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## AP U.S. Government and Politics Practice Exam 2

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### Section I

Total 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 burning of a United States flag would best be described as
  - (A) unintended speech
  - (B) an obscenity
  - (C) a right that would be prohibited by the First Amendment
  - (D) symbolic speech
  - (E) a criminal activity
2. Richard Neustadt, a noted political theorist, has stated that a president's power comes from
  - (A) having the president's political party control both houses of the Congress during the presidential term
  - (B) the president's ability to persuade others to do what he or she wants
  - (C) being outside of politics
  - (D) not being sensitive to the political surroundings
  - (E) implementing his or her policies over the party's policies
3. The first African American to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States was
  - (A) Thurgood Marshall
  - (B) John Marshall
  - (C) Clarence Thomas
  - (D) Oliver Wendell Holmes
  - (E) William O. Douglas
4. How often are members of the House of Representatives elected?
  - (A) every six years
  - (B) every five years
  - (C) every four years
  - (D) every three years
  - (E) every two years
5. Which of the following was an expansion of suffrage that occurred before the Civil War?
  - (A) elimination of gender disqualifications
  - (B) elimination of poll taxes
  - (C) elimination of religious qualifications
  - (D) elimination of race disqualifications
  - (E) elimination of literacy tests
6. If the president must nominate a new vice president due to the office being vacated, the nomination must be approved and confirmed by
  - (A) the Senate
  - (B) the House of Representatives
  - (C) both houses of Congress
  - (D) the Supreme Court
  - (E) the Senate and the Supreme Court
7. Interest groups are different from political parties because they
  - (A) only attempt to influence the president
  - (B) do not nominate candidates for office
  - (C) are only concerned with the winning of elections
  - (D) deal with a wide range of policy issues
  - (E) are more concerned with the making of policy than influencing policy
8. In the United States Constitution, where is the congressional power of taxation found?
  - (A) Article III
  - (B) Article II
  - (C) Article I
  - (D) Article VI
  - (E) Article IV

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9. When Congress passed the Brady Bill, which required a five-day waiting period before the purchase of a handgun, it was following which step of the policymaking process?
- (A) agenda setting
  - (B) policy formulation
  - (C) policy evaluation
  - (D) policy adoption
  - (E) policy implementation
10. The Full Faith and Credit Clause of the Constitution is the requirement that each state accept the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state, found in the Constitution in
- (A) Article I
  - (B) Article VI
  - (C) Article IV
  - (D) Article III
  - (E) Article II
11. Which amendment of the United States Constitution applies to unreasonable searches and seizure?
- (A) Fourth Amendment
  - (B) Tenth Amendment
  - (C) Fifth Amendment
  - (D) Ninth Amendment
  - (E) Second Amendment
12. What is a possible result of an "off-year" election?
- (A) The president may be forced to resign.
  - (B) The political power of Congress increases.
  - (C) The power base of Congress may change.
  - (D) The Constitution may change.
  - (E) An entirely new Senate is elected.
13. Executive agreements
- (A) are nonbinding agreements
  - (B) require the approval of both houses of Congress
  - (C) do not have the force of law
  - (D) must be approved by the Supreme Court
  - (E) do not require Senate approval
14. An order from the Supreme Court requesting that a lower court send up its records on a particular case is known as a/an
- (A) certificate
  - (B) *writ of certiorari*
  - (C) appeal
  - (D) brief proposal
  - (E) writ of power
15. Which of the following was NOT an aspect of the political culture of most of the Founding Fathers present at the Constitutional Convention?
- (A) Enlightenment philosophy
  - (B) divine right theory
  - (C) traditional democratic theory
  - (D) natural rights
  - (E) limited government
16. Which of the following is a proposed plan of reform for the electoral college when electing the president?
- I. the district plan
  - II. the proportional plan
  - III. direct population election
  - IV. the national bonus plan
- (A) I only
  - (B) II and IV only
  - (C) I, II, III, and IV
  - (D) III only
  - (E) III and IV only
17. Political action committees are extensions of interest groups that
- (A) raise money for campaigns
  - (B) call for the resignation of fraudulent office holders
  - (C) encourage massive use of propaganda
  - (D) define public opinion
  - (E) determine public opinion
18. Which of the following is true about most presidential elections in modern history?
- (A) Candidates from all parties usually receive some electoral votes.
  - (B) They result in major party realignments.
  - (C) They often center around one important issue.
  - (D) The winner of the popular vote usually wins the majority of the electoral vote.
  - (E) They are nonpartisan elections.
19. The power of television in U.S. politics was best illustrated in which of the following presidential elections?
- (A) the Bush-Gore election of 2000
  - (B) the Truman-Dewey election of 1948
  - (C) the Nixon-Kennedy election of 1960
  - (D) the Carter-Ford election of 1976
  - (E) the Reagan-Carter election of 1980



