

CONGRESS FREE RESPONSE

1. The use of the filibuster has changed over time.

a. Explain how the filibuster is used.

b. Explain 2 "dangers" of this to our political system.

2. Define what is meant by "political pork."

Explain why pork is the "glue" that keeps Congress together.

3. Define each and explain how they are different or similar:

a. Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore

b. safe seat and marginal district

c. standing committee and conference committee

4. On the Back: Explain 3 significant actions that members of Congress can take to defeat the passage of a bill

CONGRESS TEST SHORT ANSWER

1. Define each term and explain how they are different: Speaker of the House and President Pro Tem.

Speaker of the House:

President Pro Tem

2. Define each term and explain how they are different: standing committee and conference committee.

standing committee:

conference committee

3. Define each term and explain how they are different: trustee view of representation and the instructed-delegate view of representation.

Trustee view:

Instructed delegate view:

4. Define each term and explain how they are different, providing an example of each: expressed powers and implied powers.

expressed powers:

implied powers:

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3. The redistricting process has made representation in the House less democratic. Explain one significant reason that would support this statement.

a. Explain one legal rule in the redistricting process.

b. Explain one reason why this statement can be true. (gerrymandering cannot be used in this answer)

4. On the Back: The power of political parties has grown in Congress. Describe 3 significant ways that political parties influence the lawmaking (bill passing) process.

Chapter 11 - Congress

1. Incumbents are generally reelected because they
 - a. have high name recognition.
 - b. can take advantage of government research staffs and information.
 - c. have greater access to the media.
 - d. (all of the above)
2. A "franking privilege" refers to the
 - a. ability of incumbents to be more "frank" with the voters.
 - b. public's acceptance of a certain amount of political-speak by the congress person the media.
 - c. right to free mailings.
 - d. (none of the above)
3. The term "gerrymandering" is used
 - a. when the party in control of the legislature draws lines to enhance its own political fortunes.
 - b. when the party in control of the legislature draws lines around racial districts.
 - c. to refer to Supreme Court decisions regarding redistricting.
 - d. when the governor of a state changes voting districts to ensure reelection.
4. Redistricting of congressional constituencies occurs
 - a. whenever there is a major population shift.
 - b. whenever the state government calls for redistricting.
 - c. every ten years after each national census.
 - d. every twenty years regardless of population movement or the national census.
5. The House of Representatives was expected to
 - a. reflect the popular will of the average citizen.
 - b. provide stability and continuity.
 - c. stem the populist impulses of the majority.
 - d. counter the influence of state governments.
6. The power to confirm presidential nominations is that of the
 - a. House.
 - b. Senate.
 - c. both House and Senate.
 - d. Supreme Court.
7. The direct election of Senators was established with the
 - a. signing of the Constitution.
 - b. addition of the Bill of Rights.
 - c. Thirteenth Amendment.
 - d. Seventeenth Amendment.
8. The functions of Congress include
 - a. representation.
 - b. law making
 - c. consensus building.
 - d. (all of the above)
9. The presiding officer in the House of Representatives is the
 - a. speaker.
 - b. president pro tempore.
 - c. vice president.
 - d. leader of the loyal opposition.
10. Individuals who help plan party strategy and serve as the head of the party in Congress are called
 - a. whips.
 - b. majority and minority leaders.
 - c. committee chairmen.
 - d. rules chairmen.
11. The job of "whip" is to
 - a. ensure members of the party support the party platform.
 - b. make certain all members of the party show up to vote on specific items of party interests.
 - c. serve as liaison between the house leadership of the party and the rank-and-file.
 - d. reprimand individuals who behave in a less-than-honorable way.
12. The Rules Committee performs its functions in the
 - a. entire Congress.
 - b. House of Representatives.
 - c. Senate.
 - d. writing of committee rules.
13. When compared to the House, the Senate
 - a. has more rules.
 - b. is less flexible.
 - c. is more prestigious.
 - d. has less time for debate.
14. The formal responsibility of president of the Senate belongs to the
 - a. president pro tempore.
 - b. Vice President.
 - c. majority party leader.
 - d. senior member of the Senate.
15. The right to unlimited debate
 - a. is found in the Senate but not the House.
 - b. is called the "filibuster."
 - c. can be subject to cloture.
 - d. (all of the above)
16. The extent to which a representative mirrors the characteristic of the people he or she represents is called
 - a. formal representation.
 - b. descriptive or demographic representation.
 - c. symbolic representation.
 - d. substantive representation.
17. The job of a congressional staff person is to
 - a. draft bills.
 - b. conduct research.
 - c. help build coalitions.
 - d. (all of the above)
18. Members of Congress generally vote
 - a. in response to constituent needs.
 - b. for what they believe will be best for the country.
 - c. with their party.
 - d. in response to their own interests.
19. The role of interest groups and lobbyists in the legislative process is to
 - a. provide information.
 - b. encourage the legislator with financial incentives.
 - c. organize opposition forces.
 - d. inform the public as to the legislator's activities.

