

PRACTICE TEST 1


Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions

Time: 45 Minutes

60 Questions

Directions: Select the answer choice that best answers the question or completes the statement.

1. The most common form of political activity by citizens of the United States is
 - (A) participating in campaigns.
 - (B) money donations to candidates.
 - (C) voting in presidential elections.
 - (D) placing yard signs for statewide elections.
 - (E) voting in local and state elections.
2. Which of the following factors is the most important for predicting the outcome of Congressional elections?
 - (A) The amount of money spent by the candidate
 - (B) The size of the voter turnout
 - (C) The success of the parties' presidential candidate within the particular Congressional district
 - (D) Whether or not the candidate is an incumbent
 - (E) Whether or not there are some hot button issues during the campaign
3. Which of the following statements is true concerning committee chairs in the House of Representatives?
 - (A) They are always members of the majority party of the House.
 - (B) They are chosen by the party whip.
 - (C) They are always endorsed by the president.
 - (D) They are selected by the Supreme Court and ratified by the full House membership.
 - (E) They are always the person with the most seniority in the House.
4. The most common determining factor when people vote for a presidential candidate is
 - (A) a candidate's stance on specific issues.
 - (B) a candidate's position on fiscal policies.
 - (C) the effectiveness of a candidate's mass media campaign.
 - (D) the amount of time a presidential candidate has spent in a voter's local area.
 - (E) the candidate's political party identification.

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5. Who authored the *Federalist Papers*?

- I. James Madison
- II. Benjamin Franklin
- III. Alexander Hamilton
- IV. John Jay
- (A) II only
- (B) III only
- (C) I, II, and III
- (D) II and III
- (E) I, III, and IV

6. A closed primary is a

- (A) primary election that allows eligible voters to vote only within their district.
- (B) primary open to all voters, who may vote for candidates from any party for each office.
- (C) primary that is for local offices only, not statewide offices.
- (D) primary in which a voter is required to identify a party preference before voting, and cannot split the ticket.
- (E) primary where only presidential preferences are determined, and lower offices are not decided.

Use the following table to answer questions 7 and 8.

VIEWS ON GAY MARRIAGE

	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
East	42	50	8
South	23	67	10
Midwest	33	56	11
West	36	58	6
Urban	36	52	12
Suburban	38	54	8
Rural	22	69	9
White	32	60	8
Black	28	60	12
Hispanic	36	51	13

Source: Pew Research; Center for People and the Press

7. Which of the following statements is **NOT** true about attitudes toward gay marriage?

- (A) Opposition to gay marriages is equal between blacks and whites.
- (B) Opposition to gay marriages is strongest in rural areas.
- (C) The highest percentage of respondents who replied, "don't know" was Hispanics.
- (D) People in the South are the most accepting of gay marriages.
- (E) People in the East are the most accepting of gay marriage.

8. The widest gap between those favoring and those opposing gay marriage occurs in

- (A) respondents from the West.
- (B) respondents who are white.
- (C) respondents from rural areas.
- (D) respondents of Hispanic origin.
- (E) respondents from the East.

