

Practice Exam #3

1. Which of the following statements concerning the attitudes of the founding fathers is true?
 - a. They were a cross section of that era's citizens-both rich and poor-who were proportionately represented.
 - b. They were really not all that concerned with maintaining an integrated system that provided for a separation of powers.
 - c. They were a group that was motivated by a disinterested commitment to the public good, with little desire to express their own economic and human opinions.
 - d. The founders were divided among themselves about the definition of what the concept of federalism really meant.
 - e. The founders were admirable because what they created really was original and was not borrowed from earlier governmental concepts.

2. Which of the following descriptions concerning the *Federalist Papers* is **NOT** correct?
 - a. Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison used the pen name "Publius."
 - b. The names of the authors of the *Federalist Papers* were a secret at the time of their publication.
 - c. The *Federalist Paper* probably played only a small role in securing ratification.
 - d. These essays have had a long-lasting value as an authoritative and profound explanation of the Constitution.
 - e. The *Federalist Papers* were almost exclusively printed in the Philadelphia newspapers.

3. Which of the following statements best describes the term *silent majority*?
 - a. The silent majority consists of those people who uphold traditional values no matter what their economic status, especially against the counterculture of the 1960s.
 - b. The silent majority refers to a group of mostly liberal, progressive thinkers of the 1950s.
 - c. The silent majority was a popular term utilized by the founding fathers to describe the people they believed they were representing.
 - d. The silent majority later organized into a political group that founded the "Bull Moose Party," one of the most successful third parties in American politics.
 - e. The silent majority was first used to describe those citizens opposed to the Supreme Court ruling in *Roe v. Wade*.

4. Which of the following statements concerning political participation in the United States is **NOT** correct?
 - a. The motor-voter bill was designed to make it easier to register to vote.
 - b. In the United States, the entire burden of registering to vote falls on the individual voters.
 - c. The real source of the voter participation problem in the United States is that a relatively low percentage of the adult population is registered to vote.
 - d. In the United States, a majority of the voting-age population is registered to vote.
 - e. The vast majority of registered American voters do not vote in elections.

5. In the United States, voter turnout is highest for presidential elections among which of the following groups?
 - a. Unionized workers motivated by the union leadership
 - b. Eighteen to twenty-five year olds enthused about voting for their first time
 - c. Citizens lower in the socioeconomic scale dissatisfied with their living conditions
 - d. Those U.S. citizens with college educations no matter their ethnic or social standing

- e. The women of the United States who are motivated by gender-centered issues
6. Most research shows that voters base their decision on how they are going to vote in presidential elections upon which of the following factors?
- a. Party platforms created at the conventions
 - b. The competence of the candidate's chosen running mate
 - c. Party identification or single issues, and which party the voter tends to perceive favorably on these issues
 - d. Effective television advertising developed by professional advertising personnel
 - e. The effectiveness of a candidate during the televised debates
7. Which of the following statements best describes the role of today's party convention?
- a. They are important gathering where decisions are made for long-term party goals.
 - b. They allow for important fund raising by selling the television rights to networks.
 - c. Delegates perform an important function by establishing important party politics for the electing at hand.
 - d. They are mostly symbolic pep rallies used to give their candidate a popularity boost.
 - e. They are the presidential candidate's forum for considering and choosing his running mate.
8. Which statement is **NOT** true concerning political parties in the United States?
- a. The founding fathers of our country generally disliked the concept of parties, considering them to be motivated by ambition and self-interest.
 - b. Originally parties were called by the labels *Republicans* and *Federalists*.
 - c. The party system as reorganized during the Jacksonian period was organized from bottom to top, rather than from the top down.
 - d. The party system was always intended to be a two party system and this concept is established in the Constitution.
 - e. The development of the convention system was in part a reform allowing for some local control of the nominating process.
9. Political parties have been declining in influence for which of the following reasons?
- a. Parties are declining in influence because candidates and voters act more independently today.
 - b. Sponsorship of the parties under the Constitution has been amended in the last 50 years.
 - c. Candidates in the last half of the 20th century were mostly self-funded.
 - d. Because candidates try to take popular views there really is very little difference in the two parties.
 - e. Parties have lost the ability to raise funds because of changes in regulations dealing with "soft money."
10. Which statement is most correct concerning third parties?
- a. Third parties are encouraged by our election system today because they act as important outlets for voter participation.
 - b. Their existence is protected under the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution.
 - c. The emergence of third parties had led to a rise in straight ticket voting as a backlash to their influence.
 - d. They benefit equally with the existing parties under federal campaign financing laws.
 - e. In our political system they have occasionally changed the outcome of presidential elections.