20. An important result of *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819) was to
- (A) establish the supremacy of the federal government over the states
  - (B) place limits on the powers of Congress
  - (C) establish the doctrine of judicial review
  - (D) establish the doctrine of dual federalism
  - (E) give greater power to the states
21. Which of the following occurs latest in the passage of a bill in Congress?
- (A) conference committee
  - (B) referral to committee
  - (C) investigation and hearings
  - (D) debate on the floor
  - (E) amendment committee
22. Voters casting their ballots for candidates of a presidential candidate's political party because of the popularity of the presidential candidate is best described as
- (A) same party voting
  - (B) the presidential coattail effect
  - (C) the party electoral effect
  - (D) the electoral effect
  - (E) presidential party voting
23. Which is true of the Supreme Court of the United States?
- (A) Judges are nominated by the president and confirmed by the House of Representatives.
  - (B) Judges serve at the will of the president.
  - (C) Judges are appointed for life and can only be removed by impeachment.
  - (D) Judges set their own salaries and benefits.
  - (E) Judges are always from the same political party as the president.
24. A low percentage of voter turnout is often caused by
- I. mobility of the electorate
  - II. the perception of obvious differences between candidates or parties
  - III. lack of political efficacy
  - IV. dissatisfaction with things as they are
- (A) II only
  - (B) I and IV only
  - (C) III only
  - (D) I and II only
  - (E) I and III only
25. Cabinet-level executive departments are created by
- (A) Congress
  - (B) the Constitution
  - (C) the president
  - (D) the Supreme Court
  - (E) recommendation of other cabinet-level offices
26. When the House of Representatives sits as one large committee, it is sitting as
- (A) the full house
  - (B) a quorum
  - (C) a standing committee
  - (D) the Committee of the Whole
  - (E) the Committee at Large
27. Which of the following is a false statement regarding minor parties?
- (A) Third parties have been useful in introducing new ideas in American politics.
  - (B) Minor parties have played an important role in reforming American politics.
  - (C) Minor parties have usually been successful in getting candidates elected to office.
  - (D) Minor parties may also be classified as ideological parties.
  - (E) Minor parties tend to focus on single issues.
28. Checking with party members on party policy and helping the floor leader to determine if there are enough votes to pass a particular issue is part of the job description of which of the following members of Congress?
- (A) minority floor leaders
  - (B) whips
  - (C) the Speaker of the House
  - (D) the president pro tempore
  - (E) committee chairpersons
29. When the United States government is party to a case, who represents the United States before the Supreme Court?
- (A) the attorney general
  - (B) the chief justice of the Supreme Court
  - (C) the solicitor general
  - (D) the secretary of justice
  - (E) the general counsel for the president

30. With reference to the executive branch, the Twenty-Fifth Amendment establishes
- (A) a system of checks and balances
  - (B) direct election of the president
  - (C) a direct change in the electoral college
  - (D) more power to be given to the vice president
  - (E) presidential succession and disability procedures
31. Which of the following is a reason for the decline in voting?
- (A) decrease in the number of eligible voters
  - (B) decline in parties' ability to mobilize voters
  - (C) same-day registration in a larger number of states
  - (D) penalties for nonvoting
  - (E) increase in party loyalty
32. Which of the following is true of the incumbency effect?
- (A) Members of the House of Representatives benefit more than members of the Senate.
  - (B) Members of the Senate benefit more than members of the House of Representatives.
  - (C) Members of the House of Representatives and Senate benefit equally.
  - (D) Incumbency does not benefit either members of the House of Representatives or Senate.
  - (E) The president benefits from the incumbency effect.
33. Which of the following would probably be least likely to vote?
- (A) a high school dropout
  - (B) a wealthy white businessman
  - (C) a woman professional
  - (D) a labor union member
  - (E) an active Roman Catholic
34. The issuance of an executive order falls under the president's
- (A) legislative powers
  - (B) diplomatic powers
  - (C) executive powers
  - (D) judicial powers
  - (E) military powers
35. After 1950, the success of the civil rights movement was aided most by
- (A) African Americans lowering their expectations
  - (B) the passage of the Fourteenth Amendment
  - (C) a shift of the movement to the courts
  - (D) African Americans winning election to public office
  - (E) decreased participation by interest groups in the civil rights movement
36. As a special interest group, the National Organization for Women was organized for the purpose of
- (A) ratifying an equal rights amendment for women
  - (B) creating more jobs for women
  - (C) dealing with the abortion issue in America
  - (D) advocating for legislation to protect women's rights
  - (E) promoting a national women's party devoted to the purpose of electing the first woman president
37. Which of the following is NOT true of federalism?
- (A) A state may not unreasonably discriminate against the resident of another state.
  - (B) The federal government handles matters of national concern.
  - (C) States may extradite fugitives from one state to another.
  - (D) States must honor another state's public acts, laws, and records.
  - (E) The powers of the federal government are less than the powers of the state governments.
38. The Supreme Court case of *Gideon v. Wainwright* was a significant case in that it
- (A) caused law enforcement officers to advise the criminally accused of their rights
  - (B) called for attorney rights to be applied at the state level as well as at the federal level
  - (C) called for the accused to be confronted by witnesses against them
  - (D) stated that search warrants were constitutionally required under all circumstances
  - (E) allowed judges to determine what constitutes double jeopardy in a case



