

# ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

## SECTION I: MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. C

Statistics show that the most common form of political participation by U.S. citizens is voting during presidential elections.

2. D

Incumbency has proven to be an extreme advantage in Congressional elections. Connections to political action committees and other built-in advantages are hard for challengers to overcome.

3. A

Committee chairs are always members of the majority party. This proves to be a very important advantage for majority parties.

4. E

A candidate's political party identification is the most important factor in a presidential campaign. This is a bit surprising. In many ways, it goes against other trends toward independence; however, party identification still carries a great deal of influence.

5. E

Benjamin Franklin had no role in the writing of the *Federalist Papers*. Alexander Hamilton wrote the bulk of the *Federalist Papers* with James Madison and John Jay helping to a lesser degree.

6. D

A closed primary requires voters to proclaim a party preference and they cannot cross over to opposing parties.

7. D

It is not true that the people of the South are accepting of gay marriage. Only 23 percent of people from the South responded that they favor gay marriages. This figure is substantially below the 42 percent favorable rating for people from the East.

8. C

The widest gap between those favoring and those opposing gay marriage occurs in respondents from rural areas. There is a 47 percent spread between those favoring and those opposing gay marriages in rural areas. This gap is by far the widest indicated by the chart.

9. B

A *writ of certiorari* is the formal proclamation that forwards a case to the Supreme Court. This Latin term means "made more certain." It requires the lower court to send up its records of a case for review. This is how most cases reach the Supreme Court. It requires that at least four justices feel the need for a case to be reviewed.

10. E

In fact, the Virginia Plan strongly favored the inclusion of a state's population as a determining factor for representation. This would have been a big advantage for a large state such as Virginia.

11. D

The officials directly elected by the people are House and Senate members. House members were always chosen by the people; the 17th Amendment changed the election of United States senators from state legislatures to the people of the various states. These are the only federal officials directly elected by voters.

12. B

Cases from the appellate jurisdiction contribute most of the workload of the Supreme Court. Cases from appellate jurisdiction tie into the answer to question 9 concerning the *writ of certiorari*.

13. C

The landmark decision *McCulloch v. Maryland* established the supremacy of the national government over the state governments.

**14. C**

Shay's Rebellion vividly illustrated the need for a strong national government because it showed how weak the government was under the Articles of Confederation. After this uprising there was a consensus that something had to be done to strengthen the national government.

**15. B**

The 14th Amendment passed shortly after the Civil War had numerous aspects. One of those was the rights stated in the Bill of Rights were extended to apply to the states. This interpretation evolved after a Supreme Court decision.

**16. B**

The president does not have the power to create Cabinet-level departments as he feels necessary. Only Congress can create new Cabinet-level positions. The president may request them but it is Congress that creates them.

**17. C**

Due process protects a U.S. citizen from being imprisoned without a trial. Due process rights deal with the judicial system's treatment of accused criminals. This interpretation of an accused person's rights has been refined through several Supreme Court decisions.

**18. A**

When the House of Representatives debates a bill under a closed rule, no amendments to the bill can be offered; the closed rule prohibits any amendments to bills being considered under these conditions.

**19. D**

The writers of the *Federalist Papers* saw political parties and interest groups as basically evil. There is little argument that they had a very dim view of political parties and interest groups.

**20. B**

Interest groups are bound together by common policy goals. Another aspect of interest groups is that they try to accomplish their goals through various means.

**21. A**

*Mapp v. Ohio* dealt with the exclusionary rule and illegally obtained evidence.

**22. E**

Statistically, an overwhelming majority of bills introduced in the House of Representatives simply die in committee.

**23. D**

*Iron triangles* is the term for the relationship between federal agencies, Congressional committees, and interest groups. This working arrangement has proven to be advantageous to all three members.

**24. D**

Important industries experiencing extreme problems might expect the government to intervene with subsidies, tax breaks, funding for product research, or guaranteed loans. However, one thing the federal government has refused to do to help struggling industries has been to establish fixed prices in a particular area.

**25. C**

One of the most basic principles to be protected throughout U.S. history has been individual property rights.

**26. C**

Despite a popular expressed belief that the media has a built-in liberal bias, there have been a number of studies done by independent groups that have had no factual data to support this claim. The news has almost always been determined to be neutral in its coverage.

**27. A**

George Herbert Walker Bush had a 60 percent difference between his highest and lowest approval ratings. This is the biggest difference cited by the chart.

**28. E**

President Kennedy had a high of 83 percent and a low of 56 percent in his approval ratings. According to the chart, this is the most consistent approval rating of the presidents rated in this chart.

