

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Two hours and 25 minutes are allocated for this examination: 45 minutes for Section I, which consists of multiple-choice questions; and 100 minutes for Section II, which consists of 4 mandatory essay questions. Section I is printed in this examination booklet. Section II is printed in a separate booklet.

SECTION I

Time—45 minutes

Number of questions—60

Percent of total grade—50

Section I of this examination contains 60 multiple-choice questions. Therefore, please be careful to fill in only the ovals that are preceded by numbers 1 to 60 on your answer sheet.

General Instructions

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.

INDICATE ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN SECTION I ON THE SEPARATE ANSWER SHEET. No credit will be given for anything written in this examination booklet, but you may use the booklet for notes or scratchwork. After you have decided which of the suggested answers is best, COMPLETELY fill in the corresponding oval on the answer sheet. Give only one answer to each question. If you change an answer, be sure that the previous mark is erased completely.

Example:

Sample Answer

Chicago is a

- (A) state
- (B) city
- (C) country
- (D) continent
- (E) village

(A) ● (C) (D) (E)

Many candidates wonder whether or not to guess the answers to questions about which they are not certain. In this section of the examination, as a correction for haphazard guessing, one-fourth of the number of questions you answer incorrectly will be subtracted from the number of questions you answer correctly. It is improbable, therefore, that mere guessing will improve your score significantly; it may even lower your score, and it does take time. If, however, you are not sure of the best answer but have some knowledge of the question and are able to eliminate one or more of the answer choices as wrong, your chance of getting the right answer is improved, and it may be to your advantage to answer such a question.

Use your time effectively, working as rapidly as you can without losing accuracy. Do not spend too much time on questions that are too difficult. Go on to other questions and come back to the difficult ones later if you have time. It is not expected that everyone will be able to answer all the multiple-choice questions.

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. The Constitution as ratified in 1788 most clearly reflects the framers' commitment to
 - (A) the idea of direct democracy
 - (B) the principle of limited government
 - (C) the abolition of slavery
 - (D) protecting the rights of the accused
 - (E) maintaining the primacy of the states
 2. Which of the following most accurately describes *The Federalist Papers*?
 - (A) The Federalist party platform during the presidency of John Adams, the first Federalist president
 - (B) A popular anti-British booklet of the pre-Revolutionary era
 - (C) A collection of essays arguing the merits of the Constitution
 - (D) A series of congressional acts defining the relationship between the federal and state governments
 - (E) The laws under which the South was governed during Reconstruction
 3. A Supreme Court that demonstrates a willingness to change public policy and alter judicial precedent is said to be engaging in
 - (A) judicial activism
 - (B) due process
 - (C) judicial restraint
 - (D) *ex post facto* lawmaking
 - (E) judicial review
 4. A writ of *certiorari* from the Supreme Court indicates that the Court
 - (A) will review a lower court decision
 - (B) has rendered a decision on a case
 - (C) has decided not to hear an appeal
 - (D) will recess until the end of the calendar year
 - (E) plans to overturn one of its previous rulings
 5. American foreign policy is directed primarily by the
 - (A) House of Representatives
 - (B) Senate
 - (C) president
 - (D) Supreme Court
 - (E) federal bureaucracy
- "We conclude that in the field of education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."
6. The Supreme Court issued this opinion in its ruling on which of the following cases?
 - (A) *Gideon v. Wainwright*
 - (B) *Marbury v. Madison*
 - (C) *Engel v. Vitale*
 - (D) *Regents of University of California v. Bakke*
 - (E) *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*
 7. Under which of the following circumstances is Congress LEAST likely to pass a bill the president has threatened to veto?
 - (A) The president's public approval rating is extremely high.
 - (B) A failed attempt has been made to develop a compromise bill with the White House.
 - (C) The party controlling Congress is not the president's party.
 - (D) The president has also expressed the possibility that he might not veto the bill.
 - (E) Congressional leaders believe they have the votes necessary to override a veto.

