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## AP U.S. Government and Politics Practice Exam 1

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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. In the Supreme Court case of *Mapp v. Ohio*, the Court ruled that
  - (A) police acting in good faith, with a legal warrant, may present evidence in court
  - (B) the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment applies to illegal searches
  - (C) searches of criminal suspects are constitutional
  - (D) evidence may be used in court if the evidence would have been inevitably discovered
  - (E) the exclusionary rule does not apply to cases tried in state courts
2. If the United States government were to be sued, to which court(s) would those seeking damages take their case to be heard?
  - (A) U.S. District Courts
  - (B) U.S. Supreme Court
  - (C) U.S. Court of Appeals
  - (D) U.S. Tax Court
  - (E) U.S. Court of Claims
3. What method of floor vote is used in the passage of a bill in both houses of Congress?
  - I. voice vote
  - II. standing vote
  - III. roll-call vote
  - IV. teller vote
  - V. electronic vote
  - (A) I only
  - (B) II only
  - (C) III only
  - (D) I, II, III
  - (E) IV and V only
4. A constitutional duty of the vice president is to
  - (A) work with the Supreme Court on constitutional issues
  - (B) preside over the Senate and break tie votes
  - (C) balance the ticket
  - (D) preside over the House of Representatives and break tie votes
  - (E) issue directives, on the president's order, to the political parties
5. The United States Constitution has been amended
  - (A) 27 times
  - (B) 26 times
  - (C) 17 times
  - (D) originally only 10 times including the Bill of Rights
  - (E) 28 times
6. The first woman appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States was
  - (A) Sandra Day O'Connor
  - (B) Ruth Bader Ginsburg
  - (C) Barbara Jordan
  - (D) Jeannette Rankin
  - (E) Geraldine Ferraro
7. Which of the following is a function that political parties are expected to perform?
  - I. nominate candidates for office
  - II. politically educate the electorate
  - III. create a sense of centralized responsibility
  - IV. maintain the separation of powers in government
  - (A) I and III only
  - (B) I, II, III, and IV
  - (C) III and IV only
  - (D) I, II, and III only
  - (E) I only

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8. Regulating securities, financial markets, and investment companies, and prohibiting fraud and dishonest investment practices would be the major functions of which of the following independent regulatory agencies?
  - (A) the Federal Reserve
  - (B) Federal Trade Commission
  - (C) Commodity Futures Trading Commission
  - (D) Securities and Exchange Commission
  - (E) Consumer Product Safety Commission
9. Which of the following would be a true statement if a presidential election had to be decided by the House of Representatives?
  - (A) Each member of the House is allowed one vote.
  - (B) Each state's delegation casts one vote.
  - (C) Only the speaker votes.
  - (D) The House votes as a single unit.
  - (E) The House Rules Committee makes the decision.
10. Which of the following is most accurate regarding interest groups?
  - (A) Interest groups always provide accurate and concise information.
  - (B) Some interest groups have influence that is not proportional to their size.
  - (C) Interest groups attempt to control government.
  - (D) Interest groups are well financed.
  - (E) Interest groups undermine the goals of the American political system.
11. The Necessary and Proper Clause found in Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution is also known as the
  - (A) elastic clause
  - (B) expressed clause
  - (C) implied clause
  - (D) the general practice clause of Congress
  - (E) congressional clause
12. Which of the following is a qualification required in order to be president of the United States?
  - (A) naturalized citizen
  - (B) 30 years of age
  - (C) natural born citizen
  - (D) previous experience in government
  - (E) resident of the United States for at least nine years
13. Which of the following is the best definition of political socialization?
  - (A) individuals playing different political roles in society
  - (B) individuals with diverse beliefs about public policy
  - (C) individuals with diverse sets of values and beliefs about public policy
  - (D) individuals acquiring their differing beliefs and political orientation
  - (E) individuals defining their political society in relation to their form of government
14. Which of the following is a right that would not be guaranteed to a noncitizen?
  - (A) freedom of speech
  - (B) freedom of religion
  - (C) freedom of press
  - (D) right to an attorney
  - (E) freedom to move about the country
15. In order for a case to be heard in the Supreme Court of the United States, a consensus must be reached among the justices. This agreement is known as:
  - (A) a *writ of certiorari*
  - (B) a precedent
  - (C) *amicus curiae*
  - (D) "the rule of four"
  - (E) a certificate
16. Which of the following would be a true statement regarding judicial review and the power of the court to declare an act of government unconstitutional?
  - (A) Only federal courts hold this power.
  - (B) All federal courts and most state courts hold this power.
  - (C) All federal courts and all state courts hold this power.
  - (D) Most federal courts and most state courts hold this power.
  - (E) Only the Supreme Court of the United States holds this power.
17. The executive department charged with the administration of the largest entitlement program in the United States is
  - (A) Health and Human Services
  - (B) Homeland Security
  - (C) Veterans Affairs
  - (D) Labor
  - (E) Education



