

PRACTICE TEST 1


Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions

Time: 45 Minutes

60 Questions

Directions: Select the answer choice that best answers the question or completes the statement.

- The most common form of political activity by citizens of the United States is
 - participating in campaigns.
 - money donations to candidates.
 - voting in presidential elections.
 - placing yard signs for statewide elections.
 - voting in local and state elections.
- Which of the following factors is the most important for predicting the outcome of Congressional elections?
 - The amount of money spent by the candidate
 - The size of the voter turnout
 - The success of the parties' presidential candidate within the particular Congressional district
 - Whether or not the candidate is an incumbent
 - Whether or not there are some hot button issues during the campaign
- Which of the following statements is true concerning committee chairs in the House of Representatives?
 - They are always members of the majority party of the House.
 - They are chosen by the party whip.
 - They are always endorsed by the president.
 - They are selected by the Supreme Court and ratified by the full House membership.
 - They are always the person with the most seniority in the House.
- The most common determining factor when people vote for a presidential candidate is
 - a candidate's stance on specific issues.
 - a candidate's position on fiscal policies.
 - the effectiveness of a candidate's mass media campaign.
 - the amount of time a presidential candidate has spent in a voter's local area.
 - the candidate's political party identification.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE 

5. 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

6. 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.

Use the following table to answer questions 7 and 8.

VIEWS ON GAY MARRIAGE

	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
East	42	50	8
South	23	67	10
Midwest	33	56	11
West	36	58	6
Urban	36	52	12
Suburban	38	54	8
Rural	22	69	9
White	32	60	8
Black	28	60	12
Hispanic	36	51	13

Source: Pew Research; Center for People and the Press

7. Which of the following statements is **NOT** true about attitudes toward gay marriage?

- (A) Opposition to gay marriages is equal between blacks and whites.
- (B) Opposition to gay marriages is strongest in rural areas.
- (C) The highest percentage of respondents who replied, "don't know" was Hispanics.
- (D) People in the South are the most accepting of gay marriages.
- (E) People in the East are the most accepting of gay marriage.

8. The widest gap between those favoring and those opposing gay marriage occurs in

- (A) respondents from the West.
- (B) respondents who are white.
- (C) respondents from rural areas.
- (D) respondents of Hispanic origin.
- (E) respondents from the East.

9. 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.*
10. 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.
 - (E) It prohibited a state's population from being a factor in any issue considering representation.
11. 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.
12. 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 by regulatory commissions
 - (D) Cases from its original jurisdiction
 - (E) Cases referred from the executive branch
13. 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 that only the federal government controls international trade agreements.
 - (E) established the need for the popular election of United States senators.
14. 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 the Constitution was written.
 - (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.

