

# AP U.S. Government & Politics Practice Exam

## Section I (Multiple-Choice Questions)

Time—45 minutes

60 Questions

Directions: There are five possible answer choices for each question or incomplete statement. Choose the one answer choice that best answers the question or completes the statement.

1. Until the Constitution was ratified, the document that established and defined the government of the United States was the
  - A. Declaration of Independence
  - B. Bill of Rights
  - C. Mayflower Compact
  - D. Articles of Confederation
  - E. Treaty of Friendship and Unity

2. Which of the following statements is NOT true of the Supreme Court's decision in *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819)?
- A. It held that state governments could pass a law negating a federal law within their boundaries if they believed the federal law was unconstitutional.
  - B. It confirmed the supremacy of the federal government over state governments.
  - C. It determined that states could not levy taxes on federal government operations.
  - D. It interpreted the "necessary and proper" powers clause of the Constitution to mean that the federal government has implied powers not specifically stated in the Constitution.
  - E. It upheld the constitutionality of the national bank established by the federal government.
3. Which of the following is a clause of the Constitution that gives the federal government broad powers in many policy areas?
- A. Interstate Commerce Clause
  - B. Tenth Amendment
  - C. Free-Exercise Clause
  - D. Establishment Clause
  - E. Fiscal Federalism Clause

4. While the practice of separate schools for black and white students was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), segregation in restaurants, stores, hotels, and other public accommodations remained legal until
- A. the Supreme Court's decision in *Loving v. Virginia* (1967)
  - B. the ratification of the Twenty-Fourth Amendment (1964)
  - C. the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
  - D. state legislatures eventually changed the laws permitting segregation
  - E. President Lyndon Johnson issued an executive order ending all segregation by race
5. Which is a reason the power of the two major parties is in decline in the United States?
- A. The number of people voting for third parties has risen sharply.
  - B. In most states, parties no longer select the candidates for the general election.
  - C. Parties no longer have state and local organizations.
  - D. Parties no longer conduct get-out-the-vote drives.
  - E. Candidates now raise most of their campaign funds themselves and do not heavily rely on funds from their party.
6. The Supreme Court's power of judicial review was established by
- A. the Bill of Rights
  - B. the Constitution
  - C. the Court's decision in *Griswold v. Connecticut*
  - D. the Court's decision in *Marbury v. Madison*
  - E. the Court's decision in *Gibbons v. Ogden*

7. Which one of the following groups is MOST likely to participate in an election?
- A. African Americans
  - B. people with college degrees
  - C. Hispanic voters
  - D. people under age 35
  - E. people in households with below-average income
8. A filibuster occurs when
- A. a majority of either the House of Representatives or the Senate support a bill but cannot get the two-thirds majority needed for cloture to end debate and vote
  - B. the Senate and House cannot agree on final language for legislation both houses have passed in different versions, and debate continues endlessly
  - C. the president announces he will veto a bill, but a group of senators keep the bill alive by continuing to debate it
  - D. a senator or small group of senators want to draw public attention to bill so it will gain support and pass
  - E. a majority the Senate supports a bill, but the majority is not large enough to produce the 60 votes needed to end debate on the bill in the Senate

9. Which of the following actions of the president has no basis in the Constitution?
- issuing executive orders
  - serving as leader of his political party
  - stationing U.S. troops at bases abroad
  - negotiating free trade agreements with other countries
  - proposing legislation to Congress

FEDERAL JOBS HELD BY AFRICAN AMERICANS,  
WOMEN, AND HISPANICS

|                                       | <i>African Americans</i> |      | <i>Women</i> |      | <i>Hispanics</i> |      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|------|--------------|------|------------------|------|
|                                       | 1982                     | 2002 | 1982         | 2002 | 1982             | 2002 |
| <i>Lowest Ranking Jobs (GS 1-4)</i>   | 23%                      | 28%  | 78%          | 69%  | 5%               | 8%   |
| <i>Highest Ranking Jobs (GS13-15)</i> | 5%                       | 10%  | 5%           | 32%  | 2%               | 4%   |

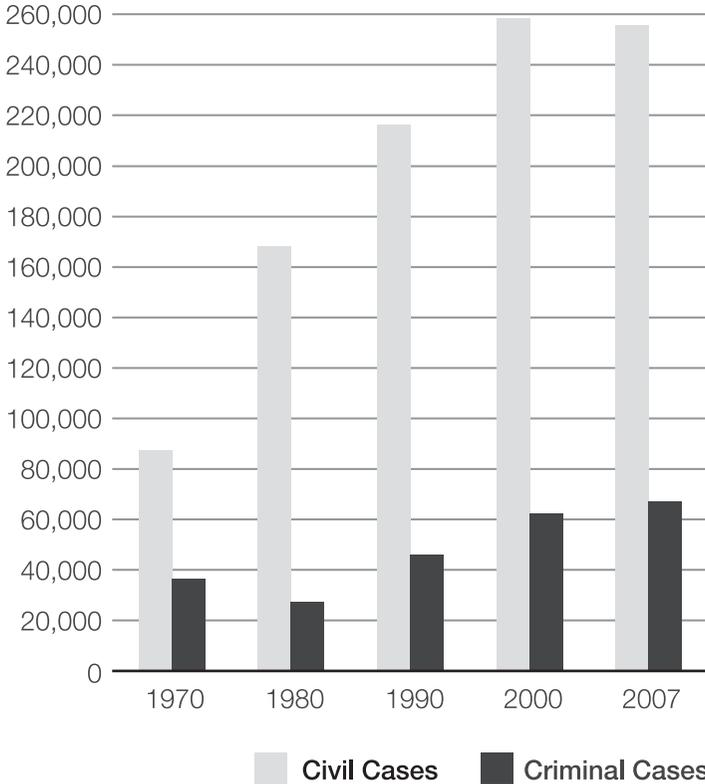
Source: U.S. Government, Office of Personnel Management

10. Which of the following statements is NOT supported by the data in the table above?
- While women held more of the higher-level federal jobs in 2002 than in 1982, the share of the lower-level jobs held by women actually declined.
  - Between 1982 and 2002, women have made more progress than blacks and Hispanics in increasing the number of higher-level jobs they hold in government.
  - Both Hispanics and African Americans doubled their share of higher-level jobs in the federal government between 1982 and 2002.
  - The share of federal jobs at both the highest and lowest levels held by African Americans and Hispanics has increased between 1982 and 2002.
  - The percentage of federal jobs held by women increased between 1982 and 2002.

11. Which of the following is an independent federal regulatory agency?
- A. U.S. Postal Service (USPS)
  - B. FBI
  - C. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
  - D. Department of Veterans Affairs
  - E. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
12. Which of the following outcomes are NOT possible in the Electoral College system?
- A. The Electoral College could choose a president who did not have the most electoral votes.
  - B. The House of Representatives could choose the president.
  - C. The Electoral College could choose a president who did not get the most votes of the people.
  - D. The Electoral College could choose a president who did not win the most states.
  - E. Some electors could vote for a third-party candidate for president.

13. The Supreme Court's decision in *Texas v. Johnson*, which overturned a state law against flag-burning, was based on
- A. the First Amendment right to peacefully assemble to protest
  - B. The Free-Exercise Clause of the First Amendment
  - C. the First Amendment right of freedom of speech
  - D. the restrictions on search and seizure of the Fourth Amendment
  - E. the establishment clause of the First Amendment
14. Which statement best describes American political culture?
- A. The dominant political culture depends on which political party is in power.
  - B. Due to its ethnic diversity, there are different political cultures in the United States.
  - C. American political culture is a melting pot of different political ideals from around the world.
  - D. Liberals and conservatives in the United States have different political cultures.
  - E. The American political culture is comprised of beliefs—such as individual rights, majority rule, and limited government—that are shared by virtually all Americans.