18. Presidential impeachment
  - (A) requires a majority vote of the Senate for conviction
  - (B) exemplifies the concept of checks and balances
  - (C) is the removal of a president from office
  - (D) is presided over by the vice president
  - (E) allows the Senate to bring charges against the president
19. A group of individuals seeking to control government by winning an election and placing a candidate in office would best be described as a(an)
  - (A) caucus
  - (B) political party
  - (C) interest group
  - (D) political action committee
  - (E) constituency
20. In order to get elected to the Congress, the most significant advantage is
  - (A) incumbency
  - (B) an endorsement by a major business or community leader
  - (C) financial support
  - (D) knowledge of the workings of government
  - (E) military service
21. Constitutional amendments may be ratified by
  - (A) state conventions called by Congress
  - (B) a national convention
  - (C) a two-thirds vote of each house of the Congress
  - (D) legislatures of three-fourths of the states
  - (E) legislatures of two-thirds of the states
22. Justices of the Supreme Court and the lower federal courts serve for a period of
  - (A) 25 years
  - (B) time determined by the president
  - (C) life, during good behavior
  - (D) time determined by Congress
  - (E) 4 years
23. James Madison applied the term "faction" to
  - (A) political parties and interest groups
  - (B) negative members of Congress
  - (C) splinter groups of the executive
  - (D) political parties
  - (E) states not willing to be a part of the federal union
24. The general beliefs that the American public has about politics and policy issues can best be defined as
  - (A) political socialization
  - (B) public policy
  - (C) policy formulation
  - (D) political ideology
  - (E) public opinion
25. Which of the following is NOT a check on the power of the executive branch?
  - (A) executive agreements
  - (B) the power of the purse
  - (C) judicial review of executive actions
  - (D) public opinion
  - (E) approval powers over appointments
26. After a proposed bill has had its first reading, what is generally the next step that a bill might encounter?
  - (A) The proposed bill is reviewed by an investigating committee.
  - (B) The proposed bill is sent to the president.
  - (C) The proposed bill is sent to a standing committee.
  - (D) The proposed bill is vetoed by the president.
  - (E) The proposed bill is voted on by the entire Congress.
27. Which of the following is true of the constitutional provision regarding the electoral college?
  - (A) Each presidential electoral casts two ballots.
  - (B) State legislatures with the help of the electoral college choose the president.
  - (C) Electoral ballots are cast along political party lines.
  - (D) Electors are bound by federal law to vote for their party's candidate.
  - (E) Electors are bound by state law to vote for their party's candidate.
28. Which of the following is NOT a correct statement regarding interest groups?
  - (A) Interest groups sometimes form coalitions to strengthen their influence.
  - (B) Federal law requires political action committees to donate to several candidates.
  - (C) Interest groups seek to improve their image by appealing to the public.
  - (D) Interest groups concentrate on influencing Congress without involving the courts.
  - (E) In recent years lobbying has become increasingly more regulated.

29. Sometimes litigants that are not part of the formal proceeding of Supreme Court oral arguments wish to have their points of view presented. They may file what is known as a(an)
- (A) per curiam decision
  - (B) certificate
  - (C) writ of certiorari
  - (D) amicus curiae brief
  - (E) stare decisis
30. Which of the following is NOT a basic principle of government found in the Constitution?
- (A) popular sovereignty
  - (B) conservatism
  - (C) limited government
  - (D) judicial review
  - (E) federalism
31. Which of the following would best describe gerrymandering?
- (A) A group of Congress members teaming together in order to get legislation passed.
  - (B) The breakdown of a political party within the Congress.
  - (C) Dividing the states into regional electoral districts.
  - (D) Dividing states along party lines in order to determine party strategy.
  - (E) Drawing electoral districts within a state in order to favor a political party or candidate.
32. The political theory proposed by John Locke, calling for a nation to be developed as a voluntary agreement between citizens and government, is known as the
- (A) divine right theory
  - (B) hyperpluralist theory
  - (C) social contract theory
  - (D) state theory
  - (E) elite theory
33. The power of the Supreme Court to determine the constitutionality of a law passed by Congress is called
- (A) judicial review
  - (B) Supreme Court review
  - (C) constitutional review
  - (D) congressional review
  - (E) special review
34. Independent agencies that are usually beyond the reach of presidential control are called
- (A) independent regulatory commissions
  - (B) executive agencies
  - (C) independent executive agencies
  - (D) government corporations
  - (E) independent government agencies
35. Which of the following is NOT an expressed presidential power found in the United States Constitution?
- (A) making appointments
  - (B) commander of the military
  - (C) treaty making
  - (D) budget management
  - (E) granting pardons
36. Which of the following stages generally occurs earliest in the presidential election contest?
- (A) national party conventions
  - (B) the popular election
  - (C) state primaries and caucuses
  - (D) the electoral college election
  - (E) choosing a running mate
37. Which of the following are types of opinions that may be submitted by the justices when the Supreme Court reaches a decision in a case?
- I. majority opinion
  - II. concurring opinion
  - III. dissenting opinion
  - IV. concluding opinion
- (A) I only
  - (B) I, II, and III only
  - (C) II and IV only
  - (D) II and III only
  - (E) I, II, III, and IV
38. The most effective tool of any interest group wishing to influence the workings of government is
- (A) the political party
  - (B) the American voter
  - (C) the lobbyist
  - (D) propaganda
  - (E) grassroots organizations



