

Model Exam 2

SECTION 1: MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

TIME: 45 MINUTES

40 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 393.

1. Which of the following statements is true?
 - (A) People have a high degree of trust in their politicians and elected officials.
 - (B) Divided government has been endorsed by the electorate in numerous presidential elections.
 - (C) Democrats have regained status as the majority party in the South.
 - (D) Realignment has created a viable third party.
 - (E) People identify themselves more as liberals than conservatives.
2. Which of the following principles of government was articulated in the Federalist Papers?
 - (A) Checks and balances
 - (B) A weak judicial branch
 - (C) A weak executive branch
 - (D) A strong House and a weak Senate
 - (E) A unitary form of government
3. An example of political socialization includes which of the following statements?
 - (A) Parents who vote Democratic influencing their children to vote Democratic
 - (B) Children being taught about politics in school
 - (C) College graduates deciding to attend law school in order to run for office
 - (D) Political parties influencing voters through political ads
 - (E) A newspaper running an editorial that suggests that a politician should resign

4. Executive privilege has
- (A) protected the president from standing trial while in office
 - (B) protected the first lady from handing over personal materials to special prosecutors
 - (C) resulted in Supreme Court decisions ordering the president to give sensitive materials to investigators
 - (D) created the need for new laws defining what executive privilege means
 - (E) rallied public opinion to support the president using this power
5. Which of the following reforms has been recommended to change the electoral college?
- (A) Close polls throughout the country the same time on election day.
 - (B) Ban exit polling by the networks.
 - (C) Eliminate the winner-take-all provision of the system.
 - (D) Move up the date that electors vote.
 - (E) Expand the concept of choosing electors to congressional races.
6. Supreme Court cases mainly derive from
- (A) plea bargains that fail
 - (B) congressional legislation that is vetoed
 - (C) state legislation that goes unchallenged
 - (D) original jurisdiction cases
 - (E) appellate jurisdiction cases

Answer Question 7 based on this table:

CONGRESSIONAL BILLS VETOED: 1961–1999

Period	President	Total vetoes	Regular vetoes	Pocket vetoes	Vetoes sustained	Bills passed over veto
1961–1963	Kennedy	21	12	9	21	0
1963–1969	Johnson	30	16	14	30	0
1969–1974	Nixon	43	26	17	36	7
1974–1977	Ford	66	48	18	54	12
1977–1981	Carter	31	13	18	29	2
1981–1989	Reagan	78	39	39	69	9
1989–1993	Bush	44	29	15	43	1
1993–1999	Clinton	30	30	0	28	2

Source: U.S. Congress, Senate Library. *Presidential Vetoes...1789–1999*; U.S. Congress. *Calendars of the U.S. House of Representatives and History of Legislation*, annual.

7. Which of the following conclusions about presidential vetoes is supported by the table?
- (A) More vetoes have been overridden than sustained by Congress.
 - (B) Pocket vetoes are routinely rejected by Congress.
 - (C) President Reagan had the greatest success in having his vetoes sustained by Congress.
 - (D) President Ford had more vetoes overridden than any other president listed.
 - (E) Pocket vetoes were used by every president on the list.

8. The provisions of the Fifth Amendment have all of the following components EXCEPT
- (A) prohibition of double jeopardy
 - (B) the right to a speedy trial
 - (C) the protection against self-incrimination
 - (D) the right of eminent domain
 - (E) protection of life, liberty, and property
9. The significance of the Great Compromise was that it
- (A) guaranteed equal protection for all citizens
 - (B) created a judicial branch of government
 - (C) counted slaves for representation purposes
 - (D) set up a bicameral legislature
 - (E) prohibited import taxes
10. Which of the following ideas advocated by Republicans during the 1994 congressional elections best describes the concept of devolution?
- (A) They encouraged a return of power to the state governments.
 - (B) They promoted a strong executive branch.
 - (C) They called for an evolutionary approach to checks and balances.
 - (D) They advocated a better relationship between the voter and elected representatives.
 - (E) They insisted on passage of a balanced budget amendment.
11. Which of the following House committees has the most influence in determining the fate of legislation?
- (A) Agricultural Committee
 - (B) Rules Committee
 - (C) Post Office Committee
 - (D) Education Committee
 - (E) Foreign Affairs Committee
12. Which of the following are considered to be leadership positions in the Senate?
- I. Minority Whip
 - II. Majority Whip
 - III. Minority Leader
 - IV. Majority Leader
- (A) II only
 - (B) I and II only
 - (C) I, III, and IV only
 - (D) I, II, III, and IV
 - (E) II, III, and IV only
13. Elite class theory differs from pluralism in that groups from the elite believe that
- (A) consensus is essential to political compromise
 - (B) representation of many interest groups foster good government
 - (C) they are best suited to run government based on their economic status
 - (D) sharing wealth and power are foundations of representative government
 - (E) gaining access to elected representatives can best be achieved through special interests