20. The term of a Senator is

- a. two years.
- b. four years.
- c. six years.
- d. eight years.

21. If the full House debates a bill and passes it, but it is different from the Senate version, it must go to a

- a. standing committee.
- b. special committee.
- c. conference committee.
- d. compromise committee.

22. The real work of Congress is said to be done in

- a. full sessions of Congress.
- b. the legislator's home.
- c. conference with the President.
- d. committee.

23. Permanently established legislative committees that review proposed legislation and report bills and resolutions to their chamber are called

- a. standing committees.
- b. special committees.
- c. permanent committees.
- d. select committees.

24. Until recently, most committee chairs were selected on the basis of

- a. party loyalty.
- b. seniority.
- c. competence.
- d. years in Congress.

25. Means of fulfilling the investigative function of Congress includes

- a. gathering relevant facts.
- b. forming special committees.
- c. holding hearings.
- d. (all of the above)

26. The responsibility to question executive branch officials to see whether their agencies are complying with the wishes of the Congress and conducting their programs efficiently is part of the

- a. investigative function.
- b. oversight function.
- c. policing function.
- d. appropriations and budgeting function.

27. Which of the following are major influences on the decisions that members of Congress make in the policymaking process?

- I. constituents' views
- II. their party's views
- III. their personal views

- (A) I only
- (B) I and II only
- (C) II and III only
- (D) I and III only
- (E) I, II, and III

28. All of the following powers are granted to Congress in Article I, section 8 EXCEPT:

- (A) to lay and collect taxes
- (B) to regulate interstate commerce
- (C) to coin money
- (D) to create federal courts
- (E) to declare war

29. All of the following are characteristics of the House of Representatives EXCEPT:

- (A) It initiates all revenue bills.
- (B) It initiates impeachment procedures.
- (C) Representatives serve two-year terms.
- (D) Representatives must be native-born Americans.
- (E) It has 435 members, as set by law.

30. Informal groupings of members of Congress that share the same interests, characteristics, or points of view are called

- (A) caucuses
- (B) party committees
- (C) conventions
- (D) iron triangles
- (E) caucuses

31. What special power does the Constitution give to the House of Representatives that it does not give to the Senate?

- (A) the right to approve presidential appointments
- (B) the right to approve treaties with foreign countries
- (C) the requirement that all bills of revenue originate in the House
- (D) the right to override a presidential veto
- (E) the power to form conference committees

32. Suppose that a senator from Kansas supports a highway bill that will grant millions of dollars to his state to repair interstate highways. He hopes that this bill will ensure his reelection, so he sets up a meeting with a senator from New York, who supports a bill that will preserve historic buildings in New York City. The two senators agree over lunch that they will vote for both bills. What kinds of practices does their agreement demonstrate?

- I. pork-barrel legislating
- II. logrolling
- III. gerrymandering
- IV. filibustering

- (A) I only
- (B) I and II only
- (C) II only
- (D) II and III only
- (E) III and IV only

33. Under the original U.S. Constitution, members of the Senate, unlike members of the House, were selected by
- direct elections.
 - the president.
 - state legislatures.
 - primary runoff.

34. Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution confers on Congress all of the following powers except
- the power to veto bills.
 - the power to collect taxes.
 - the power to declare war.
 - the power to establish courts.

35. The purpose of a filibuster is to
- ensure that all sides of an issue are heard.
 - delay action in a legislative body.
 - protect majority rule.
 - shift legislative power to the Senate committees.

36. The typical member of Congress is (in)
- middle-aged, white, Protestant businessman.
 - older, white, Protestant businessman.
 - older, white, Catholic lawyer.
 - middle-aged, white, Protestant lawyer.