39. All of the following are strategies typically used by successful interest groups EXCEPT
- (A) engaging in acts of civil disobedience and violence
  - (B) litigation
  - (C) creating coalitions with other interest groups
  - (D) contributing to political candidates through political action committees
  - (E) bringing grassroots pressures on legislators
40. Poll taxes were fees paid by individuals in order to vote. Which amendment in the United States Constitution outlaws this practice?
- (A) Twentieth Amendment
  - (B) Eighteenth Amendment
  - (C) Twenty-First Amendment
  - (D) Twenty-Fifth Amendment
  - (E) Twenty-Fourth Amendment
41. Which of the following is NOT a role of the members of Congress?
- (A) constituent servant
  - (B) gatekeeper
  - (C) policymaker
  - (D) delegate
  - (E) trustee
42. Amnesty would fall under which power of the president?
- (A) ordinance power
  - (B) executive power
  - (C) judicial power
  - (D) immigration power
  - (E) naturalization power
43. In the United States government the creation of every bureaucratic agency may be traced back to
- (A) Congress
  - (B) the president
  - (C) the Constitution
  - (D) state governments
  - (E) the Articles of Confederation
44. What is the correct term for an organizational department of the government that has been created by the Congress but is still not located within the jurisdiction of one of the cabinet departments?
- (A) legislative agency
  - (B) congressional agency
  - (C) independent agency
  - (D) government agency
  - (E) executive agency
45. During the 1930s, President Franklin Roosevelt attempted to increase the size of the Supreme Court by an unusual scheme. If he had been successful, six new positions would have been added. What was this scheme called?
- (A) *stare decisis*
  - (B) *amicus* addendum
  - (C) court packing
  - (D) partisan control
  - (E) constitutional court controlling
46. Which of the following best describes the speaker of the House?
- (A) presiding officer of the House
  - (B) shares power with the president pro tem
  - (C) appointed by the president
  - (D) appointed by members of his political party within the House
  - (E) controls Congress with the help of the president
47. Which of the following is NOT a function of an interest group?
- (A) creates interest in public affairs
  - (B) provides for a system of checks and balances on government officials
  - (C) stimulates political participation by the people
  - (D) provides information to government officials
  - (E) provides an avenue for political parties to obtain the vote and confidence of the people
48. Which amendment of the United States Constitution altered the manner of voting in the electoral college?
- (A) Twenty-Second Amendment
  - (B) Twenty-Fifth Amendment
  - (C) Twelfth Amendment
  - (D) Twentieth Amendment
  - (E) Twenty-Sixth Amendment
49. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the United States Constitution?
- (A) political parties
  - (B) taxation
  - (C) impeachment
  - (D) treason
  - (E) ex post facto laws

50. The primary purpose of a conference committee is to
- (A) provide an investigative step in the passage of a bill
  - (B) provide the president with an update on vetoed bills
  - (C) compromise proposed bills between the two houses of the Congress
  - (D) review revenue bills
  - (E) determine if proposed bills are worthy of continuing the legislative process
51. Which of the following is considered to be the main trial court within the federal court system?
- (A) the Supreme Court
  - (B) a district court
  - (C) an appellate court
  - (D) a federal circuit court
  - (E) a court of appeals
52. Which of the following best describes the action taken by the Congress when the president vetoes a bill?
- (A) The bill is tabled.
  - (B) The bill is sent to a conference committee.
  - (C) The Speaker of the House is sent to discuss the bill with the president.
  - (D) The bill may become a law if both houses override the presidential veto by a two-thirds vote.
  - (E) The bill may become a law if both houses override the presidential veto by a simple majority in each house.
53. Which of the following is a false statement about the United States Constitution?
- (A) It is the guideline for fundamental law in the United States.
  - (B) It provides for a system of checks and balances among the branches of government.
  - (C) It limits the individual liberties of the American people.
  - (D) It provides for the protection of individual freedoms.
  - (E) It provides for the separation of power among the three branches of government.
54. Which of the following is a characteristic of cooperative federalism?
- I. block grants
  - II. revenue sharing
  - III. federal grants-in-aid
  - IV. devolution
- (A) I, II, and IV only
  - (B) I, II, and III only
  - (C) II, III, and IV only
  - (D) I only
  - (E) II only
55. In the absence of the vice president, who is the presiding officer in the United States Senate?
- (A) the president of the Senate
  - (B) the president pro tem
  - (C) the majority leader
  - (D) the minority leader
  - (E) the speaker
56. Where in the Constitution is the establishment of a federal court system found?
- (A) Article I
  - (B) Article II
  - (C) Articles I and II
  - (D) Articles II and IV
  - (E) Article III
57. Which of the Supreme Courts was the most active in the area of increasing the rights of the accused?
- (A) Warren Court
  - (B) Rehnquist Court
  - (C) Marshall Court
  - (D) Nixon Court
  - (E) Taft Court
58. Which of the following is part of the legislative process in the House of Representatives but NOT in the Senate?
- (A) debate on the floor
  - (B) a filibuster
  - (C) referral to committee
  - (D) roll-call vote
  - (E) assignment of rules

