

# Model Exam 1

## SECTION 1: MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

TIME: 45 MINUTES

60 QUESTIONS

SECTION 1 IS WORTH 50 PERCENT OF THE TEST.

**Directions:** Each of the following questions has five choices. Choose the best response and record your answer on the answer sheet on page 359.

1. A provision in the Constitution that has been used to expand federal power over the states is
  - (A) the police power
  - (B) the reserved power clause
  - (C) the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment
  - (D) establishment of republican governments by the states
  - (E) separation of powers
2. Which of the following statements best describes the consequences of elite class theory?
  - (A) It encourages the formation of third political parties.
  - (B) Competing special interests can unduly influence the legislative process.
  - (C) A centrist philosophy would emerge resulting in gridlock.
  - (D) The elite in society would play a dominant role in the political process.
  - (E) The elite would clash with the middle class resulting in class warfare.
3. The exclusionary rule established by the Supreme Court supported the position that
  - (A) policemen must knock before they enter a house with a search warrant
  - (B) stop and frisk actions by police could be used only if there was probable cause
  - (C) witnesses to a crime may testify for a trial on videotape rather than in person
  - (D) evidence obtained that goes beyond the stated purpose of a search warrant may not be used in court
  - (E) a suspect may withhold information from the police when a lawyer is not present during interrogation

4. The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1974 established all the following rules for candidates seeking office EXCEPT
  - (A) the option of taxpayers to contribute a dollar to presidential campaigns on their income tax forms
  - (B) the restriction of citizen contributions per candidate
  - (C) the regulation of PAC contributions to candidates
  - (D) the restriction of spending amounts by candidates who decided not to accept matching funds
  - (E) the creation of the Federal Election Commission
5. A major area that is affected by congressional oversight hearings is the
  - (A) structure of congressional committees
  - (B) ability of the president to recommend legislation to Congress
  - (C) reduction of the number of cases heard by the Supreme Court
  - (D) creation of new special interest groups
  - (E) review of the budgets of independent regulatory agencies
6. The primary function of a lobbyist is to
  - (A) find political candidates for special interest groups
  - (B) provide information to members of Congress that is favorable to a position taken by a special interest group
  - (C) poll the public to help determine a position that a special interest group should take
  - (D) raise money for political action committees
  - (E) increase the awareness of special interest groups to the electorate
7. In viewing the relationship between the president and Congress in the area of foreign policy, which action on the part of Congress attempted to reduce presidential authority?
  - (A) Congressional Impoundment Act
  - (B) War Powers Act
  - (C) Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
  - (D) Approval of the SALT agreement
  - (E) Approval of NAFTA
8. One way Congress can respond to a Supreme Court ruling that declares a law unconstitutional is to
  - (A) appoint new justices
  - (B) draft a referendum that the voters would approve
  - (C) pass new legislation that addresses the issues raised by the Court
  - (D) pass a law limiting the terms of the justices
  - (E) reargue the case in a state court
9. In attempting to gain public support for his agenda, the president uses all the following techniques EXCEPT
  - (A) using the bully pulpit
  - (B) giving the media a photo op
  - (C) providing sound bites
  - (D) holding a press conference
  - (E) holding a private meeting with the joint chiefs of staff

10. A Supreme Court that creates precedent is described as one that relies on
- (A) unanimous court decisions
  - (B) judicial federalism
  - (C) judicial restraint
  - (D) judicial activism
  - (E) stare decisis

Questions 11 and 12 should be answered based upon your knowledge of the Constitution and the United States government.

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or the people.

11. After the 1994 mid-term election, which of the following laws was passed by the Republican Congress to achieve the objective of this amendment?
- (A) Block grants for welfare
  - (B) Funded mandates
  - (C) Judicial authority to appoint federal judges
  - (D) Power to reject regulatory agency directives
  - (E) The go-ahead to make individual treaties with foreign countries
12. Which principle of government is derived from this amendment?
- (A) Separation of powers
  - (B) Checks and balances
  - (C) Federalism
  - (D) Pluralism
  - (E) Republicanism
13. Whips have which of the following functions?
- (A) They act as direct liaisons to the White House.
  - (B) They work closely with the minority party in the name of bipartisanship.
  - (C) They make appointments to the various House and Senate committees.
  - (D) They are responsible for keeping party members in line when a vote occurs.
  - (E) They preside over the House when the speaker is absent.
14. Which of the following is a major cause of the inability of Congress to pass legislation?
- (A) The number of bills proposed by the president
  - (B) Lobbyists influencing Congress
  - (C) Divided party control of the Congress
  - (D) The increased number of southern Republicans elected to Congress
  - (E) The change in the party identification of voters
15. Sunshine laws were passed in order to give
- (A) Congress greater flexibility in determining meeting times
  - (B) C-SPAN the ability to televise congressional sessions
  - (C) citizens the ability to get information from law enforcement agencies
  - (D) citizens the ability to attend meetings that previously were held in secret session
  - (E) the press the right to get information from citizens

