

## MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Circle the letter of the response that best answers the question or completes the statement.

1. In a parliamentary system the prime minister is chosen by the
  - a. people.
  - b. signatories.
  - c. electors.
  - d. legislature.
  - e. monarch.
2. Which of the following statements is *true* of U.S. presidents but not of British prime ministers?
  - a. Presidents and the legislature often work at cross-purposes.
  - b. Presidents are selected by the legislature.
  - c. Presidents have more strict control over members of their party.
  - d. Presidents are most often government insiders.
  - e. Presidents generally choose their cabinets from among members of Congress.
3. The text suggests that policy gridlock is a necessary consequence of
  - a. representative democracy.
  - b. big government.
  - c. direct democracy.
  - d. divided government.
  - e. unified government.
4. Who called for something like an elective monarchy here in the United States?
  - a. George Washington
  - b. John Adams
  - c. Thomas Jefferson
  - d. John Jay
  - e. Alexander Hamilton
5. The Framers first considered having \_\_\_\_\_ select the president.
  - a. the Supreme Court
  - b. Congress
  - c. the state legislatures
  - d. the various governors
  - e. the large states
6. Which amendment formally limited presidents to two terms?
  - a. 9th
  - b. 10th
  - c. 17th
  - d. 22nd
  - e. 26th
7. Establishing the legitimacy of the presidency in the early years was made easier by the fact that the national government
  - a. was both efficient and popular.
  - b. acted cautiously because it was in debt.
  - c. had relatively little to do.
  - d. kept the Treasury Department weak.
  - e. was dominated by one political faction.
8. Andrew Jackson's use of the veto power was conspicuous because
  - a. he rarely used it.
  - b. he used it more than all of the presidents before him combined.
  - c. all of his vetoes were overridden.
  - d. he would not use the power unless he thought legislation was unconstitutional.
  - e. he would not use the veto simply because of a policy disagreement.
9. Jackson's view of a strong and independent presidency
  - a. was forsaken after two years in office.
  - b. has not been adopted by any other president.
  - c. was only adopted by Abraham Lincoln.
  - d. emerged as the norm a century later.
  - e. has been adopted by the Democratic Party.
10. Which of the following actions did Abraham Lincoln take without prior congressional approval?
  - a. Raised an army.
  - b. Spent money.
  - c. Blockaded Southern ports.
  - d. Suspended *habeas corpus*.
  - e. all of the above.
11. Today, winning the presidency means a candidate must get \_\_\_\_ electoral votes.
  - a. 100
  - b. 170
  - c. 250
  - d. 270
  - e. 538

12. The elimination of the Electoral College might have the effect of
  - a. encouraging third parties.
  - b. reducing vote turnout.
  - c. increasing the importance of less populous states.
  - d. reducing the importance of independent candidates.
  - e. expediting the results of presidential elections.
13. Which of the following presidential powers is not a shared power?
  - a. Treaty making
  - b. Appointment of ambassadors
  - c. Approval of legislation
  - d. The pardoning power
  - e. Appointment of judges and high officials
14. The greatest source of presidential power is found in
  - a. the Constitution.
  - b. Congress.
  - c. public communication.
  - d. the bureaucracy.
  - e. politics and public opinion.
15. The text suggests that the ability of a presidential assistant to influence the president is governed by the rule of
  - a. reason.
  - b. propinquity.
  - c. law.
  - d. integrity.
  - e. Congress.
16. Which organizational structure runs the risk of isolating or misinforming the president?
  - a. pyramid
  - b. circular
  - c. ad hoc
  - d. titular
  - e. vertical
17. Which organizational structure lends itself to confusion and conflict?
  - a. pyramid
  - b. circular
  - c. ad hoc
  - d. titular
  - e. vertical
18. The Office of Management and Budget both assembles the president's budget and
  - a. manages the departments.
  - b. reviews departmental legislative proposals.
  - c. manages federal personnel.
  - d. organizes presidential cabinet meetings.
  - e. reviews the Senior Executive Service.

19. Which modern president is almost the only one given credit for coming close to making his cabinet a truly deliberative body?
- Harry Truman
  - Calvin Coolidge
  - John F. Kennedy
  - Dwight Eisenhower
  - Bill Clinton
20. The main difference between a presidential agency and an independent agency is that heads of the former
- cannot have their salaries reduced.
  - serve at the president's discretion.
  - can only be removed "for cause."
  - cannot sponsor legislation.
  - serve at Congress's pleasure.
21. All of the following statements regarding "acting appointments" are correct *except*:
- Such appointees hold office until the Senate acts on their nomination.
  - Such appointees have been known to hold office for months without confirmation.
  - Senators generally favor such appointees because of their heavy nomination workload.
  - Presidents see the allowance of such appointees as a necessity.
  - The existence of such appointees appears to be contrary to the Vacancies Act of 1868.
22. In recent administrations there has been a tendency for presidents to place in their cabinet people known for their
- independent political power.
  - personal wealth.
  - creativity.
  - loyalty to Congress.
  - expertise.
23. Of the three audiences that the president confronts, the one that is most often important for maintaining and exercising power is
- other politicians and leaders in Washington.
  - the mass public throughout the nation.
  - party activists.
  - foreign leaders.
  - officeholders outside Washington.
24. There is a noticeable decline in the number of \_\_\_\_\_ by recent presidents.
- public appearances made
  - public speeches given
  - press conferences held
  - cabinet meetings called
  - State of the Union addresses given
25. The personal popularity of the president affects which of the following most directly?
- How Congress treats presidential legislative proposals
  - How members of the president's party do in House elections
  - How members of the president's party do in Senate elections
  - The president's ability to conduct foreign affairs
  - b and d