**29. C**

The vast majority of criminal cases are handled by state and local courts. Crimes must fit particular parameters in order to be considered federal crimes and therefore handled in federal courts.

**30. C**

The Preamble to the Constitution mentions the establishment of justice, the provision for the common defense, and the promotion of the general welfare. Education, while very important to our country, is not mentioned in the Preamble to the Constitution.

**31. D**

Immediately following the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, there was a rapid growth of private schools in the South. This put public education in the South in peril.

**32. E**

Presidential primaries grew very rapidly in importance during the last 40 years. Today, the majority of delegates to both major conventions are delegated through presidential primaries.

**33. A**

A period of low inflation would most benefit those on fixed incomes. Low inflation means that prices are not rising. When prices rise, those on fixed incomes are essentially losing money.

**34. E**

The government is the largest provider of health care dollars in the United States. Programs such as Medicare and Medicaid represent the government's output.

**35. B**

Party loyalty has decreased over the past 40 years. There is more ticket splitting than ever before. While individuals identify with parties for presidential elections they are very willing to step outside the party in elections below that level.

**36. C**

If Congress disagrees with the Supreme Court declaring a law unconstitutional, it may make the law an amendment to the Constitution.

**37. D**

Inalienable rights are considered to be basic rights based on individual's natural rights granted through Providence. This implies that they are our rights as human beings based upon our existence and that government has no right to interfere with them.

**38. A**

The 18-to-29-year-olds show the most support for *Roe v. Wade*. According to the chart, 66 percent of this group opposes the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

**39. E**

It is not true that women support overturning *Roe v. Wade* more than men do. In fact, the answer is the opposite. The chart shows that 31 percent of men support overturning *Roe v. Wade* in comparison to 29 percent of women. Men favor overturning this decision more than women do.

**40. C**

The Speaker of the House is chosen by the members of the majority party. This position is important and powerful.

**41. D**

Historically, wartime has proven to be a period of bureaucratic growth. Once a bureaucracy has grown, it becomes very difficult to reduce its size.

**42. B**

The size or number of delegates to a national party convention is determined by a party's national committee.

**43. D**

*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* reversed the Supreme Court's earlier position stating that separate but equal was constitutional. This decision was reversed because separate was, in fact, very rarely even close to equal.

44. D

The Secretary of Defense serves as the president's chief civilian military advisor. With an office in the Pentagon, the secretary works very closely with the military and keeps the president apprised of military affairs.

45. C

The theory of Keynesian economics encourages the government to create jobs for people during periods of high unemployment. John Maynard Keynes, an English economist, believed it was beneficial for the government to create jobs during periods of high unemployment; he strongly believed that this was a proper way to stimulate economic growth.

46. C

As explained earlier, with increased ticket splitting, the former concept of presidential coattails has proven less and less to be the case.

47. E

Franking privilege is the right of members of Congress to send mail to their constituents free of charge. Members seem to use their franking privilege more during election years. This is only one of many reasons why it is difficult to defeat an incumbent.

48. E

Electors are NOT bound by the Constitution to vote the way the state they represent voted. There are numerous examples of an elector voting his or her conscience or going outside the way the state he or she represented voted.

49. D

Only the national government can regulate trade with foreign countries. Sometimes, if a foreign government is at odds with the U.S. government, the national government will forbid trade with the offending country.

50. B

The 22nd Amendment limited the president to two terms. This was passed following Franklin Roosevelt having been elected to four terms as president.

Before FDR, presidential candidates had limited themselves to two terms by tradition. Many were afraid that having presidents remain in office for longer than two terms could lead to innumerable problems.

51. A

*Stare decisis* is a Latin term meaning "let the decision stand." The concept of basing judicial decisions on previously decided cases (precedent) comes from this term.

52. D

The membership of the Senate has always been made up of the rich elite. The Senate has at times in our history been known as the "Millionaires Club." Members of the Senate have tended to be wealthier than members of the House.

53. E

According to the graph, poverty for metro black children is lower than poverty for nonmetro Hispanic children.

54. D

This is the text of the 2nd Amendment. Its interpretation in recent years has been a dividing factor. Many people today support some form of gun control while others refer back to this amendment as their unequivocal right to bear arms.

55. D

The concept of a progressive income tax (also called a graduated income tax) states that the more an individual makes, the higher that person's tax rate should be. The income tax system of the United States is a progressive income tax system; it has proven to be a very complex system for an individual to understand.

56. D

It is the consensus opinion that print and broadcast media coverage of the news tends to be very superficial. Many believe this is because news coverage has become more and more ratings driven.