26. The Supreme Court has the constitutional authority to check Congress by
- (A) vetoing legislation signed by the president
 - (B) settling disputes among states
 - (C) applying original jurisdiction to cases brought before them on appeal
 - (D) declaring parts of legislation unconstitutional
 - (E) assigning the Chief Justice to preside over the impeachment trial of the president
27. An alternate manner in which a president can implement policy without congressional approval is by
- (A) appointing a member of the opposing political party to the cabinet
 - (B) issuing an executive order
 - (C) sending controversial legislation to the electorate for a referendum
 - (D) making a speech in front of a group that opposes him
 - (E) holding a press conference

COMPOSITION OF CONGRESS, BY POLITICAL PARTY: 1971–2001

Year	Party and President	Congress	House			Senate		
			Majority party	Minority party	Other	Majority party	Minority party	Other
1971 ¹	R (Nixon)	92nd	D-254	R-180	0	D-54	R-44	2
1973 ¹	R (Nixon)	93rd	D-239	R-192	0	D-56	R-42	2
1975 ³	R (Ford)	94th	D-291	R-144	0	D-60	R-37	2
1977 ⁴	D (Carter)	95th	D-292	R-143	0	D-61	R-38	1
1979 ⁴	D (Carter)	96th	D-276	R-157	0	D-58	R-41	1
1981 ⁴	R (Reagan)	97th	D-243	R-192	0	R-53	D-46	1
1983	R (Reagan)	98th	D-269	R-165	0	R-54	D-46	0
1985	R (Reagan)	99th	D-252	R-182	0	R-53	D-47	0
1987	R (Reagan)	100th	D-258	R-177	0	D-55	R-45	0
1989	R (Bush)	101st	D-259	R-174	0	D-55	R-45	0
1991 ⁵	R (Bush)	102nd	D-267	R-167	1	D-56	R-44	0
1993 ⁵	D (Clinton)	103rd	D-258	R-176	1	D-57	R-43	0
1995 ⁵	D (Clinton)	104th	R-230	D-204	1	R-52	D-48	0
1996 ^{5,6}	D (Clinton)	104th	R-236	D-197	1	R-53	D-46	0
1997 ^{5,6}	D (Clinton)	105th	R-227	D-207	1	R-55	D-45	0
1998 ^{5,6}	D (Clinton)	105th	R-227	D-207	1	R-55	D-45	0
1999 ^{5,6}	D (Clinton)	106th	R-223	D-211	1	R-55	D-45	0
2000 ^{5,6}	D (Clinton)	106th	R-223	D-211	1	R-55	D-45	0
2001 ^{6,7,8}	R (Bush)	107th	R-221	D-212	2	R-51	D-49	1

¹Senate had one Independent and one Conservative-Republican. ²House had one Independent-Democrat.

³Senate had one Independent, one Conservative-Republican, and one undecided (New Hampshire).

⁴Senate had one Independent. ⁵House had one Independent-Socialist. ⁶As of beginning of second session.

⁷Senate had one Independent. ⁸House had two Independents.

D = Democratic; R = Republican. Data for beginning of first session of each Congress (as of January 3),