16. Which of the following is a characteristic of the electoral college?
- (A) It mandates presidential electors to vote for the candidate they are pledged to.
  - (B) It establishes a power base for third-party candidates.
  - (C) It has resulted in frequent occasions when a president wins the electoral vote but not the popular vote.
  - (D) It became part of the Constitution to give more power to the voters.
  - (E) It gives the House of Representatives the power to determine who will be president if no candidate gets a majority of the electoral votes.
17. Standing House committees such as the Ways and Means Committee are important because they
- (A) do not engage in partisan behavior
  - (B) mark up bills before they go to the entire House for debate
  - (C) can act independently from established House rules
  - (D) receive conference committee reports
  - (E) are equally divided in membership between Democrats and Republicans
18. The Constitution provides that one-third of the Senate's membership is up for election every two years so that
- (A) House members may decide whether to run for the Senate
  - (B) committee assignments can be alternated between Democrats and Republicans
  - (C) voters have less of a chance to change control of the Senate from one party to another
  - (D) the entire House and entire Senate are not elected in the same year
  - (E) congressional apportionment can alter the size of House districts
19. Which of the following groups voted most heavily Republican during the first decade of the 21st century?
- (A) Jews
  - (B) Evangelical Christians
  - (C) African-Americans
  - (D) Asian-Americans
  - (E) Labor union members
20. Proponents of the Second Amendment were most upset when Congress passed
- (A) the Civil Rights Act of 1990
  - (B) the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1992
  - (C) the Unfunded Mandates Act of 1994
  - (D) the Line Item Veto Act of 1994
  - (E) the Brady Bill of 1992
21. Procedural due process can best be found in
- (A) the First Amendment
  - (B) the Second Amendment
  - (C) the Fifth Amendment
  - (D) plea bargaining agreements
  - (E) the use of cameras in the courtroom

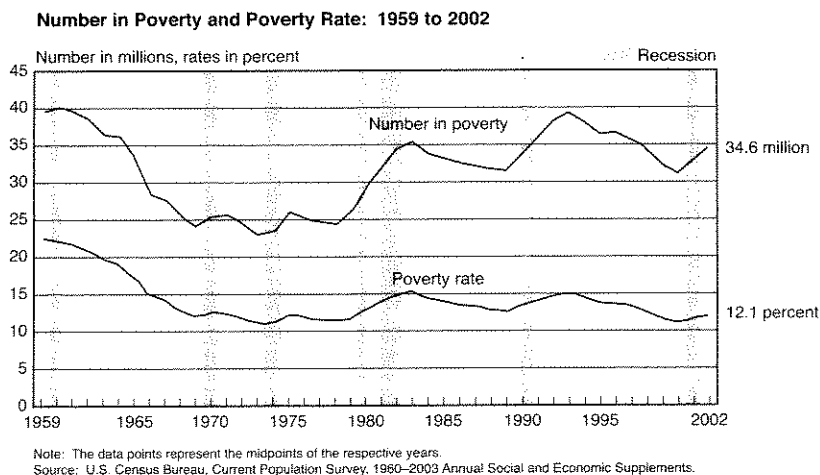
Answer Question 22 based on the following headline.

### Green Party Candidate Ralph Nader Runs for President

Some people say we should have a third major political party in the country in addition to the Democrats and Republicans.