### CASES BEFORE U.S. DISTRICT COURTS



Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

15. Which of the following statements best summarizes the data shown in the line graph above?
- U.S. District Courts have original jurisdiction in both federal civil and criminal cases.
  - U.S. District Courts are being overwhelmed with frivolous lawsuits.
  - The crime rate is on the rise throughout the United States
  - Both federal civil and criminal cases have increased dramatically since 1970, with the greatest increase in civil cases.
  - The number of civil and criminal cases dealt with in the federal court system increases every year.

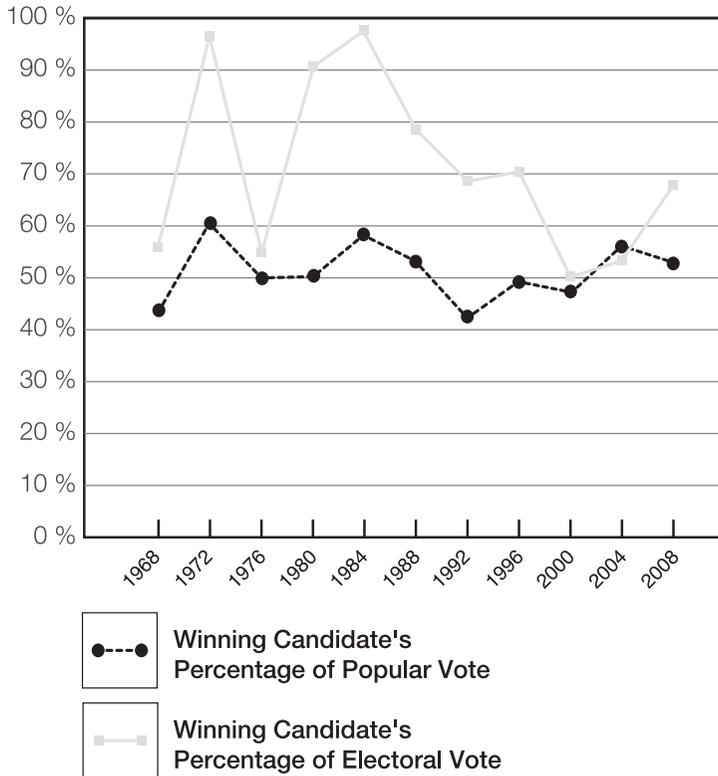
16. Which of the following is a concurrent power in the American system of federalism?
- A. the power to make treaties with foreign governments
  - B. the power to levy taxes
  - C. the power to make monetary policy
  - D. the power to establish local governments (cities, counties, school districts, etc.)
  - E. the power to regulate interstate commerce
17. The House of Representatives and the Senate are most similar to each other in
- A. the checks they have on the power of the president
  - B. the way they select their presiding officer
  - C. the number of members they have
  - D. the power standing committees have in the legislative process
  - E. the power of the Rules Committee to set the rules for floor debate
18. Which of the following give(s) a reason why the power of the federal government has grown relative to state governments?
- I. the devolution of power
  - II. the conditional funding the federal government can provide to state governments
  - III. the growth of interstate commerce
  - IV. the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution
- A. statement I only
  - B. statements II and IV only
  - C. statements III and IV only
  - D. statements II, III, and IV only
  - E. statements I, II, III, and IV

19. What is an open seat in a congressional election?
- A. a seat in a congressional district that is evenly divided between Republican and Democratic voters, making it likely that either party could win
  - B. a seat in which redistricting has redefined the district's boundaries in a way to make it unfavorable to the reelection of the incumbent
  - C. a seat for which there is no incumbent running
  - D. a seat where the incumbent has been accused of a crime and is unlikely to win reelection
  - E. a seat where the incumbent belongs to a different party than the majority of his/her constituents
20. Which one of the following does NOT describe a reason why Congress generally fails to perform the function of national leader as the Constitutional Convention intended?
- A. Congress is usually slow to act.
  - B. Congress is often gridlocked and can't agree on action.
  - C. Congress has little actual power.
  - D. No one in Congress represents the country as a whole.
  - E. Congressional leadership is divided among a number of people.
21. The main function of the president's cabinet is
- A. to put together the federal budget and submit it to Congress
  - B. to write federal regulations
  - C. to provide advice to the president
  - D. to provide leadership in the event the president is unable to perform his duties
  - E. to provide information regarding proposed legislation by testifying before Congress

22. Which statement correctly describes political socialization?
- A. Political socialization motivates citizens to become active in politics.
  - B. Political socialization tends to produce citizens more inclined to accept socialistic programs as they get older.
  - C. Political socialization is a continuing process in which the adult years are the most important.
  - D. Political socialization is the term used to describe the growth of entitlement programs.
  - E. Political socialization is the process through which individuals develop their political values and beliefs.
23. Which of the statements below best describes reapportionment?
- A. the redrawing of congressional districts by the House of Representatives based on a new census
  - B. the redrawing of congressional districts by state governments based on a new census
  - C. the reallocation of seats in the Senate and House of Representatives based on a new census
  - D. the reallocation of seats in the House of Representatives to the states based on a new census
  - E. the reallocation of seats on committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate between the two parties based on the most recent election.
24. The concept that the American political process is dominated by the struggle of multiple interest groups each trying to advance its own political goals can best be described as
- A. democracy
  - B. pluralism
  - C. free enterprise
  - D. socialism
  - E. elitism

25. Which of the following statements correctly describe(s) the data shown in the line graph?
- I. During the time period shown, the electoral vote of the winning candidate has fluctuated markedly above and below the popular vote the candidate obtained.
  - II. Winning candidates have sometimes gotten less than half of the popular vote and still obtained a majority of the electoral vote.
  - III. In three elections since 1968, the winning candidate has gotten more than 90 percent of the electoral vote.
- A. statement I only
  - B. statement II only
  - C. statements I and II only
  - D. statements II and III only
  - E. statements I, II, and III
26. Which of the following is NOT a check on the power of the president that the Constitution gives Congress?
- A. Congress can pass a law the president has vetoed.
  - B. Congress can reject the president's selections of people to fill key positions in the Executive Office of the President.
  - C. Congress can reject a treaty the president has negotiated.
  - D. Congress can refuse to fund a program the president supports.
  - E. Congress can reject the president's nominees for federal judges.

### POPULAR AND ELECTORAL VOTE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS



Source: U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Clerk

27. Which of the following is NOT a step in the process of passing the annual federal budget?
- Federal agencies submit their budget requests directly to Congress.
  - The Office of Management and Budget reviews the budget requests of the various federal agencies.
  - The appropriations committees in the House and the Senate consider the proposed budget.
  - The budget committees in the House and Senate consider the proposed budget.
  - The president signs or vetoes the various appropriations bills passed by Congress.

