

## Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions

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. Which of the following is a policy area that states are NOT responsible for?
  - A. education
  - B. police
  - C. health
  - D. interstate commerce
  - E. taxation
2. Politicians are concerned about the “graying of America” because
  - A. Older Americans do not contribute as much as they can to political campaigns.
  - B. Older Americans are politically engaged and vote in high numbers.
  - C. Older Americans are single-issue voters and care only about foreign policy.
  - D. Older Americans are apathetic and don’t bother to vote.
  - E. Older Americans are not well organized politically compared to other groups.
3. The functions of the Senate include
  - I. ratifying treaties
  - II. approving presidential appointments
  - III. oversight over federal agencies
  - IV. introducing revenue bills
  - A. I only
  - B. II only
  - C. I and II only
  - D. I, II, and III only
  - E. I, II, and IV only
4. All the following were methods used to deny African Americans the right to vote in the South EXCEPT:
  - A. poll tax
  - B. grandfather clause
  - C. requirement to register
  - D. good-character test
  - E. literacy test
5. A closed rule means that
  - A. No amendments to a bill are allowed on the House floor.
  - B. No amendments to a bill are allowed on the Senate floor.
  - C. The bill can’t be filibustered in the Senate.
  - D. Unlimited debate on the bill is allowed.
  - E. The House Committee on Rules took no action.
6. What is the concern that is often raised about an open primary?
  - A. An open primary costs more to run than a closed primary.
  - B. Cross-party voting allows one party to influence the nominee of the other party.
  - C. The most ideologically committed party members vote in an open primary.
  - D. An open primary requires a winner-take-all system.
  - E. An open primary benefits third-party candidates.
7. Which of the following officials of the Congress is provided for in the Constitution?
  - A. clerk of the house
  - B. Senate majority leader
  - C. House minority leader
  - D. president pro tempore
  - E. majority whip
8. The idea behind revenue sharing was to
  - A. give the states greater control over the use of federal money
  - B. resolve the long-standing problem of unfunded mandates
  - C. allow the federal government to determine the specific needs of the states
  - D. decrease the amount of federal money available to the states
  - E. strengthen support for the administration in upcoming elections

9. Under the War Powers Act (1973), the president must
- get a joint resolution from Congress before sending U.S. troops into combat
  - pay for the deployment of U.S. troops with funds already budgeted for the Department of Defense
  - notify Congress if U.S. troops are under United Nations or NATO command
  - receive approval from Congress to keep troops deployed for more than 60 days
  - direct the Joint Chiefs of Staff to testify before Congress on the purpose of military operations
10. All the following are powers that Congress has over the federal courts EXCEPT:
- The Senate confirms nominees to the federal courts.
  - Congress can change the jurisdiction of the federal courts through legislation.
  - Congress can reduce the salaries paid to federal judges.
  - A federal judge can be impeached by the House of Representatives.
  - Congress can change the number of federal courts.
11. Which policy identifies President George W. Bush as a "compassionate conservative"?
- additional oil drilling in Alaska
  - support for the Kyoto Protocol
  - federal role in education
  - increase in defense spending
  - work requirements for welfare recipients
12. Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress had the power to
- impose taxes on the businesses involved in interstate trade
  - amend the articles by a two-thirds vote
  - select the executive authority
  - settle disputes between two or more states
  - impeach and remove from office a governor of a state
13. The responsibilities of the vice president in an administration are determined by
- the provisions of the Constitution
  - the relationship with the president
  - polls indicating the popularity of the vice president
  - the size of the election victory
  - which party is in control of Congress
14. Which of the following is LEAST likely to have an impact on political attitudes?
- race
  - marital status
  - gender
  - education
  - socioeconomic class
15. Civilian control over the military is based on
- legislation that created the Department of Defense
  - an executive order issued by George Washington
  - the fact that the president is commander-in-chief of the armed forces
  - a Supreme Court decision written by Chief Justice John Marshall
  - custom that dates back to British policy

**2008 Presidential Primaries  
and Caucuses by Month**

Month	Number of Primaries and Caucuses
January	8
February	37
March	7
April	2
May	7
June	4

Source: Federal Election Commission.