22. Which of the following reflects the best explanation for the headline?
- (A) The Democratic and Republican parties have outlasted their effectiveness.
  - (B) The media's coverage of the parties has soured the voters.
  - (C) Voters don't seem to detect major differences between the Democrats and Republicans.
  - (D) Third political parties will have a better chance to elect their candidates.
  - (E) Voter registration has been on the decline.
23. What is the result of a continuing resolution agreed upon by both houses of Congress?
- (A) It authorizes the president to borrow money in advance of an approved budget.
  - (B) It allows a president to send troops abroad on a temporary basis.
  - (C) It prevents the shutdown of any governmental operation if a new budget is not enacted.
  - (D) It directs the Congress to meet until a budget is voted on.
  - (E) It creates a new legislative agenda.
24. The trend of states joining in regional presidential primaries suggests that the states want to
- (A) lessen the cost of the presidential campaigns
  - (B) have greater influence in the outcome of the nominating process
  - (C) lessen the importance of the New Hampshire primary
  - (D) decrease the electorate's influence on the outcome
  - (E) diminish the coverage by the media
25. Which of the following reflects how the news media covers campaigns?
- (A) The media covers the candidates' positions in an in-depth manner.
  - (B) The media is obligated to give equal coverage to all candidates running for office.
  - (C) The media's main objective is to change public opinion through its coverage.
  - (D) The media's coverage is characterized by candidates' sound bites and photo ops.
  - (E) The media has shied away from looking at the personal lives of the candidates running for office.
26. In choosing members of the cabinet, the president usually seeks out people who
- (A) exclusively come from his own political party
  - (B) are primarily from the business community
  - (C) will remain loyal to the president
  - (D) are current government officials
  - (E) are former government officials

27. Which of the following is true about senatorial courtesy?
- Senators have final say regarding presidential judicial appointments.
  - Senators of the state from which the candidate comes are consulted by the president prior to the candidate's appointment as a federal judge.
  - Senators rely on the expertise of their fellow senators before approving judicial appointments.
  - Senators consult with the American Bar Association before voting on judicial appointments.
  - Senators poll their constituents before deciding on whether to accept a presidential appointment.
28. All the following are considered delegated constitutional jobs of the president EXCEPT
- commander in chief of the armed forces
  - chief of state
  - making appointments of ambassadors
  - head of their political party
  - signing treaties with foreign countries



29. The graph supports which of the following conclusions?
- The poverty rate has increased from 1959–2002.
  - The number of people in poverty has increased from 1959–2002.
  - There is no correlation between the percentage of people in poverty and the poverty rate.
  - When the poverty rate increases, the percentage of people in poverty decreases.
  - The poverty rate and percentage of people in poverty increase immediately following a recession.
30. The Founding Fathers relied on which principle developed by Enlightenment thinkers?
- Habeas corpus
  - Guarantees of life, liberty, and property
  - One man, one vote
  - The right to bear arms
  - A single-house legislature

31. Which of the following conclusions did Madison reach in Federalist No. 39 regarding the issue of state sovereignty in the Federal system?
- (A) The government should be a confederacy of sovereign states.
  - (B) The federal government should rely on the wisdom of the states more than the states should depend on the federal government.
  - (C) The states should not be able to be taxed by the federal government.
  - (D) A government should be developed where states retain important governing abilities but are subordinate to the federal government in other areas.
  - (E) The states should have delegated powers reserved to them.
32. Which of the following is an example of the Supreme Court accepting a case based on original jurisdiction?
- (A) An appeal by a state regarding the decision of a lower court to overturn the state's restrictive abortion law
  - (B) A habeas corpus petition from a convict who is on death row
  - (C) A suit on the part of a citizen who believes his First Amendment rights are being violated
  - (D) A dispute between environmentalists and land developers regarding the constitutionality of the Endangered Species Act
  - (E) A dispute between New York and New Jersey over the plans of New York to build a hotel on Ellis Island
33. A major difference between the Iowa caucus and the New Hampshire primary is
- (A) greater turnout of voters in the Iowa caucus
  - (B) more loyal party regulars vote in New Hampshire
  - (C) exit polls are more accurate in caucus votes
  - (D) the fact that candidates must spend more money on caucus votes
  - (E) the fact that New Hampshire voters use a secret ballot to vote
34. Which of the following was a major reason the Supreme Court ruled that state-approved term limits for Congress were unconstitutional?
- (A) State laws restricting terms varied from state to state.
  - (B) The age, residency, and citizenship requirements in the Constitution could be altered only by a constitutional amendment.
  - (C) Congress could pass their own laws changing term limits.
  - (D) Most people in the country voiced strong opposition to state-imposed term limit requirements.
  - (E) If states passed term limit laws for congressmen, it would also enable them to pass term limit laws for other elected officials.
35. Which of the following is the best indicator that realignment took place in the 1990s?
- (A) Reagan Democrats returned to the Democratic Party and voted for Clinton in 1992.
  - (B) There were fewer vetoes during Clinton's first term than Bush had in his.
  - (C) The Republicans gained control of Congress in 1994.
  - (D) More third-party candidates emerged during the 1990s than in previous decades.
  - (E) Democratic Party enrollment declined in the 1990s.