**57. C**

Critical elections are those elections where party realignment of some type takes place. This term refers to the fact that a certain segment of votes will change their loyalty from one party to the other. One example would be the Democrats losing the “solid South” to the Republicans.

**58. E**

A pocket veto occurs when the president simply holds on to a bill and takes no action during the last 10 days of a Congressional session, effectively killing that particular bill.

**59. D**

The graph shows that the number of single-person households increased over five times over the period 1900 to 2000.

**60. C**

According to the graph, the sharpest drop in housing with five or more persons after 1950 took place between 1970 and 1980.

## SECTION II: FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

### RUBRIC FOR QUESTION 1: 5 POINTS TOTAL

**Part (A): 2 points** for defining gridlock.

- Gridlock occurs when there is a lack of movement or progress in the passage of legislation. Typically, this is the result of conflicts between the political parties inside of Congress or in partisan arguments between Congress and the president.

**Part (B): 1 point** for explaining that gridlock might exist between the House and the Senate when one chamber is controlled by one party and the other chamber is controlled by the opposite party.

**Part (C): 1 point** for explaining that gridlock exists between Congress and the president when one party has a majority in Congress and the opposite party controls the presidency. It may be noted that the opposing party may only need to control one chamber of Congress.

**Part (D): 1 point** for explaining that gridlock has happened more often recently because these conditions have occurred more frequently recently due to ticket splitting by voters. Also, there seems to have been a more partisan attitude and less of a spirit of compromise in recent years.

### RUBRIC FOR QUESTION 2: 5 POINTS TOTAL

**Part (A): 2 points** for describing the process for selection of Supreme Court justices.

- The president nominates a person for the Supreme Court and the United States Senate ratifies that nominee.

**Part (B): 2 points** for discussing the reason why the process has been more difficult recently.

- The recent problems can be traced to the fact that recently the Senate has been from the opposite party than that of the president.
- Another valid reason would be that there has been an increase in partisanship within the Senate itself.
- A final possibility might be because as life expectancies have increased, everyone realizes this appointment might influence important decisions for many years to come.

**Part (C): 1 point** for explaining that a president's Supreme Court appointments can perpetuate his philosophies long after he has left office.

**RUBRIC FOR QUESTION 3: 6 POINTS TOTAL**

**Part (A): 2 points** for identifying that the swift boat veterans group had an important negative effect on Senator John Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign.

**Part (B): 2 points** for defining the term independent expenditure.

- Independent expenditure is money spent for a communication that expressly advocates the election of one candidate or the defeat of the other candidate. This money is not considered to be a campaign contribution and so independent expenditures are not limited. The individual or group making the expenditure cannot consult or coordinate with the campaign they are benefiting.

**Part (C): 1 point each** for one positive and two negatives.

**Possible positives:**

- Individuals can spend their money to support candidates of their choice in any amounts that they wish because technically independent expenditures are not considered part of a candidate's campaign.
- Independent expenditures are another way for individuals to express their rights of free speech as established in the 1st Amendment to the Constitution.

**Possible negatives:**

- The Federal Regulatory Commission does not regulate these groups and expenditures.
- It is difficult to define the difference between the candidate's campaign, the candidate, and private spending.
- A candidate may not approve of or endorse the message of the ads.
- It is difficult to establish accountability if the ads are misleading.

**RUBRIC FOR QUESTION 4: 5 POINTS TOTAL**

**Part (A): 1 point** for explaining either:

- That the framers did not want Congress to elect the president because it would have caused the presidency to be too much under Congressional influence.
- That the framers did not want to leave the election of the presidency in the hands of the popular vote because they were concerned that would create many problems.

**Part (B): 1 point each** (2 points total) for discussing two of the following:

- Electors are not bound by the Constitution to vote for the candidate they were named to represent.
- As parties grew in strength, the process led to a president from one party and a vice president from the opposite party. (This was later corrected by the 12th Amendment.)
- The winner of the popular vote may very well not win the vote in the Electoral College.

**Part (C): 1 point each** (2 points total) for discussing two of the following:

- A district plan that would allocate electoral votes based upon results, Congressional district by Congressional district
- A proportional plan where a presidential candidate would receive the same share of a state's electoral as he or she received of the state's popular vote
- A direct election of a president based entirely on the direct popular vote
- A national bonus plan where a presidential candidate would receive a number of bonus electoral votes for winning the national popular vote; This bonus number would help ensure that the winner of the popular vote would almost certainly win the election in the Electoral College