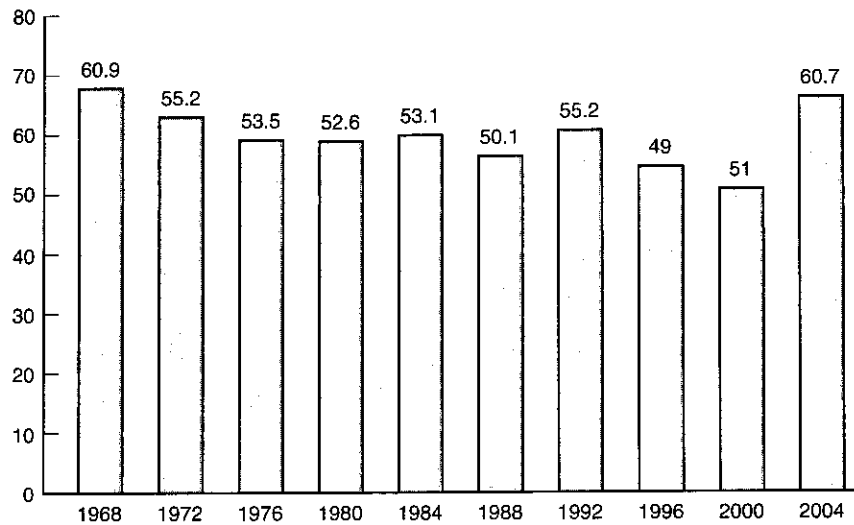
Source: U.S. Congress, Joint Committee on Printing, *Congressional Directory*, annual; beginning 1977, biennial.

28. The table shown on page 400 illustrates what trend regarding the relationship between the party that controlled the presidency and the party that controlled Congress?
- (A) The Republicans controlled both houses of Congress in more terms than they controlled the presidency.
 - (B) The Democrats and Republicans alternated control of Congress in the 1980s.
 - (C) The party that controlled Congress usually controls the presidency.
 - (D) Independents are playing a greater role in the House.
 - (E) Divided government was a dominant feature.
29. The trend of affirmative action programs in the 1990s was to
- (A) require a quota system for college admissions
 - (B) eliminate requirements for federally funded affirmative action programs
 - (C) take race as a factor only in the private sector
 - (D) have Congress increase the number of programs
 - (E) face challenges on the legality of existing laws
30. The “fighting words” doctrine outlined in Supreme Court decisions deals with
- (A) freedom of the press
 - (B) separation of church and state
 - (C) freedom of speech
 - (D) freedom of assembly
 - (E) freedom to petition
31. A major characteristic of independent regulatory agencies is that they are
- (A) quasi-legislative and quasi-judicial in function
 - (B) highly influenced by special interest groups
 - (C) sensitive to the needs of the electorate
 - (D) decreasing in size, scope, and influence
 - (E) minimally influential in determining public policy
32. Which of the following events occurred in the 2000 presidential election?
- (A) The Democrats regained control of the House but not the Senate.
 - (B) The Presidential Commission on Debates ruled that third-party candidates could participate in the three debates.
 - (C) Women determined the outcome of the election.
 - (D) There was a higher percentage of voter turnout than in 1992.
 - (E) The Supreme Court determined the outcome of the election.
33. A trend toward dealignment occurred in the 1990s because
- (A) voters had strong party identification
 - (B) the Motor Voter Law has increased registration for the Democrats and Republicans
 - (C) there was a general mistrust of elected officials
 - (D) the Republicans gained control of Congress in 1994
 - (E) the Freedom of Information act revealed campaign irregularities by the major parties

34. A presidential power that has been challenged by Congress since 1960 is the power to
- (A) commit troops to foreign countries
 - (B) give the State of the Union address
 - (C) appoint cabinet members
 - (D) sign treaties
 - (E) receive ambassadors
35. In 1994, a major difference between a freshman member and a five-term member of the House of Representatives was that the
- (A) freshman was allowed to get committee chairmanship
 - (B) five-term representative could not run for reelection because of term limits
 - (C) freshman representative could not offer amendments to proposed bills
 - (D) five-term representative had fewer opportunities to receive PAC money
 - (E) freshman representative had strong convictions and was less likely to compromise
36. The concept of one man, one vote as outlined in the *Baker v Carr* Supreme Court decision applies to elections for
- (A) United States senator
 - (B) president
 - (C) federal judges
 - (D) state legislatures
 - (E) governors
37. The original intent of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court was to
- (A) force the states to follow the Bill of Rights
 - (B) provide equal protection under the law for freed slaves
 - (C) expand voting for women
 - (D) give states the right to pass laws that guaranteed separate but equal status to their citizens
 - (E) enable Congress to pass affirmative action legislation
38. Historically, the approval rating of the president usually
- (A) remains around 50 percent during his entire term
 - (B) fluctuates depending on his response to national and international problems
 - (C) is lowest during times of war
 - (D) is highest toward the end of his presidency
 - (E) depends on the kind of media coverage he gets
39. All of the following steps are characteristic of the lawmaking process EXCEPT:
- (A) Revenue bills must start in the Senate.
 - (B) Conference committees resolve differences between bills.
 - (C) Filibusters in the Senate are used to stop bills from coming to a vote.
 - (D) Each House has standing committees that mark up legislation.
 - (E) A roll call vote indicates the positions taken by congressmen.

