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## AP U.S. Government and Politics Practice Exam 3

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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 nearly every congressional election, the candidates talk about overhauling
  - (A) the number of terms a member of Congress can stay in office
  - (B) the franking privilege enjoyed by members of Congress
  - (C) the cumbersome committee structure of both houses of Congress
  - (D) the persistence of pork barrel legislation
  - (E) the control the president has over the annual congressional agenda
2. Which of the following is NOT a result of the Electoral College system?
  - (A) Voters do not actually elect the president when they go to the polls in early November.
  - (B) It is possible for a candidate to win the popular vote on the national level but still lose the presidential election.
  - (C) A scenario is possible where the House of Representatives chooses the president.
  - (D) Candidates campaign in many small states in the days leading up to a presidential election.
  - (E) A third-party candidate would have a difficult time winning a presidential election.
3. Impeachment proceedings were started against both Presidents Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton. Which statement best compares the two situations?
  - (A) The House Judiciary Committee passed articles of impeachment against both presidents.
  - (B) Both men were formally impeached by the House of Representatives.
  - (C) Both men had a trial in the Senate; neither was convicted.
  - (D) The case of Richard Nixon was very similar to the case of Andrew Johnson; the case of Bill Clinton was not.
  - (E) The mass media were sympathetic to both Clinton and Nixon during their impeachment hearings.
4. Many people, including a number who have actually served as vice presidents, have observed that the vice president of the United States has little real power. The powers of the vice president include all EXCEPT which of the following?
  - (A) casting tie-breaking votes in the United States Senate
  - (B) presiding over presidential impeachment trials in the United States Senate
  - (C) serving as an advisor to the president on many issues
  - (D) taking over for a disabled president under the terms of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment
  - (E) playing a pivotal role in “balancing the ticket” in a number of presidential campaigns

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5. The principle of judicial activism was most ardently practiced by which Supreme Court?  
(A) the Supreme Court of John C. Marshall  
(B) the Supreme Court of Warren Burger  
(C) the Supreme Court of the early New Deal era  
(D) the Supreme Court of John Roberts  
(E) the Supreme Court of Earl Warren
6. The pivotal Supreme Court case that ruled that the wearing of black armbands in school to protest the Vietnam War was symbolic speech and protected by the First Amendment was  
(A) *Gitlow v. New York*  
(B) *Brandenburg v. Ohio*  
(C) *Texas v. Johnson*  
(D) *Tinker v. Des Moines*  
(E) *Reno v. ACLU*
7. As a result of the Connecticut Compromise  
(A) a bicameral legislature was created  
(B) all states had equal representation in both legislative bodies  
(C) a single executive was chosen who could only serve one term  
(D) a national court structure was established  
(E) the issue of the power of the presidency was solved
8. Which of the following is NOT a check that the legislative branch has over the executive branch?  
(A) Congress can officially ask for a referendum on a specific executive act.  
(B) Congress can refuse to confirm a presidential appointment.  
(C) Congress can refuse to fund programs requested by the executive branch.  
(D) Congress can override a presidential veto.  
(E) Congress can impeach the president and remove him or her from office.
9. Which of the following is NOT a power of state government?  
(A) regulation of corporations  
(B) establishment of licensing requirements for certain professions  
(C) regulation of immigration  
(D) regulation of intrastate commerce  
(E) regulation of the public schools
10. A political candidate who states that the government should be actively involved in supporting human rights and individual welfare and who supports change within the system would be termed a  
(A) moderate  
(B) reactionary  
(C) radical  
(D) liberal  
(E) conservative
11. During the 1936 presidential election campaign, a poll taken by *Literary Digest* predicted that Alfred Landon would defeat Franklin Roosevelt. The problem with this poll was  
(A) the poll was conducted only in certain states  
(B) the manner in which the question was worded favored Landon  
(C) more men were asked the question than women  
(D) those who responded to the poll were not a true cross-section of the voting public  
(E) the names of those polled were provided by the national Democratic and Republican parties
12. The vast majority of cases appealed to the Supreme Court are never actually ruled on by the Court. Which of the following is NOT a reason the Court may decide not to rule on a case?  
(A) Through brief orders, the case may be sent back to a lower court.  
(B) The Supreme Court justices agree with the decision of the lower court.  
(C) The case has passed the "date of expiration" established by the Court.  
(D) The justices agree that the case does not involve a significant point of law.  
(E) The case does not pass the "rule of four."