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8. Which of the following best describes the practice of "ticket splitting"?
- (A) A presidential nominee selects a running mate who can appeal to voter groups whose support of the nominee is weak.
 - (B) A voter chooses the presidential nominee of one major party, but chooses congressional nominees of the other major party.
 - (C) A mayor orders the local police force to hand out fewer parking violations in the weeks leading up to the general election.
 - (D) A delegate to a national party convention supports the front-runner but remains uncommitted on the party platform.
 - (E) A member of Congress votes against legislation proposed by his or her party leader.
9. The Rules Committee is considered among the most powerful in the House of Representatives because it has great power over the
- (A) ethical conduct of House members
 - (B) selection of federal judges
 - (C) number of subcommittees that a standing committee may establish at any given time
 - (D) scheduling of votes and the conditions under which bills are debated and amended
 - (E) regulations governing federal elections
10. Compared with political parties in countries such as England and Israel, both of which have multiparty systems, American political parties are
- (A) less interested in influencing the outcome of elections
 - (B) less clearly identified with consistent political ideologies
 - (C) less effective at raising money from political supporters
 - (D) better able to reflect the goals of their entire constituencies
 - (E) more likely to organize around a single issue or goal
11. Which of the following people would most likely be accused of influence peddling?
- (A) A congressperson who retires to take a position teaching political science at a university
 - (B) A former president who advises a current president on a particular foreign policy issue
 - (C) A voter who researches the positions of all candidates in a race before choosing whom to support
 - (D) A judge who consistently hands down the maximum sentence to convicted felons
 - (E) An official who leaves the State Department to work as a paid consultant to foreign governments
12. The primary function of political action committees (PACs) is to
- (A) contribute money to candidates for election
 - (B) coordinate local get-out-the-vote campaigns
 - (C) promote the defeat of incumbents in the federal and state legislatures
 - (D) organize protest demonstrations and other acts of civil disobedience
 - (E) contact Congress to suggest legislation
13. Voters who rely exclusively on television network news coverage of national elections are most likely to be aware of
- (A) which special interest groups have endorsed which candidates
 - (B) the relative strength of each candidate's support, as indicated by public opinion polls
 - (C) candidates' positions on international issues
 - (D) candidates' positions on domestic issues
 - (E) candidates' congressional voting records

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14. Which of the following describe limitations that may constitutionally be placed on freedom of speech and freedom of the press?
- I. Under no circumstances may the government limit speech or censor the press.
 - II. The government may censor the press in the interest of national and military security.
 - III. The government may outlaw obscene publications.
 - IV. The government may prevent individuals from engaging in "offensive" speech.
- (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) II and III only
 - (D) III and IV only
 - (E) II, III, and IV only
15. The Supreme Court holds original jurisdiction in all of the following types of cases EXCEPT
- (A) if the United States is a party in the case
 - (B) in controversies in criminal law between a citizen and a state
 - (C) in controversies under the Constitution, federal laws, or treaties
 - (D) if a case is between citizens from different states
 - (E) if cases arise under admiralty and maritime laws
16. Of the following, American federalism is most clearly exemplified by the
- (A) system of checks and balances among the three branches of the national government
 - (B) process by which international treaties are completed
 - (C) special constitutional status of Washington, DC
 - (D) Tenth Amendment to the Constitution
 - (E) president's power to grant reprieves and pardons
17. All of the following are specifically mentioned in the Constitution EXCEPT
- (A) judicial review
 - (B) the national census
 - (C) rules of impeachment
 - (D) the State of the Union address
 - (E) length of term of federal judgeships
18. Which of the following correctly states the relationship between the federal and state judiciaries?
- (A) Federal courts are higher courts than state courts and may overturn state decisions on any grounds.
 - (B) The two are entirely autonomous, and neither ever hears cases that originate in the other.
 - (C) The two are generally autonomous, although federal courts may rule on the constitutionality of state court decisions.
 - (D) State courts are trial courts; federal courts are appeals courts.
 - (E) State courts try all cases except those that involve conflicts between two states, which are tried in federal courts.
19. The line-item veto was found unconstitutional because
- (A) it gave executive powers to the legislature
 - (B) it gave legislative powers to the bureaucracy
 - (C) it gave legislative powers to the president
 - (D) it delegated too many powers to the states
 - (E) it permitted the Senate to use judicial review to reverse the House of Representatives
20. Among the executive branch's checks on the legislative branch is the president's power to
- (A) call special sessions of Congress
 - (B) introduce bills to the floor of Congress
 - (C) address Congress during its debate on bills
 - (D) vote on acts of Congress
 - (E) disband congressional committees
21. The amount of access cabinet secretaries have to the president is most likely to be controlled by the
- (A) vice president
 - (B) president's chief of staff
 - (C) national security advisor
 - (D) chair of the Federal Reserve Board
 - (E) president's press secretary