40. The use of racial quotas was made illegal in the United States as a direct result of the
- (A) Supreme Court decision in *University of California v Bakke*
 - (B) Supreme Court decision in *Brown v Board of Education of Topeka*
 - (C) Proposition 209—The California Civil Rights Initiative
 - (D) Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - (E) affirmative action programs created by individual states
41. A primary election in which voters from one political party can cross over to express their choice for a candidate from another party is called
- (A) a closed primary
 - (B) an open caucus
 - (C) a nonbinding primary
 - (D) an open primary
 - (E) a dual primary
42. Which of the following resulted from the 2004 election?
- (A) The Democrats made electoral inroads in the South.
 - (B) The Republicans maintained their majority in the House and Senate.
 - (C) Voter turnout decreased compared to 2000.
 - (D) Third-party candidates disappeared from the political scene.
 - (E) The Democrats assumed control of a majority of state governorships.
43. Congressional oversight committees have the main purpose of
- (A) reviewing governmental operations
 - (B) drafting appropriation bills
 - (C) holding impeachment hearings
 - (D) establishing time limits for debates
 - (E) writing constitutional amendments
44. A criticism of the United States census is that it
- (A) favors large cities over suburban areas
 - (B) costs the taxpayer too much money
 - (C) is held too frequently
 - (D) is biased toward the party who controls Congress
 - (E) does not take into account the homeless

Percent of People Ages 18 and Older Who Voted in the U.S.
Presidential Election, 1968 to 2004



45. According to the graph, which statement is true about voter turnout in presidential elections?
- Turnout is greatest when the country is at peace.
 - Turnout is lowest in elections where there is a landslide.
 - Turnout is determined by the number of candidates running for president.
 - Turnout is lower after presidential scandals.
 - Turnout is increased when a president wins a second term.
46. The president and Congress have all of the following powers in dealing with proposed legislation EXCEPT:
- The president may exercise a line item veto on appropriation bills.
 - The House and Senate may not send different versions of the same bill to the president for consideration.
 - The president has the authority to hold on to legislation after Congress adjourns without signing it.
 - The president may issue a veto after receiving legislation passed by both houses of Congress.
 - Congress may override a presidential veto by a two-thirds vote of each house.
47. Campaign finance reform advocacy groups such as Common Cause favor
- a ban on soft money
 - the elimination of any free television time for candidates
 - an increase in the amount of money that labor unions can give to both parties
 - special interest groups financing congressional campaigns
 - greater use of personal funds by presidential candidates

48. Supreme Court decisions in the 1990s related to the separation of church and state reflect the Court's approval of
- (A) greater government support for the accommodation of religion in public schools
 - (B) the use of school vouchers for tax deductions
 - (C) the limited right to have silent prayer in public schools
 - (D) a complete ban on religious symbols in schools
 - (E) the right to have clergy speak at school graduation
49. When apportionment becomes a political tool, it is called
- (A) census taking
 - (B) gerrymandering
 - (C) equal representation under the law
 - (D) single district representation
 - (E) multidistrict representation
50. What kind of political action committee would most likely support Democratic candidates?
- (A) Tobacco corporations
 - (B) Labor unions
 - (C) Gun advocacy groups
 - (D) Business corporations
 - (E) The Chamber of Commerce
51. All of the following powers are granted to Congress by the Constitution EXCEPT the power to
- (A) collect taxes
 - (B) declare war
 - (C) appoint judges
 - (D) regulate interstate commerce
 - (E) create inferior courts
52. Which of the following provisions of the Republican Contract With America had the goal of reforming the Congress?
- (A) The balanced budget amendment to the Constitution
 - (B) The Welfare Reform Act
 - (C) Term limit amendment to the Constitution
 - (D) Regulatory reform
 - (E) Legal reform
53. Which of the following is a provision of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Act?
- (A) A time line of procedural steps the Congress had to take to pass the budget.
 - (B) Authority given to the Congressional Budget Office to delete items from the proposed budget.
 - (C) A balanced budget by the year 2002.
 - (D) The power given to Congress to stop mandatory spending after the budget is signed into law.
 - (E) The ability of the president to have a line item veto.