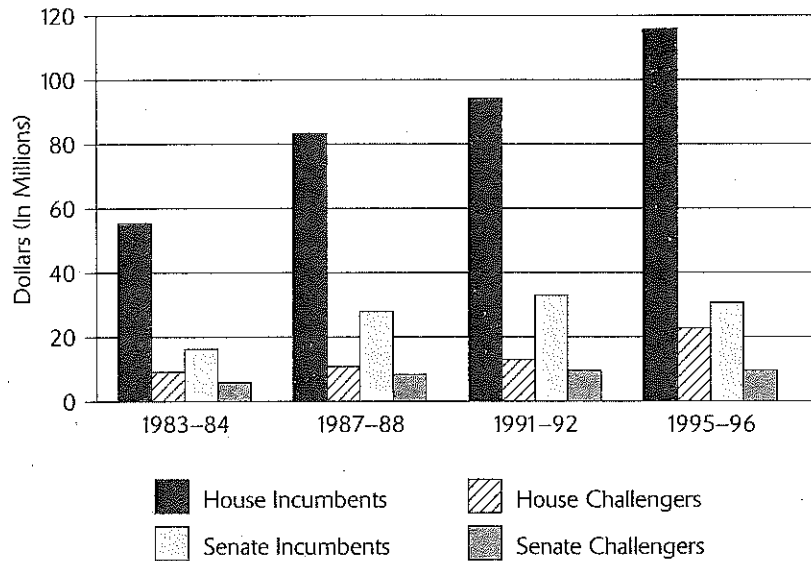
16. What conclusions can be drawn from the above data?
- A. Presidential campaigns have become longer.
  - B. The cost of running for president has increased.
  - C. The South has a disproportionate impact on determining presidential candidates.
  - D. The nominees for both parties are likely determined before the primary season ends.
  - E. The number of primaries is a disadvantage to third-party candidates.
17. The growth of the federal bureaucracy can be attributed to all the following EXCEPT:
- A. the need to regulate business
  - B. responsibility of the government for the welfare of the people
  - C. administrators who push for larger budgets and staff
  - D. creation of new agencies to give policy a high profile
  - E. Supreme Court decisions on federal-state relations
18. The Supreme Court's decision in *McCulloch v. Maryland* concerned which of the following issues?
- I. the right of the federal government to control interstate commerce
  - II. the authority of a state to tax an agency of the federal government
  - III. the right of the states to declare a federal law null and void
  - IV. the right of the federal government to create the Bank of the United States under the Necessary and Proper Clause
- A. I and II only
  - B. II only
  - C. II and IV only
  - D. I and III only
  - E. IV only
19. The idea that parties are dangerous to political freedom is associated with
- A. Andrew Jackson
  - B. James Madison
  - C. Franklin Roosevelt
  - D. Thomas Jefferson
  - E. Abraham Lincoln
20. An example of unconventional political participation is
- A. writing a letter to an elected official
  - B. blocking the entrance to an abortion clinic
  - C. making "get out the vote" calls for a candidate
  - D. contributing to a political campaign
  - E. registering to vote for the Libertarian Party
21. The only organization outside the government that has played a direct role in the selection of federal judges is the
- A. AFL-CIO
  - B. American Civil Liberties Union
  - C. American Bar Association
  - D. National Governors Association
  - E. Association of Trial Lawyers of America
22. *The Literary Digest's* prediction of the winner of the 1936 presidential election was wrong because
- A. Not enough people were included in its survey.
  - B. Exit-poll data was used to determine the results.
  - C. Most people surveyed actually did not vote.
  - D. The survey questions were not clear.
  - E. The survey sample was biased.