36. Which of the following statements is true about the nature of modern party organizations?
- (A) Local politics generates a grassroots support by party regulars.
  - (B) The control of the party machinery is greatest at the national level.
  - (C) The party's national committee has the major fundraising responsibility for local candidates.
  - (D) They are run by party bosses in a democratic manner.
  - (E) The party's chairman is selected by its congressional membership.

Base your answers to questions 37 and 38 on the following excerpt from a Supreme Court decision:

On the other hand, the allowance of the privilege to withhold evidence that is demonstrably relevant in a criminal trial would cut deeply into the guarantee of due process of law and gravely impair the basic function of the courts. A president's acknowledged need for confidentiality in the communication of his office is general in nature. . . .

37. Which event took place as a result of this ruling?
- (A) The impeachment of Richard Nixon by the House of Representatives
  - (B) The immediate resignation of Richard Nixon as president
  - (C) An order requiring Nixon to turn over private documents
  - (D) The release of the Watergate tapes to the Senate Watergate Committee
  - (E) The erasure of 18 minutes of a critical tape by Nixon's secretary
38. The principle of executive privilege relates to which constitutional doctrine?
- (A) Division of powers
  - (B) Reserved powers
  - (C) Separation of powers
  - (D) Judicial review
  - (E) Federalism
39. The major impact third political parties have on presidential elections has been to
- (A) recruit leaders from the Democrats and Republicans to run for president
  - (B) draw enough votes from the major parties to throw the election into the House of Representatives
  - (C) generate increased party identification among the electorate
  - (D) develop issues that are later adopted by the major political parties
  - (E) encourage a larger voter turnout
40. A special interest group would probably have the greatest success dealing with a legislator regarding public policy issues that
- (A) were favored by the public as reflected by polls
  - (B) the president also supported
  - (C) were controversial in nature
  - (D) the legislator needed specific information about, which the group could provide
  - (E) had previously been voted on by Congress but defeated



41. Which of the following statements best describes congressional incumbency?
- (A) Incumbents are usually able to win reelection.
  - (B) Incumbents have had fundraising limits imposed on them by the Federal Election Commission.
  - (C) Incumbents have been able to raise less money than their opponents.
  - (D) Incumbents are able to use franking privileges to their advantage.
  - (E) Incumbents look to have numerous debates with their opponents.
42. Compared to marble cake federalism, Reagan's new federalism aimed to
- (A) increase the size of the federal government
  - (B) reduce the number of block grants given to the states
  - (C) downsize the federal government and turn more authority over to the states
  - (D) increase the amount of federal taxes to reduce the deficit
  - (E) reduce the size of the Defense Department and give the savings back to the states
43. Which of the following has the power to increase the size of the Supreme Court?
- (A) The voters
  - (B) The president
  - (C) Congress
  - (D) A constitutional amendment
  - (E) A vote by the Senate Judiciary Committee
44. Which statement is true about the War Powers Act?
- (A) It overturned the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.
  - (B) It gave Congress the power to appoint the head of the joint chiefs of staff.
  - (C) It gave the president the authority to declare war.
  - (D) It established procedures when United States troops were under the command of the UN during peacekeeping missions.
  - (E) It directed the president to be accountable to the Congress if he sent troops to foreign countries.
45. The guiding principle that governs legislative apportionment is
- (A) political gerrymandering
  - (B) the establishment of majority-minority districts
  - (C) one man, one vote
  - (D) judicial authority to create congressional districts
  - (E) districts determined by the governors of each state
46. All the following demographic criteria have had an impact on voting EXCEPT
- (A) the number of young people registered
  - (B) the socioeconomic makeup of the electorate
  - (C) the shift of the population to sunbelt states
  - (D) the ethnic make-up of the electorate
  - (E) an increase in illegal aliens