9. The formal writ used to bring a case before the Supreme Court is called the
- (A) *writ of mandamus.*
 - (B) *writ of certiorari.*
 - (C) *writ of habeas corpus.*
 - (D) *writ of theocracy.*
 - (E) *writ of court consent.*
10. Which of the following statements concerning the Virginia Plan at the convention is **NOT** correct?
- (A) It basically favored the larger states with its proposals.
 - (B) It called for a national legislature that would have supreme powers on all matters that the separate states were not competent to act upon.
 - (C) It called for one legislative chamber to be elected by the people and a second to be chosen by that popularly elected chamber from people nominated by state legislatures.
 - (D) It called for a strong national union with three branches of government—legislative, executive, and judicial.
 - (E) It prohibited a state's population from being a factor in any issue considering representation.
11. The officials directly elected by registered voters are
- (A) justices of the Supreme Court.
 - (B) president and vice president.
 - (C) Cabinet secretaries in the presidential Cabinet.
 - (D) House and Senate members.
 - (E) members of the Electoral College.
12. Which of the following sources contributes most to the workload of the Supreme Court?
- (A) Cases referred by Congress
 - (B) Cases from its appellate jurisdiction
 - (C) Cases referred by regulatory commissions
 - (D) Cases from its original jurisdiction
 - (E) Cases referred from the executive branch
13. The ruling in the Supreme Court decision of *McCulloch v. Maryland*
- (A) established the important constitutional concept of eminent domain.
 - (B) denied the federal government jurisdiction in disputes between states.
 - (C) established the supremacy of the national government over state governments.
 - (D) established that only the federal government controls international trade agreements.
 - (E) established the need for the popular election of United States senators.
14. Which of the following statements best describes the importance of Shay's Rebellion?
- (A) It reinforced the fact that the institution of slavery was too controversial to deal with at the time the Constitution was written.
 - (B) It proved that the Indian uprisings were only temporary and would soon come to an end.
 - (C) It illustrated the need for a strong national government that could protect property and maintain order.
 - (D) It illustrated a need for a national currency free from local inflation.
 - (E) It proved that the federalism system of government would work in the colonies.

15. The individual rights promised to citizens in the Bill of Rights were later extended to apply to the states, due in part to the Supreme Court interpretation of Constitutional Amendment
- (A) 12
 - (B) 14
 - (C) 16
 - (D) 10
 - (E) 18
16. Which of the following powers is **NOT** given to the president by the U.S. Constitution?
- (A) The president has the power to grant pardons for federal crimes.
 - (B) The president can create new Cabinet-level departments as he feels necessary.
 - (C) The president has the power to veto bills sent to him by Congress.
 - (D) The president commissions officers in the various branches of the military.
 - (E) The president has the power to appoint ambassadors with the advice and consent of the United States Senate.
17. Due process protects a United States citizen from
- (A) having his or her private property seized without just reimbursement.
 - (B) having untrue things written about him or her.
 - (C) being imprisoned without a proper trial.
 - (D) being forced to house soldiers in his or her home.
 - (E) being required to register for military service.
18. When the House of Representatives debates a bill under a "closed rule," which of the following conditions exists?
- (A) No amendments to the bill can be offered.
 - (B) The debate will not be allowed to be public record.
 - (C) The vote on the particular bill will be kept confidential.
 - (D) The amount of debate on the particular bill is predetermined at 10 minutes for each congressman.
 - (E) The debate will be limited to only the bill's sponsor and one opponent to the bill.
19. Which of the following best describes the view expressed in the *Federalist Papers* concerning the development of political parties and interest groups?
- (A) They were viewed as necessary and beneficial to the expression of citizens' views and healthy for the country.
 - (B) They were viewed as an integral part of the constitutional process.
 - (C) They were endorsed numerous times in various parts of the Constitution as beneficial.
 - (D) The writers of the *Federalist Papers* considered them basically evil.
 - (E) They were basically discussed as favorable but they were to be carefully monitored.