54. Which of the following events occurs first during the impeachment of a president?
- (A) A media frenzy forces the House to vote to impeach the president.
 - (B) The House Judiciary Committee votes on articles of impeachment.
 - (C) A special prosecutor issues a report to Congress.
 - (D) The Senate Judiciary Committee votes on articles of impeachment.
 - (E) The Supreme Court rules on the guilt or innocence of the president.
55. Southern states that created “majority-minority” congressional districts did so because they were
- (A) directed to do so by the Supreme Court
 - (B) attempting to abide by the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - (C) hopeful that African-Americans would vote Republican
 - (D) confident that white candidates would be given an advantage over African-Americans
 - (E) responding to an executive order of the president
56. Liberal activists would probably support which of the following rulings made by the Supreme Court?
- (A) An abortion case that ruled there should be a 24-hour waiting period before a woman could get an abortion
 - (B) A search and seizure case limiting the *Miranda* restrictions placed on the police
 - (C) A death penalty habeas corpus appeal to the federal courts which was turned down
 - (D) A free speech case where a provision of a congressional act restricting access to obscene sites on the Internet was declared unconstitutional
 - (E) A free press case giving school officials greater latitude in censoring school newspapers
57. A strong federal system of government has which of the following components?
- (A) A central government dominated by the states
 - (B) Different levels of government unified by a central government
 - (C) Three branches of government each having separate powers
 - (D) A parliament with a prime minister as head of the government
 - (E) A loosely bound union of states
58. According to the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, what happens if a president is disabled when serving in office?
- (A) The House and Senate must vote to allow the vice president to assume power.
 - (B) The first lady is given temporary power to govern.
 - (C) The Supreme Court decides when the vice president can take over the office.
 - (D) After the cabinet makes a declaration of the president’s incapacity to govern, the vice president becomes president.
 - (E) There is a special election held to determine who will be the next president.

59. The Supreme Court has determined that racial gerrymandering is unconstitutional because it
- (A) violates the reserve power clause of the Constitution
 - (B) deprives elected representatives of their property right
 - (C) ignores the one man, one vote principle of a previous Supreme Court ruling
 - (D) violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment
 - (E) extends affirmative action to a point which goes beyond the intent of the Voting Rights Act of 1965
60. Which of the following is a significant presidential foreign policy action taken during the 1990s?
- (A) The isolation of China from the rest of the world community
 - (B) Senate ratification of the Kyoto treaty on global warming
 - (C) United States participation in trade agreements like NAFTA
 - (D) Senate ratification of a comprehensive chemical weapons treaty
 - (E) Forcing NATO to provide peacekeeping troops in Bosnia



This is the end of Section 1.

SECTION 2: FREE-RESPONSE ESSAYS

TIME: 100 MINUTES (SUGGESTED TIME: 25 MINUTES PER ESSAY)

SECTION 2 IS WORTH 50 PERCENT OF THE TEST.

Directions: Answer *all four* of the following questions in 100 minutes. Each essay should take you 25 minutes, so plan your time accordingly. The questions are based on your knowledge of United States government and politics, and questions may contain materials from charts, graphs, and tables, which you will have to analyze and draw conclusions from. Make sure that you give specific and sufficient information and examples in your essays. Please number them clearly on your answer sheet.

1. As a result of serious fund-raising abuses in 1996, public opinion strongly favored campaign finance reform. In 2002 the McCain-Feingold bill, formally known as the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act, was signed into law by President George W. Bush. The law was immediately challenged. The Supreme Court ruled on the constitutionality of the law in 2003.
 - (a) Describe two campaign finance abuses that led to the passage of the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act.
 - (b) For each abuse described in (a), list the remedy achieved by the passage of the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act.
 - (c) For each remedy described in (b), explain whether the Supreme Court ruled that provision constitutional or unconstitutional.
2. The United States has a representative form of government. Yet in many states, people vote directly on legislative proposals through a process of initiative and referendum.
 - (a) Define how the process of initiative and referendum works.
 - (b) Apply this definition to Proposition 209—The California Civil Rights Initiative and describe its legislative history.
 - (c) Discuss a constitutional question that the proposition raised in the courts and describe the proposition's impact.
3. The electoral college has come under much criticism following the disputed 2000 presidential election.
 - (a) Identify and explain the process used by the electoral college in choosing a president.
 - (b) Describe two problems with the electoral process resulting from the 2000 presidential election.
 - (c) Discuss one reform that has been suggested to overhaul the electoral college.