23. An example of a non-means-tested benefit program is
- A. COLAs
  - B. Supplemental Security Income
  - C. Medicaid
  - D. food stamps
  - E. Aid to Families with Dependent Children
24. President Bush stated during the 2000 campaign that he did not have a "litmus test" for the appointment of justices to the Supreme Court. This means:
- A. He would consider appointing a Democrat.
  - B. He was interested in making the Court as diverse as possible.
  - C. A nominee's previous judicial experience was important.
  - D. He was looking for a loose constructionist.
  - E. He would consider a nominee that may not share his views on controversial issues.
25. The Fourteenth Amendment effectively overturned which 19th-century Supreme Court decision?
- A. *Dred Scott v. Sanford*
  - B. *Fletcher v. Peck*
  - C. *Plessy v. Ferguson*
  - D. *Barron v. Mayor of Baltimore*
  - E. *The Civil Rights Cases*
26. The election of Ronald Reagan is not an example of party realignment because
- A. The Republicans were not able to hold onto the presidency in 1992.
  - B. The Democratic Party remained strong in the South.
  - C. The Republicans did not get control of both houses of Congress.
  - D. Reagan's policies were not supported by the majority of Americans.
  - E. The election victory in 1984 was smaller than it was in 1980.
27. The most important responsibility of a cabinet member is to
- A. provide advice to the president
  - B. manage the department that he or she heads
  - C. appoint staff to positions within the department
  - D. work with the president's staff to develop policy
  - E. testify before Congress on the department's budget
28. Which of the following is NOT an example of successful use of the media by a political figure?
- A. Nixon's 1952 Checkers speech
  - B. Roosevelt's fireside chats
  - C. Nixon's performance in the 1960 presidential debates
  - D. Kennedy's news conferences
  - E. Kennedy's performance in the 1960 presidential debates
29. Which of the following statements about the use of executive agreements in the conduct of foreign policy are valid?
- I. Executive agreements do not require the approval of the Senate.
  - II. The president must disclose the terms of an executive agreement to Congress.
  - III. Executive agreements are relied on much less frequently than formal treaties.
  - IV. An executive agreement is only binding on the administration that negotiates it.
- A. I only
  - B. I and II only
  - C. I, II, and III only
  - D. I, II, and IV only
  - E. I, II, III, and IV
30. What is the main difference between political parties and interest groups?
- A. Interest groups are not concerned with the electoral process.
  - B. Interest groups have more members than political parties.
  - C. Interest groups are concerned with a limited range of issues.
  - D. Only dues-paying members of an interest group benefit from its activities.
  - E. Political parties don't rely on their members for financial support.

31. The individuals whom the president appoints to key positions in the executive branch
- A. are always members of the president's party
  - B. have held jobs in both government and the private sector
  - C. must be approved by party leaders
  - D. have little experience in government
  - E. must have held elective office at the state or federal level

32. Even a scientifically conducted telephone poll can include a sample bias because
- A. Many people refuse to participate in political surveys.
  - B. A higher percentage of minority groups do not have telephones.
  - C. People confuse pollsters with telephone solicitations.
  - D. People prefer face-to-face interviews.
  - E. Telephone interviewers don't go through rigorous training.

Contributions from Political Action Committees to Candidates for Congress, Select Years, 1981-1996



Source: Federal Election Commission.

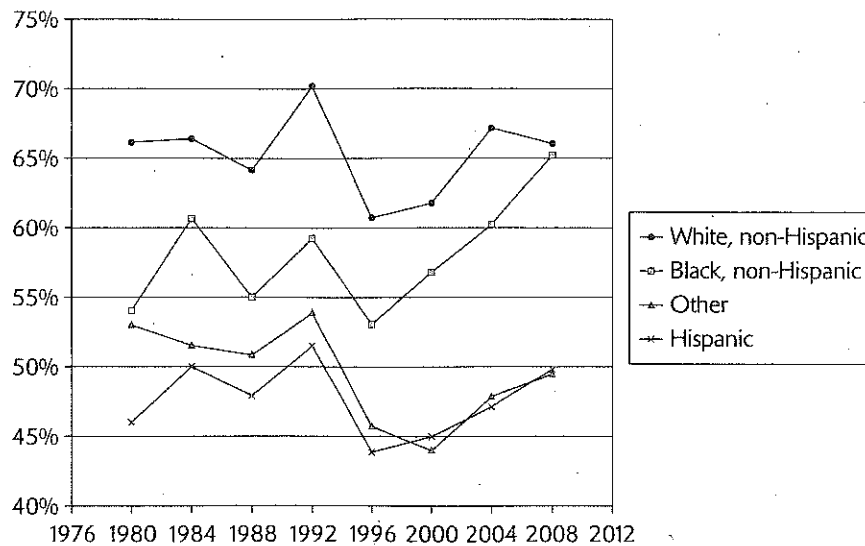
33. Which of the conclusions is NOT supported by the graph above?
- A. Contributions from political action committees to congressional candidates have increased over the years.
  - B. Candidates for House seats receive considerably more money than those running for the Senate.
  - C. Contributions for the Senate are lower in non-presidential-election years.
  - D. In both houses, incumbents receive more money than challengers.
  - E. Since 1987-1988, the amount of money received by incumbent senators has remained relatively stable.