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22. Unlike a treaty, an executive agreement
- (A) is not binding
 - (B) does not involve international relations
 - (C) does not require the Senate's approval
 - (D) can be enforced by the military
 - (E) automatically expires after one year
23. Successful candidates for the Republican presidential nomination tend to be more conservative than rank-and-file Republicans because
- (A) moderate Republicans are less likely than conservative Republicans to gain widespread support in the general election
 - (B) most moderate Republicans have approved of the Democratic presidential candidate
 - (C) most rank-and-file Republicans do not care whether their party's nominee shares their political views
 - (D) party activists, whose political participation is disproportionate to their numbers, tend to be very conservative
 - (E) the Republican Party does not allow rank-and-file members to participate in the selection of the party's nominee
24. Those who argue that the House of Representatives is the government institution most responsive to the will of the public are most likely to cite as evidence the fact that
- (A) congressional reelection campaigns are extremely costly
 - (B) term limits may soon restrict the number of years a congressperson may serve
 - (C) Congress has oversight power over many executive agencies
 - (D) average citizens may, on occasion, be called to testify before a congressional committee
 - (E) representatives must run for reelection every two years
25. Which of the following accounts for the fact that the power and prestige of the presidency have grown since 1932?
- I. America's increased prominence in international affairs
 - II. continually improved public confidence in the federal government
 - III. the New Deal and other programs that have expanded federal responsibility
 - IV. the president's increased visibility, due to the development of mass media
- (A) I only
 - (B) I and IV only
 - (C) I, III, and IV only
 - (D) II and IV only
 - (E) II, III, and IV only
26. Which of the following generally results when the Senate and House of Representatives pass different versions of the same bill?
- (A) The president signs the version he prefers.
 - (B) The bill goes back to each house's committee and restarts the legislative process.
 - (C) All amendments to the bill are invalidated, and the original version of the bill is sent to the president to sign.
 - (D) The Senate's version of the bill is sent to the president because the Senate is the higher legislative body.
 - (E) The two legislative bodies form a conference committee.