37. A marginal district is one in which
- voters frequently change party affiliation.
 - the constituency is made up of largely minority groups.
 - the winner in an election gets less than 55 percent of the vote.
 - gerrymandering has produced a loose affiliation of interest groups.

38. When does reapportionment of seats in the House occur?
- whenever the total U.S. population increases by 5 percent
 - once every decade
 - whenever called for by the president
 - once every century

39. As a result of population changes reflected in the 1990 census, what regions of the country have gained seats in the House?
- southern and southwestern states
 - eastern and southern states
 - northern and midwestern states
 - eastern and western states

40. The purpose of creating majority-minority congressional districts is to
- make it easier for majority citizens to elect majority representatives.
 - make it easier for minority citizens to elect minority representatives.
 - allow minority citizens to choose their own voting districts.
 - prevent majority citizens with an alternative voting district.

41. The term *sophomore surge* refers to the tendency of
- relected House members to gain key power positions.
 - the popularity of newly elected House members to increase in their second year of office.
 - freshman House members to be reelected.
 - newly elected House members to make foolish (sophomoric) decisions on key votes.

42. Legislators who think of themselves as delegates are most likely to
- follow their constituents' wishes closely.
 - do what they perceive is best.
 - influence committees to vote the delegate's position.
 - gather support from interest-group representatives.

43. In the Senate, the greatest power is in the hands of the
- Speaker.
 - president pro tempore.
 - minority whip.
 - majority leader.

44. Because they are usually the only ones that can report out bills, the most important committees are the
- joint committees.
 - conference committees.
 - standing committees.
 - select committees.

45. A member of Congress who is interested in increasing support for the aged would be best advised to
- make a speech about the difficulties of the aged.
 - send a newsletter to constituents describing the difficulties of the aged.
 - get her or his party to state its concern about the aged.
 - get the House or Senate to create a select committee on the aged.

46. According to the text, some scholars argue that incumbents in Congress are hard to defeat because of
- their many years of experience.
 - their superior campaigning skills.
 - the way their party supports them.
 - the constituency services of their staffs.

47. Which of the following statements about introducing a bill in Congress is correct?
- A bill not passed during the life of one Congress cannot be introduced again during the next Congress.
 - Bills are initiated by the president, not by Congress.
 - A bill not passed during the life of one Congress is dead.
 - Most bills introduced today are private rather than public bills.

48. Which of the following statements about revenue bills is correct?
- They must originate in the House.
 - They must originate in the Senate.
 - They must originate with the president.
 - They must originate in either the House or the Senate.

49. To find out how members of Congress voted on a particular bill, it is most useful to have a
- voice vote or a division vote.
 - roll-call vote or a teller vote.
 - roll-call vote or a division vote.
 - teller vote or a division vote.

50. The explanation for congressional voting behavior that assumes members vote to please their constituents is referred to as
- representational.
 - conventional.
 - organizational.
 - attitudinal.

51. The details of legislation are usually worked out in which of the following settings?

- (A) A party caucus
- (B) The majority leader's office
- (C) The floor of the House
- (D) Legislative hearings
- (E) A subcommittee

52. In the last thirty years, the single most important variable in determining the outcome of an election for a member of the House of Representatives has been

- (A) incumbency
- (B) personal wealth
- (C) previous political offices held in the district
- (D) membership in the political party of the President
- (E) positions on key social issues

53. The power of the Rules Committee in the House of Representatives rests on its authority to

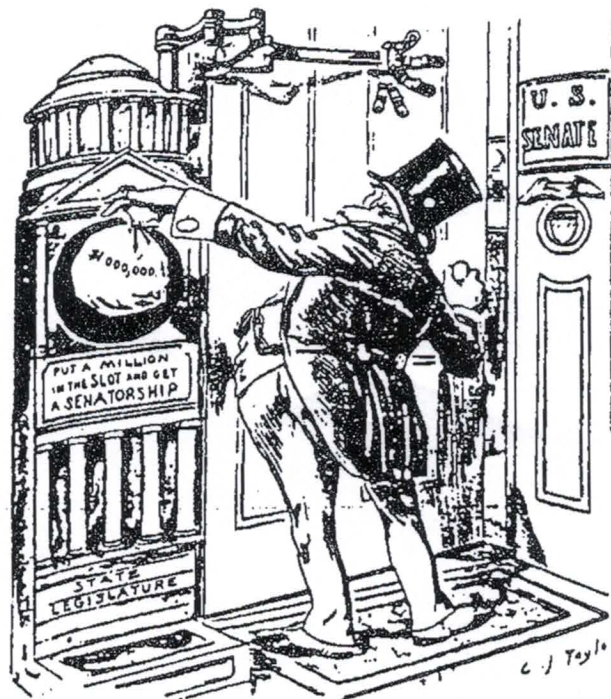
- (A) choose the chairs of other standing committees and issue rules for the selection of subcommittee chairs
- (B) initiate all spending legislation and hold budget hearings
- (C) place a bill on the legislative calendar, limit time for debate, and determine the type of amendments allowed
- (D) determine the procedures by which nominations by the President will be approved by the House
- (E) choose the President if no candidate wins a majority in the electoral college