34. The Supreme Court is most likely to hear a case when
- A. two courts of appeals have ruled in different ways on the same issue
  - B. directed to do so by the solicitor general of the United States
  - C. the Congress indicates that the issue is important
  - D. the president expresses an opinion on a matter on appeal
  - E. the Court's calendar has an open date for oral argument

35. In recent years, delegates to the Democratic National Convention
- A. were more conservative than Democratic voters generally
  - B. were more liberal than the electorate as a whole
  - C. were strongly in favor of restrictions on immigration
  - D. were less diverse as a group than delegates to the Republican National Convention
  - E. were opposed to any reduction in defense spending
36. Federal agencies can't spend money unless
- A. the expenditure is approved by the Office of Management and Budget
  - B. the president directly approves the funding
  - C. the funds are authorized and appropriated by Congress
  - D. the agency head explains to Congress how the money will be spent
  - E. the agency has enacted a rule detailing the spending
37. Which of the following is the most regulated type of speech?
- A. political speech
  - B. commercial speech
  - C. hate speech
  - D. symbolic speech
  - E. religious speech
38. A reporter's refusal to turn over confidential information to the police
- A. is protected by freedom of the press
  - B. was upheld by the Supreme Court
  - C. is a violation of unreasonable search and seizure
  - D. is protected in a limited way by state shield laws
  - E. is sanctioned by legislation enacted by Congress
39. The Consumer Price Index is an important measure of
- A. employment
  - B. interest rates
  - C. inflation
  - D. spending
  - E. savings
40. Which of the following is an accurate characterization of an issue network?
- A. An issue network usually dissolves after the goal is achieved.
  - B. An issue network includes fewer participants than an iron triangle.
  - C. Issue networks only engage in outside lobbying.
  - D. In an issue network, all the participants have political clout.
  - E. Issue networks focus their activity on a single congressional committee.
41. All the following statements about the influence of constituents on the voting patterns of members of Congress are valid EXCEPT:
- A. Members who ignore their constituents' views on major issues are not reelected.
  - B. Most of the votes that members of Congress make are irrelevant to constituents.
  - C. A legislator who considers himself or herself a delegate is not concerned with the opinion of the voters.
  - D. Members can try to gauge the views of their constituents through polls and questionnaires.
  - E. A politico tries to balance constituent views with his or her own.
42. What do constitutional courts, with the exception of the Supreme Court, and legislative courts have in common?
- A. Both are mentioned in the Constitution.
  - B. Both are created by legislation enacted by Congress.
  - C. Judges in both serve for life.
  - D. The jurisdiction of both types of courts is the same.
  - E. Both deal only with cases under civil law.
43. Which of the following did NOT lead to a weakening of political machines?
- A. welfare state
  - B. primary elections
  - C. civil service reform
  - D. public opinion polls
  - E. secret ballot

