed to conform with the Senate bill
 - (E) a select committee is appointed to resolve differences
8. Federal funding for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is an example of:
 - (A) casework
 - (B) affirmative action
 - (C) perquisites
 - (D) public service
 - (E) pork barrel
9. Most bills formally submitted for consideration in Congress:
 - (A) are defeated in close final votes on the floors of one chamber
 - (B) are quietly killed off early in the process
 - (C) pass one house, but are killed in the other house
 - (D) are passed, but vetoed by the president
 - (E) are passed and signed into law
10. When members of Congress hold a hearing to question a cabinet member on how a law is being carried out, they are engaging in:
 - (A) casework
 - (B) congressional administration
 - (C) agenda-setting
 - (D) legislative oversight
 - (E) filibustering

11. In the House of Representatives, it is the _____ Committee that writes tax codes, subject to the approval of Congress as a whole.
- (A) Appropriations
 - (B) Ways and Means
 - (C) Budget
 - (D) Government Relations
 - (E) Ethics
12. Which of the following are important powers of the Rules Committee?
- I. setting time limits on floor debate
 - II. deciding whether or not amendments will be allowed from the floor
 - III. deciding which bills may be allowed to go to the floor
 - IV. deciding whether or not amendments must be germane to the bill
- (A) I and II only
 - (B) I, II, and III only
 - (C) I, II and IV only
 - (D) III and IV only
 - (E) I, II, III, and IV
13. Which of the following is NOT a constitutional power of the president?
- (A) enact legislation by issuing decrees
 - (B) serve as Commander in Chief of the armed forces
 - (C) sign or veto legislation passed by Congress
 - (D) appoint federal judges with the advice and consent of a majority of the Senate
 - (E) making treaties with the consent of the Senate
14. A presidential veto of legislation passed by Congress:
- (A) can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of either the House' or the Senate
 - (B) cannot be overridden
 - (C) can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of both the House and the Senate
 - (D) can be overridden only by majority vote of the Supreme Court
 - (E) can be overridden by a majority vote of both the House and the Senate
15. "One man, one vote," *Baker v. Carr*, and *Wesberry v. Sanders* are all associated with the concept of:
- (A) redistricting
 - (B) the "revolving door"
 - (C) pork barrel
 - (D) logrolling
 - (E) the Senate
16. The single most important advantage to someone trying to get elected to Congress is:
- (A) being an incumbent
 - (B) having a clean record
 - (C) winning the endorsement of the top leaders of their party
 - (D) having done casework for constituents
 - (E) being charismatic and photogenic
17. In mid-term elections, the:
- (A) president almost always wins reelection; a president who does not is the exception
 - (B) president's party typically loses seats
 - (C) president's party typically gains seats
 - (D) president's coattails are the strongest
 - (E) president usually does not become involved
18. Traditionally, congressional committee chairpersons have been chosen through:
- (A) the seniority system
 - (B) the merit system
 - (C) a majority vote by each house
 - (D) party rank
 - (E) popularity with majority leaders
19. Which of the following does the Speaker NOT play a role in?
- (A) making media appearances
 - (B) recommending which members should be expelled from the House for failure to support the party's positions on bills
 - (C) presiding over the House when it is in session
 - (D) assigning most bills to committees
 - (E) making committee assignments

20. In the House, a pigeonholed bill can be forced to tile floor for consideration through use of:
- (A) cloture
 - (B) *habeas corpus*
 - (C) *certiorari*
 - (D) a discharge petition
 - (E) a filibuster
21. Once the House votes for impeachment, the president:
- (A) must leave office
 - (B) must be indicted by a Grand Jury before being removed from office
 - (C) is tried by the Senate
 - (D) is fined or sentenced to prison
 - (E) is tried by the Supreme Court
22. The War Powers Resolution:
- (A) established the chain of command of the armed forces in the event the president is incapacitated
 - (B) mandated the withdrawal of forces after 60-90 days
 - (C) established the code protocols that launch nuclear missiles in order to prevent accidental or unauthorized missile launches
 - (D) prohibited the president power from committing American troops without congressional approval
 - (E) gave the president the formal power to declare war in the case of nuclear attack
23. To actually fund a program, Congress must pass an _____ bill.
- (A) appropriations
 - (B) omnibus
 - (C) impoundment
 - (D) authorization
 - (E) expenditure
24. Compared to members of the House, senators are generally:
- (A) less likely to use television in their reelection campaigns
 - (B) more likely to face difficult reelection opponents
 - (C) more likely to have personal contact with their constituents
 - (D) less likely to face difficult reelection opponents
 - (E) as likely to win reelection
25. An example of casework by a member of Congress is:
- (A) writing a newsletter to send out to constituents
 - (B) working with a caucus on public policy
 - (C) helping a constituent gain health care benefits from the Department of Veterans' Affairs
 - (D) voting for a bill desired by constituents
 - (E) voting with the party on key bills
26. Party loyalty at the voting booth is:
- (A) almost nonexistent today
 - (B) stronger than it was a generation ago
 - (C) far greater among Democrats than among Republicans
 - (D) no longer a good indication of voting behavior
 - (E) still a good predictor of voting behavior
27. Executive orders are issued by:
- (A) the president
 - (B) independent regulatory agencies
 - (C) members of the Senior Executive Service
 - (D) any federal agency or department
 - (E) Congress
28. Which of the following are true statements regarding the qualifications for the presidency?
- I. No president has been under 40 when elected to the office.
 - II. No one born in another country has ever been president.
 - III. No one has ever served as president who has lived in the United States for at least fourteen years.
- (A) I and II only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) I, II and III
 - (D) I and III only
 - (E) II and III only
29. The part of the executive branch of government that the president sees daily and relies heavily on for information, policy options, and analysis is the:
- (A) Executive Office of the President
 - (B) independent regulatory commissions
 - (C) Council of Economic Advisors
 - (D) president's cabinet
 - (E) White House staff