54. Communication between congressional representatives and constituents occurs mainly through

- (A) committee hearings
- (B) the media
- (C) the personal staffs of representatives
- (D) the federal bureaucracy
- (E) staff members of congressional committees

55. The President's veto power is accurately described by which of the following statements?

- I. A President sometimes threatens to veto a bill that is under discussion in order to influence congressional decision-making.
 - II. A President typically vetoes about a third of the bills passed by Congress.
 - III. Congress is usually unable to override a President's veto.
- (A) I only
 - (B) III only
 - (C) I and III only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III



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56. The subject of the cartoon above that is no longer a part of the American political system is the

- (A) role of state legislatures in electing United States senators
- (B) role of money in influencing the outcome of an election
- (C) election of millionaires to the Senate
- (D) high cost of running for the Senate
- (E) role of special interests in campaigns for state legislatures

57. A "cloture motion" passed in the Senate does which of the following?

- (A) Returns a bill to committee.
- (B) Cuts off debate on a bill.
- (C) Criticizes a senator guilty of improprieties.
- (D) Removes a President who has been impeached by the House.
- (E) Brings a bill directly to a vote without formal committee approval.

58. The boundary lines of congressional districts are drawn by

- (A) the United States House of Representatives
- (B) the United States Senate
- (C) United States district courts
- (D) state governors
- (E) state legislatures

59. In general, Congress is most likely to defer to the President

- (A) in the area of foreign policy
- (B) in the area of fiscal policy
- (C) in the area of social policy
- (D) late in the President's term
- (E) when the economy is strong

60. "Pork barrel" legislation helps the reelection chances of a member of Congress because such legislation

- (A) gives the member of Congress national standing and coverage on national television news
- (B) helps earn the member of Congress a reputation for service to his or her district
- (C) attracts campaign contributions from ideological political action committees (PAC's)
- (D) prevents other candidates from claiming that the member of Congress is too liberal for his or her district
- (E) requires the member of Congress to travel extensively

61. Which of the following has the most influence on the outcome of a congressional election?

- (A) Local performance of a candidate's party in the presidential race
- (B) A candidate's incumbency status
- (C) The amount of a candidate's campaign spending relative to that of his or her opponent
- (D) The level of support from local party leaders
- (E) The level of voter turnout

62. All of the following are reasons incumbents in the House of Representatives enjoy an electoral advantage over challengers EXCEPT that incumbents

- (A) get substantial financial support from their party's national committee
- (B) are better known to voters than are challengers
- (C) find it much easier to raise campaign funds than do challengers
- (D) can use staff members to do constituent service
- (E) often serve on committees that enable them to help the constituency

63. Debate of a bill in the House of Representatives under a "closed rule" means that

- (A) the bill can only be amended by section
- (B) debate on the bill will consist of five-minute speeches, pro and con
- (C) only senior members are allowed to participate
- (D) amendments to the bill cannot be offered
- (E) the bill must be approved by two-thirds of the House

64. A "Christmas Tree" bill

- (A) has non-germane amendments and is commonly used in the Senate
- (B) has non-germane amendments and is allowed only in the House
- (C) has many amendments, but most are germane
- (D) is very detailed in what is required of bureaucratic agencies
- (E) is usually supported by the majority party leadership, but not by the minority

65. Which of the following is the primary responsibility of Congress?

- (A) enforcing the administrative decisions of the bureaucracy
- (B) selecting the head of the executive branch of government
- (C) policymaking
- (D) enforcing decisions made in the executive and judicial branches
- (E) cooperating with interest groups