47. What conclusion can you reach from the fact that informal congressional caucus groups such as the black caucus and caucus for women's issues have been formed?
- (A) Caucus groups have had little impact on the legislative process.
  - (B) Democratic caucus groups were more powerful than Republican groups.
  - (C) There is an indirect relationship between these groups and special interest groups.
  - (D) Caucus groups were organized to better serve voter constituents.
  - (E) Republican groups were more numerous than Democratic groups.
48. Which of the following represents the attitudes of citizens with respect to the issue of separation of church and state?
- (A) A majority of the population is against a constitutional amendment authorizing silent prayer in the schools.
  - (B) Liberals tend to oppose Supreme Court decisions such as *Engle v Vitale*.
  - (C) Conservatives feel that more people should attend churches and synagogues on a more regular basis.
  - (D) A majority of the population understands the establishment clause but feel students should be able to pray in school.
  - (E) Citizens in a pluralist society reject the need to recognize the rights of minority religious groups.
49. The commerce clause of the Constitution has been viewed as a way for
- (A) Congress to exercise greater authority over state matters
  - (B) the president to exercise greater authority to commit troops abroad
  - (C) the states to exercise their reserved powers
  - (D) the Senate to increase its authority to advise and consent the president's appointments
  - (E) Congress to exercise greater authority over the Supreme Court
50. In the 1990s the manner in which legislation passed each house of Congress suggests that
- (A) bipartisanship has been the rule of thumb
  - (B) Congress has passed a greater number of bills than in previous decades
  - (C) there has been an increasing tendency for the president to veto legislation
  - (D) even though the House may pass its legislative agenda, it is often slowed down by the Senate
  - (E) Senate-House conference committees have exercised greater influence than congressional leaders in the formulation of legislation
51. All the following reflect devolution of federal power EXCEPT
- (A) the approval of block grants to the states
  - (B) the limitations placed on the federal government to pass on unfunded mandates to the states
  - (C) the Supreme Court decisions that allow death row inmates to file petitions for review in federal court
  - (D) the executive orders resulting in the downsizing of the bureaucracy
  - (E) the congressional legislation resulting in the elimination of regulations established by regulatory agencies

52. Since 1960, which of the following is the most significant factor in determining which candidate receives the party's nomination for president?
- (A) The economic condition facing the country
  - (B) The belief that programs favored by the candidate would benefit the country
  - (C) The ability of the candidate to win a majority of the delegates
  - (D) The support given to the candidate by party leaders
  - (E) The polls indicating that the candidate has name recognition
53. All the following are reasons for lower voter turnout in congressional elections compared to presidential elections EXCEPT:
- (A) Political advertisements use more smear tactics in presidential elections.
  - (B) Voters are more aware of national issues than local issues.
  - (C) There is more media coverage of presidential elections.
  - (D) Voters believe that presidential elections have a greater impact on the country's future.
  - (E) Candidates spend more money on presidential elections.
54. The Speaker of the House of Representatives has the primary role of
- (A) breaking tie votes in the House
  - (B) presiding over the House during routine business
  - (C) setting the legislative agenda for the House
  - (D) settling disputes in his own party
  - (E) acting as a liaison with the opposition party
55. All of the following choices are accurate statements about the nature of bureaucracies EXCEPT:
- (A) There are built-in review processes for appeal of agency decisions.
  - (B) There are bureaucratic agencies that oversee other agencies.
  - (C) The size and scope of the federal bureaucracy increased in the 1990s.
  - (D) There are political checks on agencies.
  - (E) Legislative power can restrict agency appropriations.
56. Which statement is most true of the media's coverage of presidential campaigns?
- (A) Presidential endorsements by newspapers change the minds of many voters.
  - (B) Sunday talk shows pay for their guests to appear.
  - (C) There is an increased interest in covering the national conventions gavel to gavel by the major networks.
  - (D) Networks like C-SPAN and CNN have played an increasingly important role in reporting the issues of the campaign.
  - (E) The fairness doctrine has lessened the accusation that there is bias in the media toward one candidate.

57. Which of the following statements describe voting trends in recent presidential elections?
- I. The gender gap has been a factor.
  - II. The youth vote is on the rise.
  - III. The religious right is becoming less of a factor.
  - IV. More people are enrolling as independents.
- (A) I only  
(B) II and III only  
(C) I, II, and IV only  
(D) III and IV only  
(E) I, II, III, and IV
58. Which of the following statements is a major reason for the increased use of public opinion polls by the media?
- (A) The government assesses the validity of the polls.  
(B) Candidate-sponsored polls compete for the public's attention.  
(C) A smaller random sample can now be used to get accurate results.  
(D) Polls are aimed exclusively at minority groups.  
(E) Elected officials pay attention to poll results.
59. The Federal Reserve Board has grown in importance because it
- (A) influences the trade policy of the United States  
(B) has printed more money in order to reduce the deficit  
(C) attempts to control inflation by raising or lowering interest rates  
(D) can shut down trading on the stock market when the market drops below a certain point  
(E) can create new branches of the National Bank
60. All the following choices are characteristics of the high-tech presidential campaign EXCEPT
- (A) 60-second spots on national news shows  
(B) political debates that include minor party candidates  
(C) paid infomercials by candidates using graphs and charts  
(D) sophisticated polling techniques done by paid consultants  
(E) candidates acting like talking heads



*This is the end of Section 1.*