30. All of these are major sources of conflict between Congress and the president EXCEPT:
- (A) different constituencies
 - (B) reapportionment
 - (C) separation of powers
 - (D) checks and balances
 - (E) different terms of election
31. The president's clearinghouse for agency ideas is the:
- (A) Cabinet
 - (B) CIA
 - (C) Press secretary
 - (D) Office of Management and Budget
 - (E) Vice president
32. The president's cabinet:
- (A) must be consulted before executive orders can take effect
 - (B) can veto the president on matters of executive policy
 - (C) was provided for by the Constitution
 - (D) has increased over the years with newly established executive departments approved by Congress
 - (E) serves as the president's board of directors
33. The most important step in shaping a bill in the process of becoming a law is
- (A) introduction of the bill on the floor of the House or Senate
 - (B) consideration in standing committees and subcommittees
 - (C) debate on the floor
 - (D) consideration in conference committees
 - (E) feedback from the executive branch in a formal address by the president
34. 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
35. Racial gerrymandering:
- I. involves rearranging district lines to allow a minority representative to be elected
 - II. is controversial
 - III. was proven unconstitutional by the "one person, one vote" Supreme Court decision
- (A) I only
 - (B) I and II only
 - (C) I and III only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
36. 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) incumbency
 - (E) filibustering
37. All of the following accurately describe the organization of the House and Senate EXCEPT:
- (A) time limits on debate are set in the House; no time limits are set in the Senate
 - (B) the House forms a Committee of the Whole; the Senate does not
 - (C) the House may prohibit amendments to a bill on the floor; the Senate may not
 - (D) the Senate has a Rules Committee; the House does not
 - (E) the House has a Rules Committee; the Senate does not
38. Which of the following accurately describes the president's line-item veto power?
- (A) The president never has had a line-item veto power
 - (B) The president has always had a line-item veto power
 - (C) The president has had the line-item veto power since 1997
 - (D) The president's line-item veto power was declared unconstitutional in 1997
 - (E) Presidents have always resisted the line-item veto power

39. Which of the following government officials are appointed by the president, but do NOT need to be confirmed by the Senate?
- (A) the White House Staff
 - (B) the Executive Office of the President
 - (C) Cabinet members
 - (D) Supreme Court justices
 - (E) judges in District and Appellate Courts
40. 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
41. 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, but the approval of Congress is not necessary
42. The president can influence legislation by all of the following EXCEPT:
- (A) introducing legislation
 - (B) agenda setting
 - (C) building public support
 - (D) vetoes
 - (E) party leadership
43. All of the following are standing committees in Congress in EXCEPT:
- (A) Rules Committee
 - (B) Finance Committee
 - (C) Joint Committee
 - (D) Appropriations Committee
 - (E) Judiciary Committee
44. All of the following are reasons incumbents in the House of Representatives enjoy an electoral advantage over challengers except that incumbents:
- (A) get substantial financial support from their party's national committee
 - (B) are better known to voters than are challengers
 - (C) find it much easier to raise campaign funds than do challengers
 - (D) can't use staff members to do constituent casework
 - (E) often serve on committees that enable them to help their constituents
45. Which role of the President is associated with the "take care clause" in Article II of the Constitution?
- (A) Commander in Chief
 - (B) Chief Executive
 - (C) Chief Legislator
 - (D) Chief of State
 - (E) Chief Jurist
46. The power of the Rules Committee in the House of Representatives rests on its authority to:
- (A) choose the chairs of other standing committees and issue rules for the selection of subcommittee chairs
 - (B) initiate all spending legislation and hold budget hearings
 - (C) place a bill on the legislative calendar, limit time for debate, and determine the type of amendments allowed
 - (D) determine the procedures by which nominations by the President will be approved by the House
 - (E) choose the President if no candidate wins a majority of the Electoral College
47. Which type of committee in Congress would conduct investigations?
- (A) Authorization
 - (B) Appropriations
 - (C) Conference
 - (D) Select
 - (E) Ways and Means

48. Which of the following is true of congressional redistricting?
- (A) The responsibility for redrawing congressional districts belongs to congressional committees
 - (B) It is an uncontroversial process because it has few political ramifications
 - (C) It occurs every ten years to reflect changes in population as measured by the census
 - (D) The Supreme Court has ruled that legislators may not consider racial demographics when redrawing districts
 - (E) When redrawing districts, legislators' chief concern is to maintain the integrity of neighborhoods
49. Congress would be required to use the elastic clause of the Constitution in order to:
- (A) change citizenship requirements
 - (B) impose workplace safety standards
 - (C) increase tax rates
 - (D) authorize the Treasury to print money
 - (E) declare war
50. The use of the filibuster:
- (A) has been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court
 - (B) is allowed in both the House and the Senate
 - (C) can be ended by a majority vote
 - (D) can be ended by a cloture petition and vote
 - (E) can be ended by Executive Order