44. The idea that the media acts as a scorekeeper in covering political campaigns is associated with what type of journalism?
- A. muckraking
  - B. horse-race journalism
  - C. investigative reporting
  - D. yellow journalism
  - E. tabloid journalism
45. If the case of a poor criminal defendant is granted a writ of certiorari, the Supreme Court
- A. asks an interest group like the ACLU to represent the individual
  - B. allows the defendant to give the oral argument
  - C. appoints an attorney to handle the case
  - D. still requires all fees and costs to be paid
  - E. asks the Department of Justice to provide counsel
46. Which of the following statements is an accurate characterization of the federal bureaucracy?
- A. The president appoints a majority of the staff of the federal agencies.
  - B. The number of federal employees has grown steadily since World War II.
  - C. It is easy to fire a federal bureaucrat under the civil service rules.
  - D. Half of all federal jobs are based on a competitive merit process.
  - E. Individuals appointed by the president are completely independent from the White House.
47. Attempts to ensure minority representation by relying on race as the key factor in drawing congressional district lines are
- A. legal under the Voting Rights Act of 1965
  - B. permissible under affirmative action guidelines set by the Federal Election Commission
  - C. allowed only to remedy obvious instances of past discrimination
  - D. the responsibility of the states and cannot be challenged in the federal courts
  - E. unconstitutional under a ruling of the Supreme Court
48. What happens to representation in Congress as the population increases?
- A. The total number of representatives in Congress goes up.
  - B. The number of people each member of Congress represents increases.
  - C. States with a large population will continue to gain seats in Congress.
  - D. States will be forced to abandon single-member districts.
  - E. A constitutional amendment providing for term limits will be enacted.
49. The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy initiated by President Clinton refers to
- A. the sex scandals that plagued his two terms
  - B. the administration's response to the impeachment proceedings
  - C. the campaign contributions received from foreign nationals
  - D. the treatment of homosexuals in the armed forces
  - E. the Office of Management and Budget's response to the budget impasse in 1993
50. The programs of the Great Society, which included the War on Poverty and Medicare, were adopted in the 1960s primarily because
- A. The Democratic Party gained control of Congress in 1964.
  - B. Active lobbying by the urban poor and senior citizens was successful.
  - C. Strong presidential leadership was provided by Lyndon Johnson.
  - D. Supreme Court decisions supported an expanded federal role on social issues.
  - E. The administration needed to divert public attention from the Vietnam War.

CPS Turnout Rates by Race/Ethnicity



Source: United States Election Project: 2008 Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement.  
[http://elections.gmu.edu/CPS\\_2008.html](http://elections.gmu.edu/CPS_2008.html).

51. Based on the above graph, which of the following is NOT valid?
- White voter turnout declined in 2008.
  - All racial/ethnic groups showed an increase in turnout in 2008 as compared to 2004.
  - The most dramatic increase in turnout in 2008 was among African-American voters.
  - Hispanic and Asian-American turnout was about the same in 2008.
  - Whites historically have the highest voter turnout rates.
52. Although it is well established that obscene materials are not protected under the First Amendment, the problem the Supreme Court has faced is
- establishing community standards
  - preventing the publication of such materials
  - defining what obscenity is
  - closing establishments that distribute such materials near schools
  - expanding rulings on obscenity to include violence
53. A whistleblower is
- a member of Congress who does not vote with his or her party
  - a presidential aide who leaks a story to the press
  - the head of a federal agency who asks for additional funding
  - a bureaucrat who informs the public about waste in the government
  - a union leader who accepts a management settlement offer
54. All the following statements about presidential popularity are true EXCEPT:
- A president's popularity is highest right after the inauguration.
  - A president's popularity generally declines over his or her term.
  - World events have little impact on a president's standing with the public.
  - A strong economy leads to an increase in the president's approval rating.
  - A president's popularity does not necessarily translate into success for his or her party.