13. The heads of the executive departments are all members of the president's cabinet. The two newest executive departments are
- (A) Department of Agriculture and Department of Homeland Security
  - (B) Department of Commerce and Department of Labor
  - (C) Department of Education and Department of Veterans Affairs
  - (D) Department of Human Services and Department of Veterans Affairs
  - (E) Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Homeland Security
14. When is a filibuster used?
- (A) when a member of the House of Representatives wants to introduce new legislation
  - (B) when a member of the Senate wants to introduce legislation specifically desired by the president
  - (C) when a member of the Senate wishes to persuade members of the opposition party to support a specific bill
  - (D) when there is a tie vote in the Senate on a bill
  - (E) when a member of the Senate wishes to delay action or a vote on a specific bill
15. To enforce federal laws or federal court decisions in extreme cases, the president can
- (A) call for congressional impeachment of elected officials from states that do not comply with federal law
  - (B) order the U.S. military to see that federal law is enforced
  - (C) appoint new governors in states that do not comply with federal law
  - (D) disband the state legislatures in states that do not comply with federal law
  - (E) direct state courts in states that do not comply with a federal law to rule on the legality of the federal law(s) in question
16. If the census determines that a state's population has declined significantly from the last census, which of the following would NOT be expected to happen as a result?
- (A) a decline in federal funding for that state
  - (B) loss of committee chairmanships for senators and representatives from that state
  - (C) a decline in the overall "political pull" of that state
  - (D) a possible decline in the number of representatives from that state in the House of Representatives
  - (E) less chance that a candidate from that state would be chosen as a vice presidential candidate to "balance the ticket"
17. According to the preamble of the United States Constitution, the goals of public policy for the United States include all EXCEPT which of the following?
- (A) protecting private property
  - (B) establishing justice
  - (C) providing for the common defense
  - (D) promoting the general welfare
  - (E) forming a more perfect union
18. According to the pluralist theory of democratic government
- (A) a small number of elites rule in their own self-interest
  - (B) there are many strong groups influencing government and each pulls the government in numerous directions, creating gridlock
  - (C) bureaucrats, who carry on the day-to-day workings of the government, actually control public policy
  - (D) interest groups continually compete in the public arena; as a result, bargaining and compromise is a necessity
  - (E) government depends on the consent of the governed
19. Who was the only president to serve more than two terms in office?
- (A) Franklin Roosevelt
  - (B) Theodore Roosevelt
  - (C) Grover Cleveland
  - (D) Woodrow Wilson
  - (E) William Henry Harrison

20. Today, a president cannot serve more than two terms. This is because of
- (A) an executive order
  - (B) congressional legislation
  - (C) a Supreme Court ruling
  - (D) an amendment to the Constitution
  - (E) congressional legislation that was validated by a Supreme Court ruling
21. The ideas of the Enlightenment had an impact on many of those who wrote the U.S. Constitution. One political concept NOT generally associated with the Enlightenment is
- (A) the idea of a social contract between the government and the governed
  - (B) the idea that the primary purpose of government is to govern the common people, who need firm control
  - (C) the need for branches of government
  - (D) the idea that individuals have natural rights
  - (E) the idea that under certain circumstances citizens have the right to rebel against the government
22. Which of the following is one of the disadvantages of federalism?
- (A) It encourages wide diversity in local government.
  - (B) It may create a duplication of offices and functions.
  - (C) It keeps government very close to the people.
  - (D) It strives to avoid a concentration of political power.
  - (E) States are able to serve as training grounds to create eventual national leaders.
23. The first Supreme Court case to uphold the supremacy of the federal government over state governments was
- (A) *Gibbons v. Ogden*
  - (B) *Mapp v. Ohio*
  - (C) *Betts v. Brady*
  - (D) *Escobedo v. Illinois*
  - (E) *McCulloch v. Maryland*
24. Which of the following has the LEAST influence in creating the political opinions and identities of most Americans?
- (A) the mass media
  - (B) political opinions of families and friends
  - (C) the official party platforms of the major political parties
  - (D) demographic factors (occupation, age, etc.)
  - (E) school and educational activities
25. Which political party dominated American politics in the late 19th and early 20th century?
- (A) Republican Party
  - (B) Populist Party
  - (C) Whig Party
  - (D) Democratic Party
  - (E) Bull Moose Party
26. Which of the following interest groups was NOT a part of the New Deal coalition created by Franklin Roosevelt?
- (A) Midwestern farmers
  - (B) urban blacks
  - (C) blue-collar workers
  - (D) Catholics
  - (E) women
27. Which third party came in second place in the 1912 presidential election?
- (A) the Independent Party of Ross Perot
  - (B) the States' Rights Party of Strom Thurmond
  - (C) the Bull Moose Party of Theodore Roosevelt
  - (D) the American Independent Party of George Wallace
  - (E) the Socialist Party of Eugene Debs