11. Which of the following is **NOT** correct concerning the House of Representatives?
- Unlike the Senate, it contains a very powerful rules committee.
 - The House members are not limited in the length of debate on bills.
 - It is known as a noncontinuous body.
 - The length of a representative's term is shorter than that of a senator.
 - The House is generally based upon the Virginia Plan from the Constitutional Convention.
12. Which of the following is true concerning redistricting in the House of Representatives?
- The process of redistricting takes place every 20 years according to the Constitution.
 - Redistricting is usually based upon the voter turnout in the previous elections.
 - Partisan politics never plays a role in the redistricting process.
 - Redistricting is handled by the legislatures in each of the states.
 - The process can only add seats in the House and can never reduce the number of representatives.
13. The system of checks and balances between Congress and the executive branch is illustrated in all but which of the following?
- The House and Senate overriding a presidential veto.
 - The Senate confirming a Supreme Court Justice nominee of the president's.
 - The Senate using its power of cloture to consider a bill.
 - Congress voting a declaration of war requested by the president.
 - The Senate confirming a presidential nominee to his cabinet.
14. Which of the following terms concerning Congress is incorrectly described?
- Congress has a power known as the *franking privilege* that allows them to keep their constituents informed by using the mail system free of charge.
 - The *filibuster* is a process that often bottlenecks legislation in the House of Representatives.
 - The term *pork-barrel legislation* refers to bills passed that give tangible benefits to constituents in hopes of winning voters.
 - Gerrymandering* is a process of drawing a House district in an erratic manner in order to favor one party over another.
 - A *rider* is a provision added to a piece of legislation that is not consistent with the bill's purpose.
15. Which of the following statements concerning the presidency is correct?
- Presidential vetoes are overridden in the vast majority of instances.
 - The inauguration date for presidents was changed from March to January.
 - Presidential succession always provided for the replacement by the vice president upon the death of a president.
 - Presidential term limitations were addressed in the Bill of Rights.
 - The president is no longer required to be a native born American; naturalized citizens are also eligible.
16. Which of the following Supreme Court decision dealt with the rights of an accused criminal in the United States?
- Gideon v. Wainwright*
 - Mapp v. Ohio*
 - Korematsu v. U.S*
 - Miranda v. Arizona.*
- I only

- b. I and IV only
 - c. I, II, and IV only
 - d. II, III, and IV only
 - e. I, II, and III only
17. Often identifiable small groups benefit from policies that are paid for by a large part of society- this type of politics is known as?
- a. Majoritarian politics
 - b. Client politics
 - c. Entrepreneurial politics
 - d. Interest group politics
 - e. Progressive politics
18. The economic theory that assumes inflation occurs when there is too much money chasing too few goods goes by which of the following labels?
- a. Supply-side economics
 - b. Communism
 - c. Keynesian economics
 - d. Monetarism
 - e. Gold standard
19. The most common form of political activity by citizens of the U.S. is
- a. Participating in campaigns
 - b. Money donations to candidates
 - c. Voting in presidential elections
 - d. Placing yard signs for statewide elections
 - e. Voting in local and state elections
20. Which of the following factors is the most important for predicting the outcome of congressional elections?
- b. The amount of money spent by the candidate
 - c. The size of the voter turnout
 - d. The success of the parties' presidential candidate within the particular congressional district
 - e. Whether or not the candidate is an incumbent
 - f. Whether or not there are some hot button issues during the campaign
21. Which of the following statements is true concerning committee chairs in the House of Representatives?
- a. They are always members of the majority party of the House.
 - b. They are chosen by the party whip.
 - c. They are always endorsed by the president
 - d. They are selected by the Supreme Court and ratified by the full House membership.
 - e. They are always the person with the most seniority in the House.
22. The most common determining factor when people vote for a presidential candidate is
- a. A candidate's stance on specific issues
 - b. A candidate's position on fiscal policies
 - c. The effectiveness of a candidate's mass media campaign
 - d. The amount of time a presidential candidate has spent in a voter's local area
 - e. The candidate's political party identification