20. The best definition for the term *interest group* is
- (A) a formal organization of people with common interests who run candidates that believe in those same interests.
 - (B) an organization of people with shared policy goals that enter the policy process at numerous places in an attempt to advance those goals.
 - (C) a group of individuals who are hoping to accomplish nonspecific goals for the general improvement of society.
 - (D) a formal organization that sponsors activities that are narrow in scope and focus; it pursues essentially single issues.
 - (E) a group of people who share common ideas but have no formal membership and who exert very little political influence.
21. Which of the following Supreme Court decisions dealt with the concept of the exclusionary rule and evidence being obtained by illegal means?
- (A) *Mapp v. Ohio*
 - (B) *Korematsu v. United States*
 - (C) *Bakke v. Board of Regents*
 - (D) *Plessy v. Ferguson*
 - (E) *Munn v. Illinois*
22. Which of the following statements is true of most bills introduced in the House of Representatives and Senate?
- (A) Most bills are passed by committees but die from lack of support in the respective chamber.
 - (B) Almost every bill in Congress dies from lack of support in the House Rules Committee.
 - (C) Most bills are passed by one chamber of Congress but die from lack of support in the opposite chamber.
 - (D) Most bills are withdrawn by the bill's sponsor before even being considered.
 - (E) Most bills are referred to appropriate committees but are never sent to the full Congress, they simply die in committee.
23. Which of the following definitions best describes the term *iron triangle*?
- (A) The close working relationship between the three levels of the judicial branch
 - (B) The cooperation between the federal, state, and local governments
 - (C) The relationship between diplomats, the president, and the Senate in treaty negotiations
 - (D) The close relationship between an agency, a Congressional committee, and an interest group that often becomes a mutually advantageous alliance
 - (E) The cooperation of the military, executive branch, and the legislative branch, when planning and financing a military action

24. Important industries experiencing extreme problems might expect government help in all of the following ways **EXCEPT**
- (A) the government might intervene with subsidies.
 - (B) the government might pass tax break legislation.
 - (C) the government might fund product research and development.
 - (D) the government might fix prices within a particular area.
 - (E) the government might guarantee loans to assist the industry through the difficult period.
25. According to the framers of the Constitution, one of the primary functions of government is to
- (A) expand the number of democracies in the world as years go by.
 - (B) increase the population of the United States by establishing liberal immigration policies.
 - (C) protect individual property rights in the United States.
 - (D) develop an equitable system of individual income tax in the United States.
 - (E) develop an educational system that would reach all U.S. citizens.
26. Based on numerous studies, which of the following statements concerning the news media is considered to be **TRUE**?
- (A) A slight Democratic bias was discovered.
 - (B) A strong liberal bias was discovered.
 - (C) No bias was detected and the news was generally determined to be neutral.
 - (D) A slight conservative bias was discovered.
 - (E) A strong Republican bias was discovered.

Use the following table to answer questions 27 and 28.

OVERALL PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL RATINGS 1953-2001

	Average %	High %	Low %
Kennedy	70	83	56
Eisenhower	65	79	48
G.H.W. Bush	61	89	29
Clinton	55	73	37
Johnson	55	79	35
Reagan	53	65	35
Nixon	49	67	24
Ford	47	71	37
Carter	45	74	28

Source: Gallup Organization

27. Which of the following presidents had the biggest difference between their highest and lowest approval ratings?
- (A) G.H.W. Bush
 - (B) Clinton
 - (C) Kennedy
 - (D) Ford
 - (E) Johnson
28. Which of the following presidents had the most consistent approval ratings?
- (A) Eisenhower
 - (B) Reagan
 - (C) Clinton
 - (D) Nixon
 - (E) Kennedy