26. Which of the following statements about George W. Bush's approval ratings is *incorrect*?
- His initial ratings were comparable to those of President Clinton's in 1993.
  - His disapproval rating was the highest of any president since polling began.
  - His approval rating for the first six months was fairly typical for modern presidents.
  - His approval ratings after the September 11 attack were the highest ever recorded.
  - none of the above.
27. Once in office a president can expect to see his popularity
- increase over time.
  - remain about the same.
  - fluctuate in a manner that admits of no generalization.
  - decline over time.
  - be dependent on the actions of Congress.
28. Which of the following statements is true of a bill that is not signed or vetoed within ten days while Congress is still in session?
- It is considered to have received a pocket veto.
  - It is returned to Congress.
  - It must be given a veto message.
  - It becomes a law until the next session of Congress.
  - It becomes law automatically.
29. From George Washington to Bill Clinton, about \_\_\_\_ percent of over 2,500 presidential vetoes have been overridden.
- 4
  - 15
  - 20
  - 25
  - 30
30. Which statement best describes George W. Bush's use of the veto power?
- He has used it about as much as most recent presidents.
  - He has used it more often than recent presidents.
  - He has used it slightly less than recent presidents.
  - He has hardly used the power at all.
  - He has vetoed more legislation than any modern president.
31. The doctrine of executive privilege is based on separation of powers and on the
- constitutional requirements for secrecy.
  - War Powers Act.
  - president's need for confidential advice.
  - White House *Sourcebook*.
  - integrity of each branch of government.
32. The issue of executive privilege was not directly addressed by the Supreme Court until
- John F. Kennedy was reported to have had dealings with organized crime.
  - Harry Truman refused to provide testimony in regard to some controversial last minute pardons.
  - George Bush interfered with Iran-Contra prosecutions.
  - Richard Nixon attempted to withhold tape recordings from a special prosecutor.
  - Gerald Ford pardoned Richard Nixon.



33. In *Clinton v. Jones* (1997) the Supreme Court ruled that the president can be sued
- while in office.
  - for actions taken before he became president.
  - in state and federal court.
  - by non-U.S. citizens.
  - A and D.
34. Which of the following factors is emphasized by the text as placing considerable constraint on a president's ability to plan a program?
- The president's personal ideology
  - The limits of the president's time and attention
  - The need to campaign
  - The leaders in his own party
  - The mass media
35. During an average year, Congress passes \_\_\_\_\_ bills.
- between 50 and 100
  - between 200 and 300
  - between 400 and 600
  - over one thousand
  - over six thousand
36. \_\_\_\_\_ was the last president *not* to use public opinion polls.
- Woodrow Wilson
  - Herbert Hoover
  - John F. Kennedy
  - Franklin Roosevelt
  - Harry Truman
37. The text reports Bill Clinton actually used public opinion polls to determine
- how to decorate the inside of the White House.
  - what to name his pets.
  - how he should answer the question of marijuana use.
  - what color his saxophone should be.
  - where he should go on vacation.
38. The phrase "mend it but don't end it" was poll-tested by Bill Clinton for use in discussions concerning
- affirmative action.
  - sexual harassment.
  - our relationship with Israel.
  - his relationship with Republicans after impeachment.
  - Social Security.
39. One item on the presidential agenda for almost every president since Herbert Hoover has been
- reduction in the separation of powers
  - expanding legislative power
  - reforming the federal judiciary
  - lowering taxes.
  - reorganization of the executive branch.

40. A president suffers a stroke that leaves him or her partially paralyzed. The vice president, with the support of a majority of the cabinet, declares that the president is unable to discharge the duties of the office, but the president disagrees. What happens next?
- Congress decides who is president.
  - Because the vice president has the support of a majority of the cabinet, the vice president assumes the presidency.
  - Because the president is still alive, he or she remains president.
  - Because the president and vice president disagree, a new election is held, allowing the people to decide who should be president.
  - The Supreme Court decides who is president.
41. Which of the following statements is *incorrect*?
- Sixteen persons have been impeached by the House.
  - Seven persons have been convicted by the Senate.
  - No federal judge has ever been removed by impeachment.
  - The impeachment case against Andrew Johnson was “flimsy.”
  - Clinton’s impeachment led to the expiration of the office of independent council.

## ESSAY QUESTIONS

Practice writing extended answers to the following questions. These test your ability to integrate and express the ideas that you have been studying in this chapter.

- Compare and contrast presidents and prime ministers.
- What do the authors offer as the cause of divided government and what do they have to say with respect to curing the supposed ills of opposite party control of the presidency and Congress?
- Explain why Andrew Jackson’s use of the veto power was so unique.
- Identify some actions which Abraham Lincoln took without the authorization of Congress.
- Explain how the electoral college works, how many votes are needed win and what happens if no candidate receives a majority of electoral college votes.
- Identify 5–6 powers of the president.
- Describe the three ways that presidents can organize his personal staff. In doing so, address the strengths and weaknesses of each approach.
- What are the “three audiences” that are identified by presidential scholar Richard Neustadt?
- Explain why presidential success scores in Congress should be used with caution.
- Summarize the two basic arguments supporting the notion of executive privilege and how the Supreme Court has ruled on this issue.
- What are “signing statements” and what are the arguments both for and against their use?
- What do the authors identify as the major constraints on the president’s program?
- Describe how the impeachment of Bill Clinton differed from the impeachment of Andrew Johnson.