23. Who authored the Federalist Papers?

- I. James Madison
 - II. Benjamin Franklin
 - III. Alexander Hamilton
 - IV. John Jay
- a. II only
 - b. III only
 - c. I, II, and III
 - d. II and III
 - e. I, III, and IV

24. A closed primary is a

- a. Primary election that allows eligible voters to vote only within their district
- b. Primary open to all voters, who may vote for candidates from any party for each office
- c. Primary that is for local offices only, not statewide offices
- d. Primary in which a voter is required to identify a party preference before voting, and cannot split the ticket
- e. Primary where only presidential preferences are determined, and lower offices are not decided

25. The formal writ used to bring a case before the Supreme Court is called the

- a. *Writ of mandamus*
- b. *Writ of certiorari*
- c. *Writ of habeas corpus*
- d. *Writ of theocracy*
- e. *Writ of court consent*

26. Which of the following statements concerning the Virginia Plan at the convention is **NOT** correct?

- a. It basically favored the larger states with its proposals.
- b. It called for a national legislature that would have supreme powers on all matters that the separate states were not competent to act upon.
- c. It called for one legislative chamber to be elected by the people and a second to be chosen by that popularly elected chamber from people nominated by state legislatures.
- d. It called for a strong national union with three branches of government—legislative, executive and judicial.

27. The officials directly elected by registered voters are

- a. Justices of the Supreme Court
- b. President and vice president
- c. Cabinet secretaries in the presidential cabinet
- d. House and Senate members
- e. Members of the Electoral College

28. Which of the following sources contributes most to the workload of the Supreme Court?

- a. Cases referred by Congress
- b. Cases from its appellate jurisdiction
- c. Cases referred from regulatory commissions
- d. Cases from its original jurisdiction

- e. Cases referred from the executive branch
29. The ruling in the Supreme Court decision of *McCulloch v. Maryland*
- a. Established the important constitutional concept of eminent domain
 - b. Denied the federal government jurisdiction in disputes between states
 - c. Established the supremacy of the national government over state governments
 - d. Established the need for the popular election of U.S. senators
30. Which of the following statements best describes the importance of Shay's Rebellion?
- a. It reinforced the fact that the institution of slavery was too controversial to deal with at the time.
 - b. It proved that the Indian uprisings were only temporary and would soon come to an end.
 - c. It illustrated the need for a strong national government that could protect property and maintain order.
 - d. It illustrated a need for a national currency free from local inflation.
 - e. It proved that the federalism system of government would work in the colonies.
31. The individual rights promised to citizens in the Bill of Rights were later extended to apply to the states, due in part to the Supreme Court interpretation of Constitutional Amendment
- a. 12
 - b. 14
 - c. 16
 - d. 10
 - e. 18
32. Which of the following powers is not given to the President by the U.S. Constitution?
- a. The president has the power to grant pardons for federal crimes.
 - b. The president can create new cabinet-level departments as he feels necessary.
 - c. The president has the power to veto bills sent to him by Congress.
 - d. The president commissions officers in the various branches of the military.
 - e. The president has the power to appoint ambassadors with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate
33. Due process protects a U.S. citizen from
- a. Having his private property seized without just reimbursement
 - b. Having untrue things written about her
 - c. Being imprisoned without a proper trial
 - d. Being forced to house soldiers in her home
 - e. Being required to register for military service.
34. When the House of Representatives debates a bill under a "closed rule," which of the following conditions exists?
- a. No amendments to the bill can be offered.
 - b. The debate will not be allowed to be public record.
 - c. The vote on the particular bill will be kept confidential.
 - d. The amount of debate on the particular bill is predetermined at 10 minutes from each congressperson;
 - e. The debate will be limited to only the bill's sponsor and one opponent to the bill.
35. Which of the following best describes the view expressed in the *Federalist Papers* concerning the development of political parties and interest groups?