28. The main reason why the popular vote and the electoral vote for president may be very different is
- A. the prevalence of horse-trading and corruption in American politics
  - B. the candidates focus their campaigns only on a few swing states
  - C. small states have more power in the Electoral College than their population would merit
  - D. electors often switch votes to vote for the winning candidate to gain political influence and advance their careers
  - E. the winner-take-all system most states use in selecting electors
29. The decision of the Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* was based on
- A. the Free-Exercise Clause of the First Amendment
  - B. the right to privacy stated in the Bill of Rights
  - C. the right to privacy implied in the Bill of Rights
  - D. the right to privacy established in *Lawrence v. Texas*
  - E. the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment
30. Which of the following federal courts have/has original jurisdiction?
- A. The Supreme Court and U.S. District Courts
  - B. U.S. District Courts and U.S. Courts of Appeal
  - C. U.S. Courts of Appeal only
  - D. U.S. District Courts only
  - E. State supreme courts
31. The “Elastic Clause” of the Constitution
- A. held the union together by setting up a bicameral Congress—a compromise between large and small states that allowed equal representation in one house and representation based on population in the other house
  - B. provides that a state’s representation in Congress will go up or down every ten years based on a new national census

- C. gives the president the authority to assume greater power in a time of war
  - D. states that powers not specifically given to the national government are reserved to the states or the people
  - E. states that the national government's powers include implied powers not specifically listed in the Constitution
32. The chief accomplishment of the Anti-Federalists in the debate over the Constitution was the
- A. Great Compromise creating a bicameral legislative branch
  - B. the establishment of a national bank
  - C. the addition of the Bill of Rights to the Constitution
  - D. the precedent established by George Washington that the president should be limited to two terms in office
  - E. the establishment of the system of electoral votes to select the president, rather than the people themselves
33. Which statement below best describes an open primary?
- A. The election is open to all candidates who want on the ballot, not just those approved by the party leadership.
  - B. Voters can cross party lines voting for candidates of different parties in the primary election.
  - C. The voting booths are open and the secret ballot is not used.
  - D. It is a primary election in which voters can vote during a specified period of time rather than just on Election Day.
  - E. Voters can choose which party's primary election ballot they want to use to vote.

34. Which one of the following statements does NOT correctly describe administrative law?
- A. Administrative law is law written by federal agencies rather than Congress.
  - B. Administrative law does not have the full force of law that statutory law has.
  - C. Administrative law can be overturned by the Supreme Court.
  - D. Congress can overturn administrative law by passing statutory laws.
  - E. Administrative law is written to carry out or enforce statutory laws.
35. What role does Congress play in amending the Constitution?
- A. Congress submits amendments to the states for their approval.
  - B. Congress approves or rejects amendments supported by two-thirds of the states.
  - C. The Senate approves proposed amendments by a two-thirds vote, but the House plays little role in the process.
  - D. Congress passes amendments by a two-thirds vote, sending them to the president for his signature or veto.
  - E. Congress plays no formal role; the Constitution is amended by the states.

## CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Federal Employees<br/>(in thousands)</i> | <i>Percent of U.S.<br/>Labor Force</i> |
|-------------|---|--|
| 1970        | 2,997                                       | 3.81                                   |
| 1975        | 2,877                                       | 3.35                                   |
| 1980        | 2,987                                       | 3.01                                   |
| 1985        | 3,001                                       | 2.80                                   |
| 1990        | 3,233                                       | 2.72                                   |
| 1995        | 2,943                                       | 2.36                                   |
| 2000        | 2,879                                       | 2.10                                   |
| 2005        | 2,709                                       | 1.91                                   |
| 2008        | 2,730                                       | 1.88                                   |

Source: U.S. Government, Office of Personnel Management

36. Which of the following statements are (is) supported by the data in the table above?
- I. The size of the federal government in terms of number of federal employees continues to grow.
  - II. The size of the federal government in terms of number of employees declined between 1970 and 2008.
  - III. The number of federal government employees has declined each year since 1990.
  - IV. Federal government workers in 2008 comprised less than half the share of the U.S. labor force that they did in 1970.
- A. statement I only
  - B. statement II only
  - C. statement IV only
  - D. statements II and III only
  - E. statements II and IV only

37. In a congressional race, the news media are LEAST likely to focus on
- A. which candidate is ahead in the polls
  - B. in-depth reporting on the issues on which the candidates disagree
  - C. negative statements made by one candidate about the other
  - D. any scandal or accusations of scandal involving a candidate
  - E. blunders a candidate makes
38. What is grassroots lobbying?
- A. an interest group encouraging and organizing its members to contact their representatives in Congress in support of the interest group's policy goals
  - B. a public relations campaign an interest group undertakes to change the opinions of ordinary citizens
  - C. an effort by an interest group to increase its membership
  - D. lobbying by community groups when no national interest group has been formed
  - E. a campaign by the interest group's members to change the position of the interest group's leadership on proposed legislation
39. Which one of the following statements does NOT help explain why incumbents in the House of Representatives usually get reelected?
- A. Incumbents can take credit for bringing federal projects to their district.
  - B. Incumbents usually have better name recognition since they've been on the ballot before.
  - C. Incumbents have had time to build support through constituent service.
  - D. Incumbents almost always reflect the views of their constituents better than challengers.
  - E. Incumbents have a fund-raising advantage.

**OUTLAYS FOR GRANTS TO STATE AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENTS (IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)**

| <b>Program Areas</b>  | <b>1990</b>    | <b>1995</b>    | <b>2000</b>    | <b>2005</b>    | <b>2009 (est)</b> |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <i>Energy</i>   | 461            | 492            | 433            | 636            | 1,455             |
| <i>Natural resources and environment</i>                    | 3,745          | 3,985          | 4,595          | 5,858          | 6,240             |
| <i>Agriculture</i>  | 1,285          | 780            | 724            | 933            | 1,016             |
| <i>Transportation</i>                                       | 19,174         | 25,787         | 32,222         | 43,368         | 62,735            |
| <i>Community and regional development</i>                   | 4,965          | 7,230          | 8,665          | 20,167         | 21,801            |
| <i>Homeland Security</i>                                    | 1,184          | 1,772          | 2,439          | 13,541         | 10,597            |
| <i>Education, training, employment, and social services</i> | 21,780         | 30,881         | 36,672         | 57,247         | 69,627            |
| <i>Health</i>   | 43,890         | 93,587         | 124,843        | 197,848        | 281,244           |
| <i>Income security</i>                                      | 36,768         | 58,366         | 68,653         | 90,885         | 108,942           |
| <i>Veterans benefits and services</i>                       | 134            | 253            | 434            | 552            | 807               |
| <i>Administration of justice</i>                            | 574            | 1,222          | 5,263          | 4,784          | 6,378             |
| <b>Total outlays for grants</b>                             | <b>135,325</b> | <b>224,991</b> | <b>285,874</b> | <b>428,018</b> | <b>567,823</b>    |

Source: U. S. Office of Management and Budget

40. Which one of the following statements is best supported by the data in the table above?
- Between 1990 and 2009, federal grants to state and local governments increased in all program areas shown in the table.
  - Total federal grants to state and local governments increased fivefold between 1990 and 2009.
  - In 2009, nearly half of all federal grants to state and local governments were in the category of health.
  - Between 1990 and 2009 federal grants in most program areas experienced dramatic increases, with several categories exceeding increases of 1,000 percent (10 times).
  - Between 1990 and 2009, federal grants to state and local governments in the category of energy increased every year.

