

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section I

Time—45 minutes

60 questions

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by five suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case and then fill in the corresponding oval on the answer sheet.

1. To which characteristic of American government does the term "federalism" refer?
 - (A) The system of checks and balances within the national government
 - (B) The power of the Supreme Court to review the constitutionality of laws
 - (C) The Bill of Rights' protection of the rights of the accused
 - (D) The process by which the size of each state's delegation to the House of Representatives is determined
 - (E) The division and sharing of power between the national and state governments
2. The swift adoption of the Bill of Rights in the years following ratification of the Constitution demonstrates the
 - (A) framers' unqualified commitment to individual rights
 - (B) small states' determination to receive equal representation in the legislature
 - (C) Northern states' support for abolitionism
 - (D) states' fears of an overpowerful national government
 - (E) Federalists' concerns that the system of checks and balances would weaken the national government
3. Which of the following is true of court cases in which one private party is suing another?
 - (A) They are tried in civil court
 - (B) The federal court system has exclusive jurisdiction over them
 - (C) They are tried in criminal court
 - (D) The state court system has exclusive jurisdiction over them
 - (E) They are tried before a grand jury
4. The term "budget deficit" refers to the
 - (A) annual increase in federal spending on the military
 - (B) amount of interest on the national debt
 - (C) difference between the initial budget proposals made by the president and Congress
 - (D) period after the fiscal year ends during which the government operates without an official budget
 - (E) amount the government spends in excess of its revenues
5. The legislative successes of the National Rifle Association, antiabortion activists, and other powerful interest groups demonstrate that
 - (A) United States domestic policy has grown more conservative in the 1990s
 - (B) the influence of political action committees has weakened in recent years
 - (C) the power of interest groups depends on the degree of support for their positions in the White House
 - (D) majority opinion on an issue can sometimes be overridden by the intensity of a minority's commitment to activism
 - (E) the most powerful interest groups in the United States are generally those that support uncontroversial positions

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE 