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27. Which of the following is the most accurate statement about the voting behavior of Americans over the age of 65?
- (A) They are as, or more, likely to vote than are members of other age groups because they have received the highest level of formal education of all age groups.
 - (B) They are as, or more, likely to vote than are members of other age groups because they believe that they have a personal stake in government policy.
 - (C) They are less likely to vote than are members of other age groups because it is difficult for them to get to the polls.
 - (D) They are less likely to vote than are members of other age groups because they are less likely to be aware of election schedules.
 - (E) They are less likely to vote than are members of other age groups because very few senior citizens run for political office.
28. A member of which of the following demographic groups is most likely to support a Republican presidential candidate?
- (A) White male
 - (B) White female
 - (C) African American, male or female
 - (D) Youths under the age of 25, male or female
 - (E) Individuals earning below poverty-level wages, male or female
29. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed to reinforce the
- (A) presidential veto
 - (B) system of checks and balances
 - (C) states' power to challenge federal regulation
 - (D) Fourteenth Amendment
 - (E) Taft-Hartley Act of 1947
30. Which of the following best illustrates a use of the elastic clause?
- (A) The Supreme Court allows a lower court ruling to stand by refusing to hear an appeal.
 - (B) A congressional committee prevents the full chamber from voting on legislation by delaying its report.
 - (C) Congress passes legislation establishing a national speed limit.
 - (D) A member of the House of Representatives introduces a bill to increase federal income tax rates.
 - (E) A governor issues an executive order requiring all state employees to submit to drug testing.
31. According to the *Federalist Papers*, federalism has which of the following effects on political factions?
- (A) It provides a structured environment in which factions may flourish.
 - (B) It limits the dangers of factionalism by diluting political power.
 - (C) It allows factions to dominate on the national level while limiting their influence on state governments.
 - (D) It eliminates any opportunity for factions to form.
 - (E) It prevents factions by declaring them illegal.
32. The Constitution, as originally ratified, addressed all of the following weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation EXCEPT the
- (A) lack of a chief executive office
 - (B) national government's inability to levy taxes effectively
 - (C) absence of a central authority to regulate interstate trade
 - (D) insufficiency of the government's power to raise an army
 - (E) omission of a universal suffrage clause

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33. Congress's power to determine national policy
- (A) usually increases as a president's popularity decreases, and vice versa
 - (B) has declined steadily since the ratification of the Constitution
 - (C) is severely limited by the "elastic clause" of the Constitution
 - (D) increases during times of war
 - (E) stems primarily from its control over the judicial branch
34. In recent years, presidents have come to rely most heavily on the advice of
- (A) the full cabinet
 - (B) the vice president
 - (C) congressional delegations
 - (D) the White House staff
 - (E) foreign ambassadors
35. Which of the following statements about the electoral college is correct?
- (A) Each state must split its electoral votes among all the candidates that receive votes.
 - (B) Each state is equally represented in the electoral college.
 - (C) The electoral college was created by an amendment to the Constitution.
 - (D) The results of electoral college voting tend to distort the winner's margin of victory, when compared with the popular vote for president.
 - (E) Each state's delegation to the electoral college consists of that state's U.S. senators and representatives.
36. Which of the following statements is true of congressional incumbents who run for reelection?
- (A) Incumbent senators are more likely to be reelected than are incumbent members of the House of Representatives.
 - (B) Incumbents are prohibited by law from spending more on their reelection campaigns than their challengers spend.
 - (C) Incumbents have a great advantage over challengers because they are better known and can raise campaign funds more easily.
 - (D) Ever since the 1994 election, the majority of congressional incumbents have failed in their reelection attempts.
 - (E) Most incumbents who run for reelection are unopposed in the general election.
37. Before serving in the House of Representatives or Senate, the greatest number of federal legislators
- (A) own and operate small businesses
 - (B) are professional athletes
 - (C) teach political science at the college level
 - (D) work as journalists
 - (E) earn law degrees
38. A member of the House of Representatives wishing to influence tax policy would most likely try to serve on which of the following committees?
- (A) Commerce
 - (B) Ways and Means
 - (C) Education and the Workforce
 - (D) Resources
 - (E) Judiciary
39. The spoils system of awarding civil service jobs was replaced by the merit system as a result of the
- (A) Truman Doctrine
 - (B) Fair Labor Standards Act of 1961
 - (C) National Industrial Recovery Act
 - (D) Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - (E) Pendleton Act of 1883
40. The boundary lines of congressional districts must be redrawn every 10 years to
- (A) reflect population shifts indicated by the national census
 - (B) guarantee the turnover of the majority of congressional seats
 - (C) make sure each state's congressional delegation exactly mirrors its residents' party affiliations
 - (D) determine which party's leader will be named Speaker of the House
 - (E) increase the number of female and minority members of Congress

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