29. The overwhelming majority of criminal cases in the United States are held in
- (A) federal district courts.
 - (B) appellate courts only.
 - (C) state and local courts.
 - (D) federal appellate courts.
 - (E) federal judiciary courts.
30. Which of the following concepts are mentioned in the Preamble to the Constitution?
- I. Establish justice
 - II. Provide for the common defense
 - III. Secure the blessings of education
 - IV. Promote the general welfare
- (A) III and IV only
 - (B) I, III, and IV
 - (C) I, II, and IV
 - (D) I and IV only
 - (E) All of the above are mentioned in the Preamble.
31. Which of the following was the most immediate reaction to the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)?
- (A) Surprisingly, an almost immediate end to segregated education took place.
 - (B) There was a constitutional amendment passed to strengthen the ruling.
 - (C) Bussing of inner-city students to suburban schools was established voluntarily.
 - (D) There was a rapid growth in private white schools in the South.
 - (E) There was a national show of support for a long-overdue Supreme Court decision.
32. Most of the delegates to the Republican and Democratic national conventions at the present time are chosen by
- (A) precinct caucuses.
 - (B) regional caucuses.
 - (C) state party conventions.
 - (D) local party caucuses.
 - (E) presidential primaries.
33. Which of the following conditions would most benefit retired persons on fixed incomes?
- (A) A period of low inflation
 - (B) A period of high unemployment
 - (C) A period of high inflation
 - (D) A period of low unemployment
 - (E) A period of stagnant employment
34. The largest single source of health care dollars in the United States is
- (A) charities.
 - (B) private insurance companies.
 - (C) doctor-owned HMOs.
 - (D) private citizens through out-of-pocket spending.
 - (E) government.
35. Which of the following statements would be **MOST** true concerning political parties over the past 40 years?
- (A) Party loyalty has remained relatively the same.
 - (B) Party loyalty has decreased over that period.
 - (C) Party loyalty has increased significantly over that period.
 - (D) Party loyalty has grown only in urban areas.
 - (E) Party loyalty has grown significantly in suburban areas.

36. Which of the following is an action Congress can take if the Supreme Court declares a federal law unconstitutional?
- (A) Congress can override Supreme Court decisions with a two-thirds vote.
 - (B) Congress can request that the executive branch veto the court decision with a simple majority vote.
 - (C) Congress can attempt to amend the Constitution.
 - (D) Congress can vote to have the federal appeals court start the case back through the system for reconsideration.
 - (E) Congress can vote to have the Supreme Court issue a *writ of certiorari*.
37. Which of the following definitions **BEST** describes *inalienable rights*?
- (A) Rights based upon the common consensus
 - (B) Rights established through political justice
 - (C) Rights based upon a military code of fairness
 - (D) Rights based on nature and Providence
 - (E) Rights established through political compromise

Use the following table to answer questions 38 and 39.

Public Opposed to Overturning Completely overturn Roe v. Wade?			
	Yes %	No %	Don't know %
Total	30	63	7
Men	31	62	7
Women	29	64	7
White	31	63	6
Black	28	60	12
Hispanic	31	62	7
Ages 18–29	29	66	5
Ages 30–49	28	65	7
Ages 50–64	32	62	6
Ages 65+	34	57	9
College graduate	20	75	5
Some college	32	63	5
High school or less	35	57	8
Republican	48	47	5
Democrat	19	75	6
Independent	25	69	6
Conservative	62	33	5
Republican			
Moderate/Liberal	25	71	4
Republican			
Conservative/	23	72	5
Moderate Democrat			
Liberal Democrat	13	82	5
White Protestant	37	56	7
Evangelical	52	41	7
Mainline	21	71	8
White Catholic	31	65	4
Secular	12	82	6

Attend Church			
Weekly or more	46	48	6
Sometimes	22	70	8
Seldom or never	17	77	6