39. A bill that has been held up in a committee may be forced out of that committee by which of the following methods?  
 (A) joint resolution  
 (B) House call by the Speaker  
 (C) discharge petition  
 (D) cloture petition  
 (E) cannot be forced out of a committee in either house of Congress
40. Party dealignment might be occurring if  
 (A) government tends to be "divided"  
 (B) one party tends to win control of government more often  
 (C) support for minor parties is declining  
 (D) political parties are becoming more centralized  
 (E) people are voting Republican more often than they are voting Democrat
41. Which of the following is NOT a check on the power of the federal courts by Congress?  
 (A) changing the tenure of justices  
 (B) confirmation of appointments  
 (C) changing the court's jurisdiction  
 (D) altering the number of justices  
 (E) amending the Constitution
42. The War Powers Resolution of 1973 requires  
 I. the president to inform Congress within 48 hours of any commitment of American troops abroad  
 II. the president to keep troops abroad for at least 60 days  
 III. the president to follow the guidelines of the Constitution regarding war  
 (A) I only  
 (B) II only  
 (C) III only  
 (D) I and II only  
 (E) I, II, and III
43. Which of the following historic Supreme Court cases called for apportionment of representative seats in Congress to be as equal as possible?  
 (A) *Marbury v. Madison*  
 (B) *McCulloch v. Maryland*  
 (C) *Mapp v. Ohio*  
 (D) *Wesberry v. Sanders*  
 (E) *Miranda v. Arizona*
44. A list of cases to be heard is called a(an)  
 (A) decisis of cases  
 (B) agenda of cases  
 (C) docket  
 (D) court agenda  
 (E) amicus docket
45. Compared to a political conservative, a political liberal generally  
 (A) favors limited governmental involvement in civil rights issues  
 (B) supports active governmental involvement in the promotion of individual welfare  
 (C) favors a limited governmental role in the promotion of national security  
 (D) supports more traditional values and lifestyles  
 (E) promotes a limited governmental role in aiding individuals economically
46. The Constitution of the United States was written as a direct result of  
 (A) the American Revolution  
 (B) orders issued by the Second Continental Congress  
 (C) the failure of state governments under the new federal union  
 (D) the decisions reached at the Annapolis Convention  
 (E) the failure of the Articles of Confederation to provide adequate direction for the union
47. When voters elect a representative from a district within a state, and that representative is selected from several candidates, what type of election system is that state using?  
 (A) a general ticket system  
 (B) a single-member district system  
 (C) at-large voting  
 (D) a one-person one-vote system  
 (E) gerrymandering
48. Which of the following include the president's key foreign and military advisors?  
 (A) State Department  
 (B) Central Intelligence Agency  
 (C) Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 (D) Department of Homeland Security  
 (E) National Security Council