- a. They were viewed as necessary and beneficial to the expression of citizens' views and healthy for the country.
- b. They were viewed as an integral part of the constitutional process.
- c. They were endorsed numerous times in various parts of the Constitution as beneficial.
- d. The writers of the *Federalist Papers* considered them basically evil.
- e. They were basically discussed as favorable but they were to be carefully monitored.

36. The best definition for the term I is

- a. A formal organization of people with common interests who run candidates that believe in those same interests
- b. An organization of people with shared policy goals that enter the policy process at numerous places in an attempt to advance those goals
- c. A group of individuals who are hoping to accomplish nonspecific goals for the general improvement of society
- d. A formal organization that sponsors activities that are narrow in scope and focus; it pursues essentially single issues
- e. A group of people who share common ideas but have no formal membership and who exert very little political influence

37. Which of the following Supreme Court decisions dealt with the concept of the exclusionary rule and evidence being obtained by illegal means?

- a. *Mapp v. Ohio*
- b. *Korematsu v. U.S.*
- c. *Bakke v. Board of Regents*
- d. *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- e. *Munn v. Illinois*

38. Which of the following statements is true of most bills introduced in the House of Representatives and Senate?

- a. Most bills are passed by committees but die from lack of support in the respective chamber.
- b. Almost every bill in Congress dies from lack of support in the House Rules Committee.
- c. Most bills are passed by one chamber of Congress but die from lack of support in the opposite chamber.
- d. Most bills are withdrawn by the bill's sponsor before even being considered.
- e. Most bills are referred to appropriate committees but are never sent to the full Congress; they simply die in committee.

39. Which of the following definitions best describes the term iron triangle?

- a. The close working relationship between the three levels of the judicial branch
- b. The cooperation between the federal, state and local governments
- c. The relationship between diplomats, the president, and the Senate in treaty negotiations
- d. The close relationship between an agency, a congressional committee, and an interests group that often becomes a mutually advantageous alliance
- e. The cooperation of the military, executive branch and the legislative branch, when planning and financing a military action

40. Important industries experiencing extreme problems might expect government help in all of the following ways **EXCEPT**
- The government might intervene with subsidies.
 - The government might pass tax break legislation.
 - The government might fund product research and development.
 - The government might fix prices within a particular area.
 - The government might guarantee loans to assist the industry through the difficult period.
41. According to the framers of the Constitution, one of the primary functions of government is to
- Expand the number of democracies in the world as years go by
 - Increase the population of the U.S. by establishing liberal immigration policies
 - Protect individual property rights in the U.S.
 - Develop an equitable system of individual income tax in the U.S.
 - Develop an educational system that would reach all U.S. citizens
42. Based on numerous studies, which of the following statements concerning the news media is considered to be **TRUE**?
- A slight Democratic bias was discovered.
 - A strong liberal bias was discovered.
 - No bias was detected, and the news was generally determined to be neutral.
 - A slight conservative bias was discovered.
 - A strong Republican bias was discovered.
43. The overwhelming majority of criminal cases in the U.S. are held in
- Federal district courts
 - Appellate courts only
 - State and local courts
 - Federal appellate courts
 - Federal judiciary courts
44. Which of the following concepts are mentioned in the Preamble to the Constitution?
- Establish justice
 - Provide for the common defense
 - Secure the blessings of education
 - Promote the general welfare
- III and IV only
 - I, III, and IV
 - I, II, and IV
 - I and IV only
 - All of the above are mentioned in the Preamble
45. Which of the following was the most immediate reaction to the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)?
- Surprisingly, an almost immediate end to segregated education took place.
 - There was a constitutional amendment passed to strengthen the ruling.
 - Busing of inner-city students to suburban schools was established voluntarily.
 - There was a rapid growth in private white schools in the South.
 - There was a national show of support for a long-overdue Supreme Court decision.
46. Most of the delegates to the Republican and Democratic national conventions at the present time are chosen by

- a. Precinct caucuses
- b. Regional caucuses
- c. State party conventions
- d. Local party caucuses
- e. Presidential primaries