Source: Pew Research; Center for Religion and Public Life

38. According to the table, which age group shows the most support for the *Roe v. Wade* decision?
- (A) 18–29
 - (B) 30–49
 - (C) 50–64
 - (D) 65+
 - (E) None of the above
39. According to the chart, which of the following statements is **NOT** correct?
- (A) The strongest support for overturning *Roe v. Wade* comes from the conservative Republican category.
 - (B) The largest group responding, “don’t know” comes from the category of black.
 - (C) The most evenly divided group is the group labeled Republican.
 - (D) The percentage of Hispanics not wanting to overturn *Roe v. Wade* is double that of the number of Hispanics wanting to overturn it.
 - (E) Women support overturning *Roe v. Wade* more than men.
40. Which of the following statements concerning the Speaker of the House of Representatives is **TRUE**?
- (A) The Speaker is chosen by the president and confirmed by the Senate.
 - (B) The Speaker only votes whenever the House vote has ended in a tie.
 - (C) The Speaker is elected by the majority party in the House of Representatives.
 - (D) The Speaker must be at least 35 years of age.
 - (E) The Speaker must be endorsed by the Supreme Court because of the importance of the position.
41. Historically, bureaucracies in the United States have grown significantly during which of the following events?
- (A) Periods of economic stability
 - (B) Periods of prosperity
 - (C) Periods of depression
 - (D) Periods of war
 - (E) Periods of recession
42. Which of the following determines the number of delegates to a national party convention and the rules under which they are chosen?
- (A) State party conventions
 - (B) The national committee of the particular party
 - (C) State legislatures
 - (D) The state party leadership
 - (E) Local party caucuses
43. Which of the following Supreme Court decisions reversed the earlier decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson*?
- (A) *Korematsu v. U.S.*
 - (B) *Mapp v. Ohio*
 - (C) *Marbury v. Madison*
 - (D) *Brown v. Board of Education*
 - (E) *Gideon v. Wainwright*
44. The person who serves as the president’s chief civilian advisor on the military is the
- (A) chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
 - (B) Secretary of State.
 - (C) director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
 - (D) Secretary of Defense.
 - (E) National Security Advisor.

45. Which of the following theories encourages the government to create jobs for people during times of high unemployment, so that more money can get back into the hands of consumers and stimulate economic growth?
- (A) Supply-side economics
 - (B) Military-industrial economics
 - (C) Keynesian economics
 - (D) Reaganomics
 - (E) Wilsonian economics
46. Which of the following best describes the concept of presidential coattails in recent elections?
- (A) This effect is stronger for Republicans than for Democrats.
 - (B) This effect has been increasing over the last half of the 20th century.
 - (C) This has rarely affected recent elections, due to more ticket splitting.
 - (D) This effect is seen more in House rather than Senate races.
 - (E) This effect is stronger for Democrats than for Republicans.
47. *Franking privilege* is the
- (A) right of Congressmen to be exempt from income taxes.
 - (B) right of the government to subpoena individuals and compel them to testify before Congress.
 - (C) legal term for the right of people to not testify against themselves.
 - (D) right of members of the Supreme Court to be exempt from testifying in legal proceedings.
 - (E) right of members of Congress to send mail to their constituents free of charge.
48. Which of the following statements is **NOT** true of the Electoral College?
- (A) Each state has as many electoral votes as it has United States Senators and Representatives.
 - (B) Except for Maine and Nebraska, every state has a winner-take-all system.
 - (C) If no candidate receives an Electoral College majority, then the election goes to the House of Representatives.
 - (D) The state parties select slates of electors; these are often assigned as a reward for faithful service to the party.
 - (E) Electors are bound by the Constitution to vote the way their state voted, and they cannot vote their conscience.
49. Which of the following powers is designated only to the national government?
- (A) The power to levy taxes
 - (B) The power to take private land for public use
 - (C) The power to make and enforce laws
 - (D) The power to regulate commerce with foreign nations
 - (E) The power to create and maintain a judicial system
50. The 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution establishes which of the following?
- (A) It repealed the policy of prohibition established earlier.
 - (B) It limited U.S. presidents to two terms.
 - (C) It established a system for presidential succession and presidential disability.
 - (D) It lowered the voting age in the United States to 18 years of age.
 - (E) It changed the method by which Congress can raise its salaries.

51. Which of the following is the Latin term for “let the decision stand,” the principle of precedent in the judicial system?

- (A) *Stare decisis*
- (B) *En loco parentis*
- (C) *Habeas corpus*
- (D) *Writ of certiorari*
- (E) *Pluribus principalis*

52. Which of the following statements is **NOT** true about the United States Senate?

- (A) There is no rules committee to limit debate in the Senate.
- (B) The vice president presides over the Senate and only votes in the event of a tie.
- (C) Until the 17th Amendment, senators were elected by state legislatures.
- (D) The membership of the Senate has always been made up of more common individuals rather than the rich elite.
- (E) It shares the ability to declare war with the House of Representatives.