**MEMBERS OF CONGRESS—SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS:
1981 TO 1999**

[As of beginning of first session of each Congress, (January 3). Figures for Representatives exclude vacancies]

Members of congress and year						Age ⁴ (in years)					Seniority ⁵				
	Male	Fe- male	Black ¹	API ²	His- panic ³	Under 40	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 and over	Less than 2 yrs.	2 to 9 yrs.	10 to 19 yrs.	20 to 29 yrs.	30 yrs. or more
REPRESENTATIVES															
97th Cong., 1981. . . .	416	19	⁶ 17	3	6	94	142	132	54	13	77	231	96	23	8
98th Cong., 1983. . . .	413	21	⁶ 21	3	8	86	145	132	57	14	83	224	88	28	11
99th Cong., 1985. . . .	412	22	⁷ 20	3	10	71	154	131	59	19	49	237	104	34	10
100th Cong., 1987. . . .	412	23	⁷ 23	4	11	63	153	137	56	26	51	221	114	37	12
101st Cong., 1989. . . .	408	25	⁷ 24	5	10	41	163	133	74	22	39	207	139	35	13
102d Cong., 1991. . . .	407	28	⁷ 26	3	11	39	152	134	86	24	55	178	147	44	11
103d Cong., 1993 ⁸	388	47	⁷ 38	4	17	47	151	128	89	15	118	141	132	32	12
104th Cong., 1995. . . .	388	47	⁹ 40	4	17	53	155	135	79	13	92	188	110	36	9
106th Cong., 1999. . . .	379	56	⁹ 39	(NA)	(NA)	23	116	173	87	35	41	236	104	46	7
SENATORS															
97th Cong., 1981. . . .	98	2	-	3	-	9	35	36	14	6	19	51	17	11	2
98th Cong., 1983. . . .	98	2	-	2	-	7	28	39	20	6	5	61	21	10	3
99th Cong., 1985. . . .	98	2	-	2	-	4	27	38	25	6	8	56	27	7	2
100th Cong., 1987. . . .	98	2	-	2	-	5	30	36	22	7	4	41	36	7	2
101st Cong., 1989. . . .	98	2	-	2	-	-	30	40	22	8	23	22	43	10	2
102d Cong., 1991. . . .	98	2	-	2	-	-	23	46	21	7	5	31	47	10	4
103d Cong., 1993 ⁸	93	7	1	2	-	1	16	48	22	12	15	30	39	11	5
104th Cong., 1995. . . .	92	8	1	2	-	1	14	41	27	17	12	38	30	15	5
106th Cong., 1999. . . .	91	9	-	(NA)	(NA)	-	14	38	35	13	8	39	33	14	6

- Represents zero. NA Not available. ¹ Source: Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Washington, DC, *Black Elected Officials: Statistical Summary*, annual (copyright). ² Asians and Pacific Islanders. Source: Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, "Asian Pacific Americans in the United States Congress," Report 94-767GOV. ³ Source: National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, Washington, DC, *National Roster of Hispanic Elected Officials*, annual. ⁴ Some members do not provide date of birth. ⁵ Represents consecutive years of service. ⁶ Does not include District of Columbia or Virgin Islands delegate. ⁷ Includes District of Columbia Delegate but not Virgin Islands delegate. ⁸ Includes members elected to fill vacant seats through June 14, 1993. ⁹ Includes District of Columbia and Virgin Islands delegate.

Source: Except as noted, compiled by U.S. Census Bureau from data published in *Congressional Directory*, biennial.

4. This table shows selected characteristics of the members of Congress from 1981 to 1999. From this information and your knowledge of United States politics:
- identify three characteristics indicated in the table.
 - for each characteristic chosen, discuss the changes in the make-up of Congress during the time period indicated.
 - analyze the impact that these characteristics have had on Congress.