59. If a state is using a party-column ballot, what type of voting strategy is a voter more likely to use?
- (A) split-ticket voting
  - (B) party-line voting
  - (C) nonpartisan voting
  - (D) straight-ticket voting
  - (E) partisan voting
60. According to James David Barber, which of the following is not a classification of presidential character?
- (A) positive-assertive
  - (B) passive-negative
  - (C) active-negative
  - (D) passive-positive
  - (E) active-positive

**END OF SECTION I**

*"Taking practice  
released-exams  
gave me confi-  
dence on the real  
exam."*

—JG, AP student



**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. (a) Identify and discuss how each of the following interacts with the bureaucracy.

- the president

- Congress

- the federal courts

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(b) Give one specific example of how each of the following interacts with the bureaucracy.

- special interests

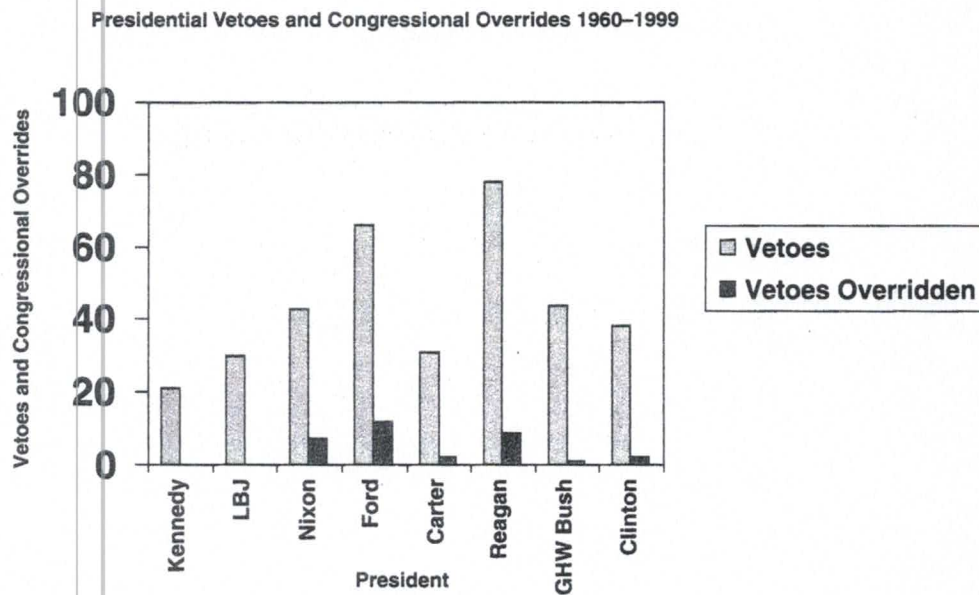
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2. One of the most important methods of political participation is voting in elections. Over the years, the right to vote has been expanded. Choose two of the methods listed below. Explain how the right to vote has been expanded by this method in the United States. Provide one example for each explanation.

- (a) constitutional amendment

(b) congressional legislation

(c) judicial decision



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3. Using the data in the graph above and your knowledge of U.S. government and politics, perform the following tasks:

(a) Identify two patterns shown in the graph.

(b) Discuss the relationships between presidential vetoes, congressional overrides, and the patterns you identified.

(c) Discuss two factors that might account for the two patterns you described in part (a).

4. The national government's use of incentives and sanctions accounts for the largest shift in the relationship between the federal and state governments in recent years.
- legislation
  - judicial interpretation
  - grants-in-aid
- (a) Select two of the incentives or sanctions identified above. For each, identify and discuss its functions as an incentive or sanction.
- (b) Explain how each incentive or sanction chosen has created a shift in the relationship between the federal and state governments.

**END OF SECTION II**