41. What new interpretation of the Constitution did the Supreme Court use in *District of Columbia v. Heller*?
- A. The Second Amendment prohibits state and federal governments from requiring the registration of firearms.
  - B. Federal and state laws restricting some people, such as convicted felons from purchasing guns, violate the Second Amendment.
  - C. The wording of the Second Amendment means that the constitutional right to gun ownership applies only to people serving in a state militia.
  - D. The Second Amendment contains a constitutional right to gun ownership irrespective of service in a state militia.
  - E. The right of privacy implied in the Bill of Rights extends to carrying of guns in public places.
42. Which one of the following is an action that does NOT involve participation in the political process?
- A. creating a blog to write about politics
  - B. contacting a senator to get help in getting a veteran's benefit that you believe you are entitled to
  - C. reading about politics in the newspaper
  - D. giving money to a PAC
  - E. signing a petition on the Internet supporting the repeal of a law
43. The most important influence in determining a person's political party identification is the person's
- A. friends
  - B. parents
  - C. colleagues at work
  - D. teachers
  - E. religious leaders

44. The president can influence legislation under consideration by Congress by all of the following actions EXCEPT
- speaking out to influence public opinion
  - talking to members of Congress and applying political pressure
  - threatening to veto legislation unless certain changes are made
  - sending key members of his staff or cabinet to testify before Congress or speak to the press in support of the president's position
  - threatening to issue an executive order that would prohibit enforcement of the legislation if it is passed

#### THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL DEFENSE SPENDING

| Year       | Defense Spending (billions of current dollars) | As % of Federal Spending | As % of Gross Domestic Product | Defense Spending (billions of 2000 dollars) |
|------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1960       | 48.1   | 52.2%                    | 9.3%                           | 300.2                                       |
| 1970       | 81.7   | 41.8%                    | 8.7%                           | 375.1                                       |
| 1980       | 134.0  | 22.7%                    | 4.9%                           | 267.1                                       |
| 1990       | 299.3  | 23.9%                    | 5.2%                           | 382.7                                       |
| 2000       | 294.4  | 16.5%                    | 3.0%                           | 294.4                                       |
| 2010 (est) | 712.9  | 19.9%                    | 4.8%                           | 522.2                                       |

Source: U.S. Government, Office of Management and Budget

45. Which of the following statements is best supported by the data in the table above?
- Adjusted for inflation, defense spending more than doubled between 1960 and 2010.
  - Defense spending, measured in current dollars, increased during each ten-year period shown in the table.
  - Between 1990 and 2010 defense spending increased by all measures shown in the table.
  - Between 1960 and 2010, defense spending decreased from over half of total federal spending to less than one-fifth.
  - As a percentage of GDP, defense spending in 2010 was the lowest ever during the period shown in the chart.

46. What is the purpose of congressional earmarks?
- A. to require the government to spend money on a specific project
  - B. to provide the funding required for entitlement programs
  - C. to provide a tax loophole for a specific corporation
  - D. to allow for deficit spending rather than balancing the federal budget
  - E. to give the president more discretionary funds that can be channeled to where the money is most needed
47. Which of the following is a value of American political culture?
- A. the belief in limited government
  - B. the belief that the government has grown too big
  - C. the belief that the government spends too much on entitlement programs
  - D. the belief that government needs to do more to control big corporations
  - E. the opinion that the U.S. border with Mexico is not secure

#### VOTES CAST FOR LEADING THIRD-PARTY CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

| <i>Election Year</i> | <i>Leading Third-Party Candidate</i> | <i>Popular Vote (thousands)</i> | <i>Percentage of Popular Vote</i> | <i>Electoral Vote</i> | <i>Percentage of Electoral Vote</i> |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1948                 | <i>Strom Thurmond</i>                | 1,169                           | 2.4%                              | 39                    | 7.3%                                |
| 1968                 | <i>George Wallace</i>                | 9,446                           | 12.9%                             | 46                    | 8.6%                                |
| 1980                 | <i>John Anderson</i>                 | 5,251                           | 6.1%                              | 0                     | 0.0%                                |
| 1992                 | <i>H. Ross Perot</i>                 | 19,722                          | 18.9%                             | 0                     | 0.0%                                |
| 1996                 | <i>H. Ross Perot</i>                 | 7,137                           | 7.4%                              | 0                     | 0.0%                                |
| 2000                 | <i>Ralph Nader</i>                   | 2,530                           | 2.4%                              | 0                     | 0.0%                                |

Source: U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Clerk

48. Which of the following statements is NOT supported by the data in the table on the previous page?
- A. Third party candidates for president have little chance of winning.
  - B. Third party candidates for president, even when they win nearly 20 percent of the popular vote, may not get any electoral votes.
  - C. Third party candidates can never get enough electoral votes to play a role in selecting the president.
  - D. Third parties and third party candidates seldom remain a long-term force in American politics.
  - E. Third party candidates periodically emerge that get over 5 percent of the popular vote.
49. In which landmark Supreme Court decision was the right to an attorney extended to require the government to provide lawyers for indigent defendants in state courts?
- A. *Miranda v. Arizona*
  - B. *Gideon v. Wainwright*
  - C. *Engle v. Vitale*
  - D. *Baker v. Carr*
  - E. *Mapp v. Ohio*
50. To influence the Judicial Branch of the U.S. government, an interest group can do all of the following EXCEPT
- A. file an amicus curiae brief
  - B. lobby the Senate in opposition to a nominee for the Supreme Court
  - C. file a lawsuit
  - D. meet privately with a federal judge regarding a case
  - E. meet with the president to discuss possible nominees to the Supreme Court

51. According to the term limits imposed by the Constitution

- A. The president cannot be elected to the office of the president more than twice.
- B. The president and vice president cannot serve more than two terms in office.
- C. The president and his cabinet cannot serve more than eight years in office.
- D. The president cannot be elected to more than four terms of office (as Franklin Roosevelt was).
- E. There are no limits on the number of terms a president may serve but by tradition, since George Washington's refusal to serve a third term, presidents only serve two terms.

CAMPAIGN SPENDING BY HOUSE CANDIDATES

|                      | 2004 Election | 2006 Election | 2008 Election |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | 660.3         | 854.8         | 929.9         |
| <i>Democrats</i>     | 288.5         | 395.5         | 491.0         |
| <i>Republicans</i>   | 370.0         | 455.2         | 435.6         |
| <i>Third Parties</i> | 1.8           | 4.1           | 3.3           |
| <i>Incumbents</i>    | 410.1         | 519.2         | 527.6         |
| <i>Challengers</i>   | 116.6         | 185.6         | 246.7         |
| <i>Open Seats</i>    | 133.6         | 150.0         | 155.6         |

Source: Federal Election Commission

52. Which one of the following statements is NOT supported by the data in the table above?

- A. During the time period shown, candidates challenging incumbents in the U.S. House of Representatives, on the average, did not spend as much on their campaigns as incumbents did.
- B. Democratic candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, on the average, spent more on their campaigns than Republican candidates in 2008.