53. Which of the following statements concerning children in poverty is **CORRECT** according to the graph?

- (A) Poverty for metro white children and metro Hispanic children is essentially equal.
- (B) Poverty for nonmetro black children is lower than poverty for nonmetro Hispanic children.
- (C) Poverty for metro white children is about equal to poverty for metro black children.
- (D) Poverty for metro Hispanic children is higher than poverty for metro black children.
- (E) Poverty for metro black children is lower than poverty for nonmetro Hispanic children.

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

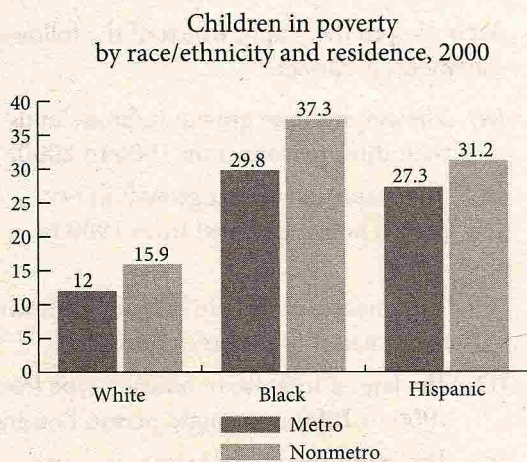
54. The above text is from which amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

- (A) 5th Amendment
- (B) 4th Amendment
- (C) 10th Amendment
- (D) 2nd Amendment
- (E) 6th Amendment

55. A progressive income tax can best be described as a(n)

- (A) innovative form of taxation that incorporates sales taxes and tariffs.
- (B) system of taxation that is considered more fair because it taxes all citizens at the same rate.
- (C) equitable tax, because only those who are high rate consumers are taxed.
- (D) tax where those with more income pay a higher rate of tax on their income.
- (E) innovative tax, because as a person's salary increases annually, his or her tax rate decreases, encouraging investment.

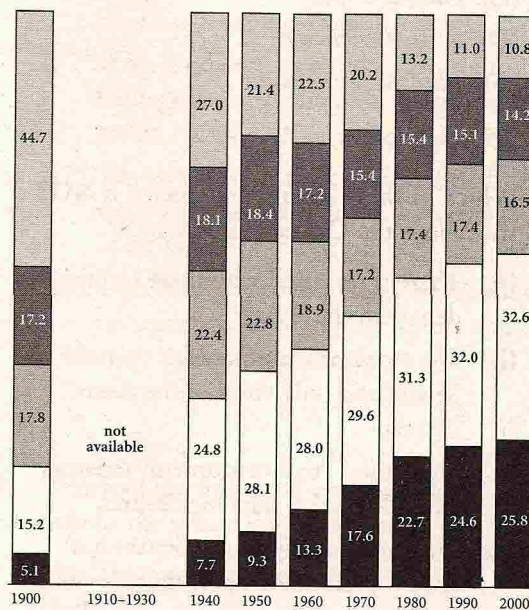
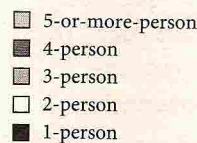
Using the following graph, answer question 53.



Source: Calculated by ERS from March 2001
Current Population Survey.

56. News coverage by the print and broadcast media is **BEST** described by which of the following?
- (A) It is extensive and in depth.
 (B) It is very ideological in its presentation.
 (C) It is presented at a relatively high educational level.
 (D) It is very superficial.
 (E) It is mostly sensationalized.
57. The term *critical election* can best be described as a
- (A) term used for elections where serious economic differences exist between the candidates.
 (B) term used to describe elections when the nation is in a state of war.
 (C) term used for elections where party realignment takes place.
 (D) term for an election where Supreme Court vacancies are anticipated.
 (E) term for any election where one party has won the previous three elections and this election is critical to the minority party.
58. Which of the following terms describes a president's ability to hold on to a bill if Congress is in the last 10 days of a session and let it die by not signing or vetoing it?
- (A) *En loco parentis*
 (B) Hidden veto
 (C) *Writ of certiorari*
 (D) *Writ of mandamus*
 (E) Pocket veto

Distribution of Households by Size:
1900 and 1940 to 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1900, and decennial census of housing, 1940 to 2000.