49. How many presidents of the United States have been impeached?
- (A) two
  - (B) three
  - (C) one
  - (D) four
  - (E) none
50. Which constitutional amendment provided for the direct election of senators?
- (A) Twelfth Amendment
  - (B) Sixteenth Amendment
  - (C) Twentieth Amendment
  - (D) Fourteenth Amendment
  - (E) Seventeenth Amendment
51. Which of the following is not considered to be one of the special or legislative courts in the federal court system?
- (A) the Territorial Courts
  - (B) the United States Tax Court
  - (C) the United States Claims Court
  - (D) the Courts of Appeals
  - (E) the Court of Military Appeals
52. What is the minimum age requirement for a member of the United States Senate?
- (A) 35
  - (B) 25
  - (C) 30
  - (D) 21
  - (E) There is no minimum age requirement.
53. The first political parties in America were the Federalist and the Democratic-Republicans. The leaders of these two parties were
- (A) John Adams and Andrew Jackson
  - (B) George Washington and John Adams
  - (C) Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson
  - (D) Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr
  - (E) James Madison and Dewitt Clinton
54. When appointing justices to the Supreme Court, the president considers all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) political ideology
  - (B) senatorial courtesy
  - (C) judicial experience
  - (D) political party of nominee
  - (E) race, age, and gender of nominee
55. Which of the following is NOT a constitutional power of the president?
- (A) the president invoking the practice of executive privilege
  - (B) the president creating cabinet-level departments of the executive branch
  - (C) delivery of the State of the Union Address
  - (D) the president serving as commander of the military
  - (E) the president signing or vetoing legislation
56. Which of the following is a specific power of the Senate?
- I. tries and convicts in impeachment cases
  - II. elects the vice president when the electoral college fails
  - III. approves presidential appointments and treaties
- (A) I only
  - (B) II only
  - (C) I and II
  - (D) II and III
  - (E) I, II, and III
57. Which office of the executive branch is responsible for helping the president prepare the national budget?
- (A) Office of Budget Affairs
  - (B) Department of the Treasury
  - (C) Department of Commerce
  - (D) Office of Management and Budget
  - (E) United States Tax Office
58. What type of jurisdiction does the Supreme Court have?
- (A) only original
  - (B) only appellate
  - (C) only exclusive
  - (D) original and mutual
  - (E) original and appellate
59. Which of the following is the most powerful person in the United States Senate?
- (A) speaker
  - (B) vice president
  - (C) president of the Senate
  - (D) minority leader
  - (E) majority leader

60. A major factor influencing whether or not a person approves of a president's job performance is
- (A) political party identification
  - (B) geographic location
  - (C) race
  - (D) level of income
  - (E) gender

**END OF SECTION I**



**Section II**

Total Time—100 minutes

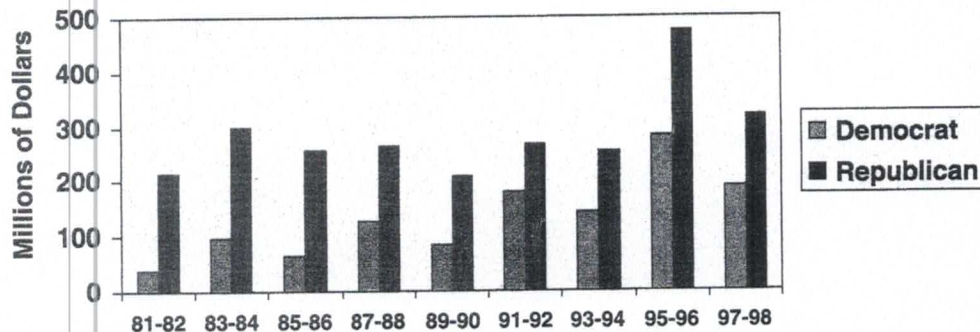
**Directions:** You have 100 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. *Spend approximately one-fourth of your time (25 minutes) on each question.* Illustrate your essay with substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below. Use a separate sheet of paper if you need more space.

1. Interest groups often exert vast influences over public policymaking.
  - (a) Identify three major activities used by interest groups to influence public policymaking.

(b) Explain how each activity identified affects each of the following:

- legislative branch
- executive branch
- judicial branch

**Political Campaign Receipts: 1981–1998**





2. Using the data in the graph above and your knowledge of U.S. government and politics, perform the following tasks:
- (a) Identify one significant pattern shown in the graph.
  
  - (b) Discuss two factors that might contribute to the trends you identified.
  
  - (c) Discuss one consequence of this trend for the U.S. political process.
3. Relationships between the president and both Congress and the courts involve the use of strategies designed to achieve the president's public policy goals.
- (a) Identify and discuss two strategies the president may use with Congress to achieve public policy goals.
  
  - (b) Identify and discuss two strategies the president may use with the courts to achieve public policy goals.
  
  - (c) Identify one method Congress has and one method the courts have which might prevent the president from achieving public policy goals.

4. In both presidential and congressional campaigns, the candidates must get nominated and then elected. Major differences exist between presidential and congressional campaigns.
- (a) Discuss the process of being nominated to run for presidential or congressional office.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - (b) Identify and discuss two major differences that exist between presidential and congressional campaigns.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - (c) Identify two methods that have been used in recent presidential elections to encourage voter participation. Explain how each method has been used to encourage voter participation.

**END OF SECTION II**