- C. Campaign spending on elections for seats in the U.S. House of Representatives increased substantially between 2004 and 2008.
  - D. For the elections shown in the table, nearly all campaign spending was done by candidates of the two major political parties.
  - E. During the time period shown, about half of all campaign spending on elections for the U.S. House of Representatives was spent in campaigns for open seats.
53. What is eminent domain?
- A. the supremacy of the federal government over state governments
  - B. the legal document issued when a higher court decides to review a decision of a lower court
  - C. the legal term referring to the Supreme Court's remanding of a case to a lower court for a retrial
  - D. a requirement imposed by the federal government on state governments such as requiring that public buildings be accessible to persons with disabilities
  - E. the power of government to take private property for public use
54. Which of the following actions can Congress take if it is unhappy with the actions of a federal agency?
- I. Hold congressional hearings to investigate the actions of the agency
  - II. Restrict or eliminate the agency's funding
  - III. Pass a new law restricting the operations of the agency
  - IV. Issue an executive order requiring the agency to take certain actions
- A. statement III only
  - B. statements I and II only
  - C. statements II and III only
  - D. statements I, II, and III only
  - E. statements I, II, III, and IV

55. Which one of the following is a provision contained in the Constitution?
- A. The Supreme Court has the power to declare a law unconstitutional.
  - B. The justices of the Supreme Court serve life terms.
  - C. The Supreme Court consists of eight associate justices and one chief justice.
  - D. Supreme Court justices cannot be impeached.
  - E. The U.S. District Courts are courts of original jurisdiction in the federal judicial system.
56. Which of the following groups is most likely to vote for the Democratic candidates for president?
- A. African Americans
  - B. households in which no one is a member of a labor union
  - C. males
  - D. people over age 55
  - E. females
57. After a bill is introduced in the House of Representatives, what is the next step in the legislative process?
- A. The bill is introduced in the Senate because both houses of Congress must consider all proposed legislation.
  - B. The bill is referred to a committee.
  - C. The majority-party caucus votes whether or not to support the bill.
  - D. The Speaker of the House decides whether to ignore the bill or take action.
  - E. The bill dies unless a committee chair decides to “mark up” the bill.

58. Which of the following is NOT a factor the president generally takes into account in nominating a person for Supreme Court justice?
- A. whether or not the person can be confirmed in the Senate
  - B. the age of the person
  - C. the political party the person belongs to
  - D. whether public opinion will be favorable towards the person nominated
  - E. whether the person has held elective office before
59. Which of the following is an example of fiscal federalism?
- A. administering the national parks
  - B. patrolling costal shipping lanes
  - C. building new mass transit systems in urban areas
  - D. administering veteran's hospitals
  - E. patrolling U.S. borders
60. Which one of the following statements best describes the prevailing view of the power of the president today?
- A. The president is primarily an administrator carrying out the will of Congress.
  - B. The president can take whatever action he feels appropriate to advance his policy goals as long as he doesn't break the law or violate the Constitution.
  - C. The president is the voice of the nation but cannot take any important actions on his own without the approval of Congress.
  - D. The president is above the law and can pursue the policies he believes in even if that means he must break a law.
  - E. The president, in a national crisis such as a war on terror, can take whatever actions he deems necessary even if it means violating the Constitution.

## Section II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

Four Questions

Directions: You will have 100 minutes in which to answer all of the four questions below. You need to respond to all parts of each question unless specifically instructed otherwise. Budget your time so that you have about 25 minutes to spend on each of the four questions. Be sure to use examples to illustrate your points where appropriate. Be careful to break down and number each of your answers in the same way the question is divided and numbered. You should take a few minutes to read the entire question and plan your response before beginning to write.

1. Supreme Court decisions often generate considerable controversy and disagreement between Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and liberals, those who favor judicial restraint and those who favor judicial activism, etc.
  - a. Supreme Court justices are expected not to decide cases based on their own political opinions. Name three things on which judicial decisions are supposed to be based. Briefly describe each of these and explain how it guides decisions.
  - b. Explain the difference between judicial activism and judicial restraint.
  - c. Describe one Supreme Court decision that is an example of judicial activism and explain why it is an example of judicial activism. Explain the legal basis upon which the Court based its decision.
  - d. Describe one Supreme Court decision that is an example of judicial restraint and explain why it is an example of judicial restraint. Explain the legal basis upon which the Court based its decision.

2. Over the last century, the power of political parties has been gradually declining.
  - a. For each of the following, explain what it is and then explain why it has led to a decline in the power of political parties:
    - civil service system
    - primary elections
  - b. Describe how campaign financing is changing and explain how these changes affect the power of political parties.
  - c. Describe the nonpartisan blanket primaries recently instituted by California and Washington State and explain how this type of primary can be expected to affect the power of political parties.
3. The news media play an important role in the American political system.
  - a. Identify and briefly describe three important roles the news media play.
  - b. What is the chief factor motivating the American news media and how does this affect news coverage?
  - c. Describe how the growth in the number of news sources on the Internet and cable TV has contributed to growing polarization in U.S. politics.
4. The government has two types of policies it can use to stimulate or contract the economy: fiscal policy and monetary policy.
  - a. Define:
    - Monetary policy
    - Fiscal policy
  - b. What federal government institution controls monetary policy? Describe the powers it has that enable it to determine and execute monetary policy and give an example.
  - c. What federal government institution exerts the greatest control over fiscal policy? Describe the power it has that enables it to determine and execute fiscal policy and give an example.

## Answer Key, Section I (Multiple Choice)

|       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. D  | 21. C | 41. D |
| 2. A  | 22. E | 42. C |
| 3. A  | 23. D | 43. B |
| 4. C  | 24. B | 44. E |
| 5. E  | 25. D | 45. D |
| 6. D  | 26. B | 46. A |
| 7. B  | 27. A | 47. A |
| 8. E  | 28. E | 48. C |
| 9. B  | 29. C | 49. B |
| 10. E | 30. A | 50. D |
| 11. C | 31. E | 51. A |
| 12. A | 32. C | 52. E |
| 13. C | 33. E | 53. E |
| 14. E | 34. B | 54. D |
| 15. D | 35. A | 55. B |
| 16. B | 36. E | 56. A |
| 17. D | 37. B | 57. B |
| 18. D | 38. A | 58. E |
| 19. A | 39. D | 59. C |
| 20. C | 40. C | 60. B |

## Answers and Explanations

1. D. The Articles of Confederation served as the constitution for the United States until the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1788. The Declaration of Independence (answer choice A) declared independence from Britain in 1776 but did not establish a government for the United States. The Bill of Rights (answer choice B) was an addition to the Constitution ratified in 1791. The Mayflower Compact (answer choice C) served as a constitution for the Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth in 1620 but was no longer operational (Plymouth was incorporated into Massachusetts in 1691). The document named in answer choice E did not exist.
2. A. The Supreme Court has never taken the position stated in answer choice A; this position, called the doctrine of nullification, was advanced by Senator John C. Calhoun but firmly rejected by President Andrew Jackson. All the other answer choices correctly describe the Court's decision in *McCulloch v. Maryland*.
3. A. The interstate-commerce clause has provided the basis for a wide range of federal legislation from the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to the health insurance reform of 2010. The Tenth Amendment (1791) (answer choice B) reserves powers for the states rather than providing a basis for the federal government's power. Both the free-exercise clause (answer choice C) and the establishment clause (answer choice D) of the First Amendment limit the federal government's power to get involved in religion rather than providing a basis for the federal government's power. The Constitution doesn't mention fiscal federalism (answer choice E).
4. C. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 ended segregation in public accommodations. In *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) (answer choice A) the Supreme Court declared state laws banning interracial marriage to be unconstitutional. The Twenty-Fourth Amendment (1964) (answer choice B) ended the poll tax but not racial segregation. No one had to wait for state legislatures to decide to change their laws

(answer choice D); the passage of the Civil Rights Act invalidated state laws permitting segregation since federal law is supreme over state laws. There was no executive order as described in answer choice E; an executive order can only be issued to the offices and personnel under the president's executive control.