59. According to the graph, which of the following statements is correct?
- (A) The graph shows growth in households with three persons from 1900 to 2000.
 (B) The graph shows that growth in two-person housing tripled from 1900 to 2000.
 (C) The smallest decline in housing is shown to be that of four-person housing.
 (D) The largest increase in housing type from 1900 to 2000 is in single-person housing.
 (E) The graph shows an increase in four-person housing from 1980 to 2000.

60. Beginning in 1950, which decade shows the largest decline in five or more person housing?
- (A) 1950 to 1960
 - (B) 1960 to 1970
 - (C) 1970 to 1980
 - (D) 1980 to 1990
 - (E) 1990 to 2000

Section II: Free-Response Questions

Time: 100 Minutes

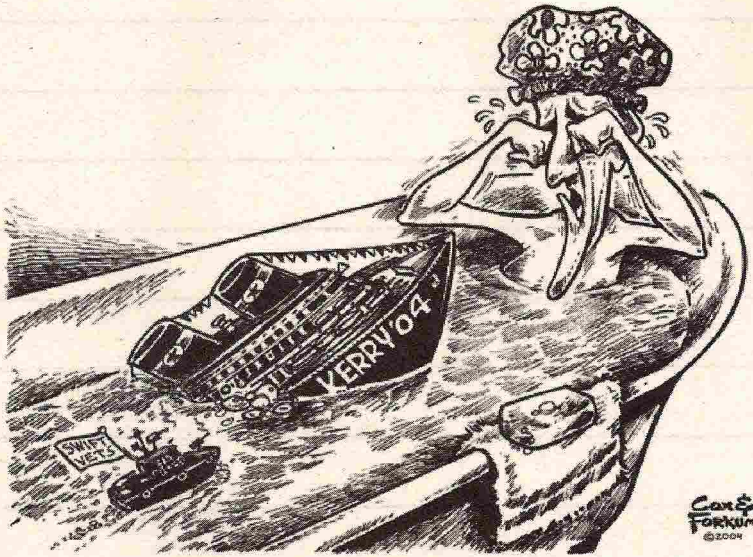
4 Questions

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 25 minutes to complete each question. In your response, use substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number/letter each of your answers as the question is numbered/lettered below.

1. A recent problem for our government has been the issue of gridlock. This can occur within Congress or between Congress and the president.
 - (A) Describe the condition of gridlock.
 - (B) Give an example of how gridlock might exist between the House and Senate.
 - (C) Give an example of how gridlock might exist between Congress and the president.
 - (D) Explain why gridlock has been more of a problem in recent years.

2. One of the most important issues has been the selection process for Supreme Court justices.
 - (A) Describe the process for selection and appointment to the Supreme Court.
 - (B) Discuss why that process has been more difficult recently by citing two reasons for this increased difficulty.
 - (C) Discuss one reason why Supreme Court appointments are very important.



Source: Cox and Forkum

3. Using the cartoon provided and your knowledge of limited state government and politics answer the following question:
 - (A) What point concerning the 2004 election is the cartoonist making?
 - (B) Define independent expenditures.
 - (C) Explain one positive and two negatives provided by independent expenditures and 527 groups.

4. The Electoral College is one of the most misunderstood entities in the United States political system. Discuss the following concerning the Electoral College:
 - (A) One rationale for establishing the Electoral College
 - (B) Two major flaws that have been exposed in the Electoral College process over the years
 - (C) Two proposals for altering or replacing the Electoral College concept