55. Looking over the long term, public opinion in the United States
- A. is likely to remain the same on basic policy issues
  - B. changes significantly to reflect different times
  - C. becomes more liberal over a range of economic issues
  - D. becomes more conservative on social questions
  - E. is less influenced by the media than in the past
56. The cabinet is made up of more people than just the heads of the 15 executive departments. Which of the following does NOT have cabinet rank?
- A. director of the Central Intelligence Agency
  - B. U.S. trade representative
  - C. director of the Office of Management and Budget
  - D. administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
  - E. vice president
57. In order to be considered a member of a political party, a person must
- A. make a contribution to the party as a form of membership dues
  - B. register to vote with the party
  - C. serve on the party's county committee
  - D. volunteer for a local party campaign
  - E. vote for candidates of the party
58. In *Brown II* (1955), the Supreme Court
- A. established busing as the principal means of integrating public schools
  - B. declared the "separate but equal" doctrine unconstitutional
  - C. allowed local school boards to develop desegregation plans that federal district courts would review
  - D. established a rigid timetable within which desegregation must be accomplished
  - E. extended desegregation to school districts faced with de facto segregation
59. The benefits provided under Medicare that are paid for through payroll taxes include
- A. prescription drugs
  - B. regular physician visits
  - C. hospitalization
  - D. diagnostic tests
  - E. dental care
60. An example of the activity of an intergovernmental lobby is
- A. seeking an increase in foreign aid to a particular country
  - B. pressing Congress for limits on unfunded mandates
  - C. contacting the House Budget Committee about additional funding for a federal agency
  - D. speaking to the White House staff about an upcoming appointment to the Supreme Court
  - E. testifying before the Senate Appropriations Committee on a new Navy ship

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY. DO NOT WORK ON ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE TEST.



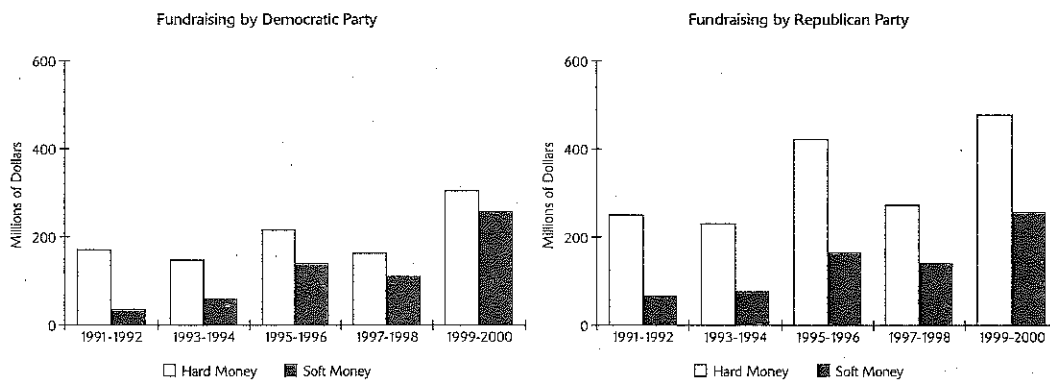
## Section II: Free-Response Questions

**Time: 100 minutes**

**4 questions**

**Directions:** You have 100 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. Spend approximately one-fourth of your time (25 minutes) on each question. Illustrate your essay with substantive examples where appropriate. Be sure to number each answer in the same way the question is numbered below.

1. From the Constitutional Convention through the 2000 election, Americans have debated the proper relationship between the states and the federal government.
  - a. Describe two models or theories of federalism.
  - b. Discuss two advantages and two disadvantages of federalism.
  
2. The graphs below show the amount of money raised by the Democratic and Republican parties from the 1992 election cycle through the 2000 election cycle.



Using this information and your knowledge of recent U.S. politics, do the following:

- a. Identify two trends that the graphs show.
  - b. Define hard money and soft money, and how each is used.
  - c. Discuss how recent changes in campaign finance law are likely to impact party fundraising.
3. The legislative process takes place inside and outside of Congress. Explain the role of each of the following in enacting legislation:
    - a. committee system
    - b. interest groups
    - c. the president
  
  4. Although relations between the media and the government are often called adversarial, the two institutions actually have a symbiotic relationship. Describe how their relationship is symbiotic, and provide two examples for the media and two examples for the government that demonstrate their relationship.

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY. DO NOT WORK ON ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE TEST.



## Answer Key

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### Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions

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

### Section II: Free-Response Questions

Student essays and analyses begin on page 198.