5. E. Candidates now raise most of the money for their campaigns themselves. This means the party has less control of their candidates' positions and strategies. Third parties (answer choice A) have not risen in popularity as the two major parties have declined in power. Parties in most states still select the two leading candidates for the general election (answer choice B) through party primaries, although in two states—California and Washington—the nonpartisan blanket primary greatly diminishes the power of political parties and could result in general election races in which one of the major parties may not even have a candidate running. The two major political parties still have national, state, and local organizations (answer choice C) and conduct extensive get-out-the-vote efforts (answer choice D) and voter registration drives.
6. D. The Supreme Court established the precedent of judicial review, or the power to declare a law unconstitutional, in *Marbury v. Madison* in 1803. Neither the Constitution (answer choice B) nor the Bill of Rights (answer choice A) expressly states that the Supreme Court has this power. In *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965) (answer choice C), the Supreme Court declared a law prohibiting birth control devices unconstitutional and established the right to privacy. In *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824) (answer choice E) the Court held that Congress's power to regulate interstate commerce was exclusive and states could not pass laws that restricted interstate commerce.
7. B. Numerous studies have shown that people with college degrees are much more likely to vote than any of the groups listed in the other answer choices.
8. E. A filibuster allows a minority of senators to block a vote on a bill

that has majority support. A filibuster is not possible in the House of Representatives because a simple majority may end debate and allow the House to vote, making answer choice A incorrect. Answer choice A is also wrong because only a three-fifths majority (60), not a two-thirds majority (67), is needed in the Senate to end debate. A filibuster always seeks to block a bill from passage, and can't easily be used as a strategy to lead to the passage of legislation (answer choices C and D).

9. B. The Constitution makes no mention of political parties or the president's role relating to a political party. Article II of the Constitution gives the president executive authority (answer choice A) and states his role as commander in chief of the U.S. armed forces (answer choice C). It also gives him specific authority to negotiate treaties (answer choice D) and propose legislation for consideration by Congress (answer choice E).
10. E. There are no data in the table to support the statement in answer choice E. First, we don't know anything about the number or percentage of women in middle-ranking jobs (GS 5-12). Furthermore, from the table we don't know the number of jobs at the highest or lowest levels, but it seems likely that there may be more many lower level jobs than higher level jobs, making it possible that the decline in the number of women in the lower level jobs was greater than the increase in the number of women in higher level jobs. All the other answer choices correctly state facts shown by the data in the table.
11. C. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is an independent regulatory agency not directly under the president's—or Congress's—control. Its role is to make regulations—and enforce them—to keep the financial markets operating openly and fairly. The USPS (answer choice A) is also independent of direct control by the president or Congress, but it is a government corporation that performs a service, rather than a regulatory agency. The FBI, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the FDA (answer choices B,

D, and E) are not independent since they are all part of the regular departmental structure of the executive branch and operate under the direct authority of the president, who can fire their top officials at will.

12. A. The candidate with the majority (over half) of the electoral votes becomes president; if no candidate has a majority, then the House of Representatives chooses the president. Thus, answer choice A could never happen. All the other answer choices are possible outcomes of the Electoral College system. The House of Representatives last chose the president in 1824 (answer choice B). The presidential electors last chose a president who did not get the highest number of popular votes in 2000 (answer choice C). Since the most populous states dominate the Electoral College, the candidate winning the presidency often does not carry the most states (answer choice D). A third party candidate (George Wallace) last got a significant number of electoral votes in 1968 (answer choice E).
13. C. The decision declared that flag-burning is symbolic free speech, and thus protected by the First Amendment's right to freedom of speech. In this case, the flag-burning was part of a protest demonstration (answer choice A), but the right to assemble to protest was not questioned by the law enforcement authorities, so this was not the issue. The flag-burning had nothing to do with freedom of religion—either the free exercise of religion (answer choice B) or the establishment of religion (answer choice E). Also not at issue was the Fourth Amendment (answer choice D) since nothing was searched or seized.
14. E. A country's political culture refers to the underlying beliefs and values that virtually all of its citizens share. The political culture forms the foundation on which the political system operates. Answer choices A, B, and D all suggest that there is more than one political culture in the nation, making these incorrect. Answer choice C is incorrect because the American political culture is overwhelm-

ingly based on Western European ideas and values, especially those of Britain and France.

15. D. The table shows that the number of both civil cases and criminal cases in U.S. District Courts has grown, with the greatest growth in civil cases. Answer choice A is a correct statement but this information is not shown in the table. There is no information in the chart regarding frivolous lawsuits (answer choice B). Since most crimes (murder, arson, theft, rape, assault) are dealt with in state rather than federal courts, we cannot make assumptions about crime in general from this table (answer choice C). We would need more information (such as population growth and changes in federal criminal law) to even conclude that the federal crime rate is increasing. There is no year-to-year information in the table on which to base the statement in answer choice E.
16. B. Both federal and state governments have the power to levy taxes, making this a concurrent power. Answer choices A, C, and E are federal powers and answer choice D is a power of state governments.
17. D. In both the House and the Senate, standing committees wield much of the power in the legislative process. The Senate has much more power than the House to check the power of the president (answer choice A) since only the Senate needs to ratify treaties and approve federal judges, ambassadors, and key federal officials. The House selects its own presiding officer by majority vote but the vice president, selected by the Electoral College, presides over the Senate (answer choice B). The House has more than four times the number of members that the Senate has (answer choice C) and only the House has a Rules Committee (answer choice E).
18. D. The devolution of power (statement I) refers to the federal policy of allowing states to have more control over the administration of federally funded projects. All the other statements correctly describe reasons the federal government has grown in power relative to state governments.

19. A. An open seat is any seat for which there is no incumbent running, making the playing field leveler. Answer choice A describes a competitive seat. There are no widely used terms to describe the situations in answer choices B, D, and E.
20. C. Most of the powers listed in the Constitution are given to Congress so answer choice C is not a reason why Congress's power to lead the nation is not as great as the president's power in today's world. All of the other answer choices describe reasons why Congress has difficulty playing the role of national leader.
21. C. The president's cabinet is purely an advisory body. The Office of Management and Budget puts together the proposed federal budget (answer choice A) and federal regulations are written by the appropriate federal agency (answer choice B). The vice president assumes leadership if the president is unable to perform his duties (answer choice D). Many federal officials provide testimony to Congress; if a cabinet member does this, he/she does it as a federal official, not because he/she is a member of the cabinet (answer choice E).
22. E. Political socialization refers to the process through which individuals develop their political values and beliefs. It is a continuing process, but the most important years are those before adulthood, by which time these values and beliefs are already in place (answer choice C). Political socialization may result in values and beliefs that encourage political participation but the process may also result in values and beliefs that don't—there is no set outcome (answer choice A). Answer choices B and D don't relate to political socialization.
23. D. Reapportionment is the reallocation of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives among the states based on their population in a new census. Seats are not reallocated in the Senate because all states get two senators regardless of their population (answer choice C). Answer choice B describes redistricting rather than reapportionment; redistricting happens after seats are reapportioned.

Redistricting is done by state governments, not the House of Representatives (answer choice A). Committee seats are reallocated to the political parties based on the number of seats they have won in the latest election, but this is not referred to as reapportionment (answer choice E).