47. Which of the following conditions would most benefit retired persons on fixed incomes?

- a. A period of low inflation
- b. A period of high unemployment
- c. A period of high inflation
- d. A period of low unemployment
- e. A period of stagnant employment

48. The largest single source of health care dollars in the U.S. is

- a. Charities
- b. Private insurance companies
- c. Doctor-owned HMOs
- d. Private citizens throughout-of-pocket spending
- e. Government

49. Which of the following statements would be **MOST** true concerning political parties over the past 40 years?

- a. Party loyalty has remained relatively the same.
- b. Party loyalty has decreased over that period
- c. Party loyalty has increased significantly over that period
- d. Party loyalty has grown only in urban areas.
- e. Party loyalty has grown significantly in suburban areas.

50. Which of the following is an action Congress can take if the Supreme Court declares a federal law unconstitutional?

- a. Congress can override Supreme Court decisions with a two-thirds vote.
- b. Congress can request that the executive branch veto the court decision with a simple majority vote.
- c. Congress can attempt to amend the Constitution.
- d. Congress can vote to have the federal appeals court start the case back through the system for reconsideration.
- e. Congress can vote to have the Supreme Court issue a *writ of certiorari*.

51. Which of the following definitions best describes *inalienable rights*?

- a. Rights based upon the common consensus
- b. Rights established through political justice
- c. Rights based upon a military code of fairness
- d. Rights based on nature and Providence
- e. Rights established through political compromise

52. Which of the following statements concerning the Speaker of the House of Representatives is **TRUE**?

- a. The Speaker is chosen by the president and confirmed by the Senate.
- b. The Speaker only votes whenever the House vote has ended in a tie.
- c. The Speaker is elected by the majority party in the House of Representatives.
- d. The Speaker must be at least 35 years of age.

- e. The Speaker must be endorsed by the Supreme Court because of the importance of the position.
53. Historically, bureaucracies in the U.S. have grown significantly during which of the following events?
- a. Periods of economic stability
 - b. Periods of prosperity
 - c. Periods of depression
 - d. Periods of war
 - e. Periods of recession
54. Which of the following determines the number of delegates to a national party convention and the rules under which they are chosen?
- a. State party conventions
 - b. The national committee of the particular party
 - c. State legislatures
 - d. The state party leadership
 - e. Local party caucuses
55. Which of the following Supreme Court decisions reversed the earlier decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson*?
- a. *Korematsu v. U.S.*
 - b. *Mapp v. Ohio*
 - c. *Marbury v. Madison*
 - d. *Brown v. Board of Education*
 - e. *Gideon v. Wainwright*
56. The person who serves as the president's chief civilian advisor on the military is the
- a. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
 - b. Secretary of State
 - c. Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - d. Secretary of Defense
 - e. National Security Advisor
57. Which of the following theories encourages the government to create jobs for people during times of high employment, so that more money can get back into the hands of consumers and stimulate economic growth?
- a. Supply-side economics
 - b. Military-industrial economics
 - c. Keynesian economics
 - d. Reaganomics
 - e. Monetarism
58. Which of the following best describes the concept of presidential coattails in recent elections?
- a. This effect is stronger for Republicans than for Democrats.
 - b. This effect has been increasing over the last half of the 20th century.
 - c. This has rarely affected recent elections, due to more ticket splitting.
 - d. This effect is seen more in House rather than Senate races.
 - e. This effect is stronger for Democrats than for Republicans.
59. *Franking privilege* is the
- a. Right of Congressmen to be exempt from income taxes

- b. Right of the government to subpoena individuals and compel them to testify before Congress
- c. Legal term for the right of people to not testify against themselves
- d. Right of members of the Supreme Court to be exempt from testifying in legal proceedings
- e. Right of members of Congress to send mail to their constituents free of charge

60. Which of the following statements is **NOT** true of the Electoral College?

- a. Each state has as many electoral votes as it has U.S. Senators and Representatives.
- b. Except for Maine and Nebraska, every state has a winner-take-all system.
- c. If no candidate receives an Electoral College majority, then the election goes to the House of Representatives.
- d. The state parties select slates of electors; these are often assigned as a reward for faithful service to the party.
- e. Electors are bound by the Constitution to vote the way their state voted, and they cannot vote their conscience.