24. B. Pluralism is the concept of the political process as a struggle between multiple interest groups that compete for power to advance their own political goals. The concept of democracy (answer choice A)—one man, one vote—does not emphasize the role of interest groups. Free enterprise (answer choice C) and socialism (answer choice D) are economic, not political, systems. Elitism (answer choice E) refers to a political system in which power is concentrated in the hands of a few people, rather than the result of a struggle between competing interest groups.
25. D. Statements II and III are correct. During the time period shown, the winning candidate's electoral vote percentage has never dropped below his popular vote percentage, making statement I incorrect.
26. B. Congress has no power to reject the personnel in the Executive Office of the President who serve as the president's advisors and assistants. All of the other answer choices correctly describe checks Congress can exercise on presidential power.
27. A. Federal agencies do not submit budget requests to Congress. Instead, they submit their budget requests to the president, who with the help of his Office of Management and Budget (OMB), reviews and revises them before submitting one unified budget to Congress. All of the other answer choices correctly state steps in the process. In Congress, the budget committees (answer choice D) review the budget to provide overall guidelines while the appropriations committees (answer choice C) create the appropriations bills that actually provide money to the federal government.
28. E. The winner-take-all system means the candidates' percentages of the popular vote and percentages of the electoral vote will often be

quite different. Answer choices A, B, and C are correct statements but do not explain why the electoral vote and popular vote diverge so much so often. Electors almost never vote for a candidate other than the one they have pledged to support (answer choice D), although it is possible this could happen in unusual circumstances.

29. C. The Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* (1973) was based on a right to privacy, not specifically stated (answer choice B), but implied in the Bill of Rights. This right was first recognized in the Court's decision in *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965), not in *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003) (answer choice D). Both the free-exercise clause (answer choice A) and the establishment clause (answer choice E) of the First Amendment deal with freedom of religion, which was not an issue in *Roe v. Wade*.
30. A. Original jurisdiction refers to the authority to conduct the initial trial of a case, while appellate jurisdiction refers to the authority to hear an appeal of a case that has already been tried by a lower court. U.S. District Courts are the usual court of original jurisdiction in the federal court system. However, the Supreme Court also has original jurisdiction in some circumstances such as a lawsuit between state governments. U.S. Courts of Appeal have only appellate jurisdiction (answer choices B and C). State supreme courts (answer choice E) are not federal courts and usually have only appellate jurisdiction.
31. E. The elastic clause is also known as the "necessary and proper" clause. It states that the federal government has the power "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution ... all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States." The powers granted the federal government under this clause are referred to as "implied powers." Answer choice A describes the Great Compromise (also known as the Connecticut Compromise), not the elastic clause. The Constitution does not grant the president increased authority in time

- of war (answer choice C). Answer choice D refers to the Tenth Amendment, not the elastic clause.
32. C. The Anti-Federalists opposed adoption of the new Constitution. The supporters of the proposed Constitution (the Federalists) agreed to add a Bill of Rights as a result of strong criticism from the Anti-Federalists that the Constitution didn't do enough to protect individual liberties. This addition of the Bill of Rights was the main contribution of the Anti-Federalists to the Constitution. The Great Compromise (answer choice A) and the system for choosing the president (answer choice E) were decisions made by the Constitutional Convention before the Federalist versus Anti-Federalist debate over the proposed Constitution had begun. The questions of establishment of a national bank (answer choice B) and how many terms a president should serve (answer choice D) were not issues in the debate over the ratification of the Constitution; these became issues well after the Constitution had been adopted.
33. E. An open primary means that each party's primary election is open to all voters who select the party's ballot as the one they will vote on. Thus the party's primary is open to independents and members of other parties, not just voters registered with that party. However, in an open primary, voters can't cross party lines (answer choice B); they must vote using only one party's ballot. The nonpartisan blanket primary is one in which all candidates of all parties (and independents) appear on one primary election ballot and voters can cross party lines and vote for candidates of different parties. Each state sets the voting period (answer choice D) and the procedures for getting on the primary election ballot (answer choice A), but these have nothing to do with whether the primary is open or not. All primary elections in the United States use a secret ballot (answer choice C).
34. B. Administrative law does have the full force of the law that statutory law has, as long as it is a reasonable provision to enforce a

statutory law. All of the other answer choices correctly describe administrative law.

35. A. By a two-thirds majority in both of its houses, Congress can submit amendments to the states for ratification. Three-fourths of the states must approve an amendment for it to be ratified. The president does not sign or veto constitutional amendments (answer choice D); in fact, he plays no formal role in the process of amending the constitution. Answer choices B, C, and E all contradict the correct answer choice.
36. E. Statements II and IV are correct. The table shows that the number of federal employees declined from 2,997,000 in 1970 to 2,730,000 in 2008, making statement II correct. Since 1.88 percent is less than half of 3.81 percent, the table also shows that the share of the U.S. labor force that federal government workers comprised in 2008 was less than half of the share they accounted for in 1970 (statement IV). However, it would be incorrect to say the size of the federal government in terms of number of federal employees continues to grow (statement I) when the trend is definitely downward since 1990, except for a small increase between 2005 and 2008. The table does not show annual data (statement III); however, we know that in some years the number of federal employees must have increased because there was an increase in government employees between 2005 and 2008.
37. B. In spite of the increase in the number of and type of news sources on the Internet and cable TV, there is less in-depth reporting on the issues in an election in the news media than ever before. All the other answer choices list types of things the news media are more likely to cover.
38. A. Grassroots lobbying occurs when an interest group mobilizes its membership to lobby Congress. Interest groups regularly try to increase their membership (answer choice B) and sometimes try to change public opinion (answer choice C), but these efforts are not

referred to as grassroots lobbying. The situation described in answer choice D almost never happens in actual practice so there is no widely used term for this. There is also no widely used term to describe an organized effort within an interest group to change the interest group's position (answer choice E). In fact, interest groups seldom dramatically change their positions; dissatisfied members usually just drift away or form other interest groups.

39. D. Incumbents don't necessarily reflect their constituents' views better than challengers. In fact, challengers often try to more closely reflect the views of constituents so that they have a chance at unseating the incumbent. However, even this tactic usually doesn't work to unseat an incumbent. All of the other answer choices correctly describe reasons it's difficult to unseat an incumbent.
40. C. The table shows health comprised \$281 billion in 2009, or nearly half of all federal grant money given to state and local government (\$568 billion). The data in the chart contradict all the other answer choices. Between 1990 and 2009, federal grants to state and local governments declined in one program area—agriculture (answer choice A). Total federal grants only increased by about four times between 1990 and 2009, making answer choice B incorrect. Only one program area—not several—increased by 10 times between 1990 and 2009 (answer choice D). Although there are no annual data shown in the table, we know that in the area of energy they could not have increased each year since there was a decline between 1995 and 2000 (answer choice E).
41. D. In *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the Supreme Court held that a Constitutional right to gun ownership—irrespective of service in a state militia—did exist. None of the other answer choices were decisions the Court made although many of them do present issues the Court may soon take up as a result of *District of Columbia v. Heller*.
42. C. Simply reading about politics is not participating in the political process. Only when a person takes action to try to influence

the political process in some way does the person participate in it. Actions can range from contributing to election campaigns through a political action committee (answer choice D), contacting a congressman to try to influence government action (answer choice B), to signing a petition supporting a certain political action (answer choice E). Trying to influence others regarding political issues is also participation in the political process (answer choice A).

43. B. Studies show that the best predictor of the political party identification is the party identity of a person's parents. All the other answer choices list influences on party identification, but those are not as strong as parental influences.
44. E. Executive orders can't be issued that are contrary to a law passed by Congress; the president and the federal bureaucracy must abide by the law and cannot ignore it or refuse to enforce it. All the other answer choices describe actions the president can take to influence legislation under consideration by Congress.
45. D. Defense spending decreased from 52.2 percent (over half) of federal spending in 1960 to 19.9 percent (less than one-fifth) of federal spending in 2010. Constant dollars are dollars adjusted for inflation and, measured in constant dollars, defense spending did not more than double between 1960 and 2010 (answer choice A). Measured in current dollars (not adjusted for inflation), defense spending increased greatly during the period shown but actually declined between 1990 and 2000, making answer choice B incorrect. All measures shown in this table do not show increases in defense spending (answer choice C). Note that the figures in this chart could be used to make either the case that defense spending is skyrocketing or that it is declining, depending on the measure a person uses. As a percent of gross domestic product (GDP), defense spending was lowest in 2000, not 2010 (answer choice E).
46. A. Earmarks require the government to spend money on specific projects. They are usually inserted into appropriations bills by

members of Congress who want to fund federal projects in their own districts/states. Their purpose is exactly the opposite of allowing the executive branch to channel federal funds to where they are needed most or will be most effective (answer choice E). None of the other answer choices are related to earmarks.

47. A. The belief in government whose powers are limited by a constitution, also called constitutionalism, is a basic component of American political culture. Both liberals and conservatives agree on this principle. All the other answer choices express opinions on current political issues on which not all Americans agree.
48. C. “Never” is a dangerous word; just because it has not happened in the past does not mean it can never happen. There is nothing in the table to support the idea that this can *never* happen. In fact, the table shows that third-party candidates can get electoral votes (1948 and 1968). If a third-party candidate gets electoral votes, the third-party candidate can play the deciding role in the selecting the president if neither of the two major parties has the required 270 votes. In that situation, the third-party candidate can negotiate with the two major-party candidates and then throw his/her support to the major-party candidate that offers the best deal, thereby making him president. All the other answer choices are supported by data in the table.
49. B. Clarence Earl Gideon was denied a court-appointed lawyer and had to act as his own attorney because he could not afford one. He was found guilty, but in prison, he studied law in the prison library and filed a writ of habeas corpus with the Supreme Court using a pencil and a piece of prison stationery. The Court’s decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963) requires state governments to provide a lawyer for indigent defendants accused of a felony. *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) went further, requiring police to inform an accused person of the right to an attorney (among other rights). *Engle v. Vitale* (1962) prohibited government-written prayer in public schools and

*Baker v. Carr* (1962) required that legislative districts be equal in population. *Mapp v. Ohio* (1961) established the exclusionary rule that evidence obtained illegally could not be used in a trial.

50. D. Meeting privately with a federal judge to discuss a case is against established judicial procedures and illegal. All the other answer choices list actions interest groups often engage in to try to influence the decisions of federal courts.
51. A. The Twenty-Second Amendment (1951) prohibits any person from being elected president more than twice. Answer choice B is incorrect because there are no term limits imposed on the vice president, and a president can serve more than two terms; for example, if he becomes president upon the death of a president, he can complete that term (if less than two years) as well as serving two terms of his own. Answer choice C is incorrect because there are no term limits on members of the cabinet and a president, in the circumstance described above, can serve up to ten years in office. Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to four terms, but that was before the Twenty-Second Amendment was ratified in 1951. Answer choice E describes the situation prior to Roosevelt's presidency.
52. E. The amounts spent on campaigns for open seats (the last line of the table) constitute far less than half of total spending (top line). All the other statements are supported by data in the table.
53. E. Eminent domain is the power of a local, state, or federal governmental agency to take private property for public use. Article I of the Constitution establishes the supremacy of the federal government over state governments (answer choice A), but this is not referred to as eminent domain. Answer choice B describes a writ of certiorari. The situation described in answer choice C is simply referred to as remanding a case for retrial. A federal requirement imposed on state governments (answer choice D) is often called a federal mandate.
54. D. Congress can take the actions described in all of the statements

except issue an executive order (statement IV). An executive order can only be issued by the president as head of the executive branch of government.

55. B. The Constitution establishes life terms for federal judges. However, the Constitution does not mention judicial review (answer choice A); the power to declare a law unconstitutional was established in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803). The Constitution does not specify the number of Supreme Court justices (answer choice C); this number was set at five by Congress, then changed to seven, before becoming nine justices (one of which is the Chief Justice). The Constitution states that Supreme Court justices *can* be impeached, making answer choice D incorrect. The Constitution does not mention U.S. District Courts (answer choice E) but gives Congress the power to set up federal courts below the Supreme Court.
56. A. Polling has shown that African Americans usually vote for the Democratic presidential candidate by a wide margin. Women (answer choice E), in recent presidential elections, have also tended to vote Democratic, but not by nearly as large a margin as African Americans. The groups described in answer choices B and C are more likely to vote for the Republican candidate while people over 55 (answer choice D) are more evenly divided.
57. B. In both the Senate and the House, a bill is referred to a committee after it is introduced. The same bill or a similar one may or may not be introduced in the other house of Congress (answer choice A). The bill goes to the other house of Congress after it has been passed by the house in which it was introduced. Party caucuses don't generally take votes on whether or not to support a bill (answer choice C); each senator or representative decides this on their own. However, in a party caucus, party leaders may poll the members to get an idea of how they stand on a bill, but this is done much later in the process. The Speaker of the House doesn't decide whether or not to take action (answer choice D); this is done by the

committee to which the bill was assigned. A bill may die if the committee chair decides not to take action (answer choice E), but this can happen only after it has been referred to the committee. Choice E is also incorrect because the “mark up” of a bill refers to the committee’s changes to the bill after hearings have been held—a step that happens much later in the process.

58. E. Whether or not the nominee has held elective office is not important. Most justices haven’t, with Chief Justice Earl Warren, who previously was governor of California, being a notable exception. Whether the nominee can get public support (answer choice D) and be confirmed by the Senate (answer choice A) are important considerations since it will not help the president if his nominee is rejected. Nominees are almost always members of the president’s political party (answer choice C) and the president wants someone who will reflect his views on the Court. The age of the person (answer choice B) is important because most presidents look for a nominee who will have a long tenure on the Supreme Court.
59. C. While, in theory, a city could build a new mass transit system on its own, in practice this is always done with the help of federal funding that covers some of the project’s cost. This is an example of fiscal federalism with federal funding giving the federal government considerable power in defining and administering a project or program that would otherwise be under local control. Fiscal federalism involves programs and projects funded and controlled jointly by federal and state (and sometimes local) governments. The other answer choices all list areas entirely funded and controlled by the federal government.
60. B. Today the prevailing view is of an assertive president who does whatever he can—without breaking the law or violating the Constitution—to advance the public policy goals he supports. In contrast, the view that the president is simply an administrator carrying out the will of Congress (answer choice A) was

the position taken by many presidents from James Buchanan to Herbert Hoover. However, no president has viewed his office as unable to take *any* important action without the approval of Congress (answer choice C)—after all, he is commander in chief of the military and chief executive of federal government. The view that the president is above the law (answer choice D) was advanced by Richard Nixon but soundly rejected by Congress, the Supreme Court (*United States v. Nixon*, 1974), and the public. However, no president has supported the idea that the president in wartime no longer needs to abide by the Constitution (answer choice E).