28. Some commentators predict a decline in the power of political parties in the United States. Which of the following is NOT a reason for this?
- (A) More and more Americans split their votes among candidates from both parties.
  - (B) The number of Americans who identify themselves as Democrats far outnumber those who consider themselves Republicans, thus creating an "unfair" political system.
  - (C) Many Americans feel there is no real difference between the two political parties.
  - (D) Many candidates are now more independent of political parties.
  - (E) Many Americans are repelled by the influence of money on the political system.
29. In primary elections, some states allow voters to vote for candidates of either party, whether they belong to the party or not. What is this type of primary election called?
- (A) blanket primary
  - (B) general primary
  - (C) open primary
  - (D) runoff primary
  - (E) special primary
30. How was the election of United States senators changed by the Seventeenth Amendment in 1913?
- (A) Senatorial terms were lengthened to six years.
  - (B) Starting in 1914 not all senators were elected at the same time.
  - (C) The minimum age for senators was increased.
  - (D) All candidates for the Senate had to take part in a party primary.
  - (E) Senators were elected by popular vote instead of by state legislatures.
31. The process of specifically redrawing the boundaries of congressional districts to favor one political party or group over another is called
- (A) congressional districting
  - (B) gerrymandering
  - (C) apportionment
  - (D) reapportionment
  - (E) political restructuring
32. Traditionally, the chairpersons of congressional committees have been chosen on the basis of
- (A) their expertise on the issues dealt with by the committee
  - (B) geographic factors (rewarding specific states or regions)
  - (C) general expertise on congressional matters
  - (D) seniority
  - (E) careful consultation with the executive branch
33. Which of the following is necessary for a treaty to be ratified?
- (A) It must be signed by the president after approval by the Senate.
  - (B) It must be passed by both houses of Congress by a majority vote.
  - (C) It must be passed by both houses of Congress by a two-thirds vote.
  - (D) It must be passed by the Senate by a majority vote.
  - (E) It must be passed by the Senate by a two-thirds majority vote.
34. Between 2002 and 2008 President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard Cheney argued that
- (A) the powers of the presidency should be greatly expanded
  - (B) the Supreme Court should take a greater role in determining national policy
  - (C) during the Clinton years the Congress had gradually lost too much power
  - (D) the entire executive branch had become too powerful in the Clinton years
  - (E) the power of the state governments should be greatly expanded

35. Political commentators who compared Barack Obama and Franklin Roosevelt often commented that
- (A) both saw the importance of allowing market forces to dictate the nation's economic future
  - (B) both saw the importance of allowing state governments to control economic development
  - (C) both emphasized the role of government in "jump-starting" the economy
  - (D) both consulted extensively with leaders from the business world (CEOs) before making economic decisions
  - (E) neither ever seemed really comfortable in the role of the president
36. The 1939 Hatch Act
- (A) prohibited federal government employees from practicing their religion while on duty
  - (B) ordered the imprisonment of government officials who were proved to be members of the Communist Party
  - (C) stated that federal government employees could receive benefits from the newly created Social Security system
  - (D) stated that federal government employees could not engage in partisan political activities while on duty
  - (E) stated that federal government employees would be hired on the basis of merit
37. "Iron triangles" are alliances that involve all of the following groups EXCEPT
- (A) congressional committees
  - (B) congressional subcommittees
  - (C) interest groups
  - (D) interested members of the media
  - (E) bureaucratic agencies
38. Which department of the executive branch plays the most important role in administering government programs and policies related to Native Americans?
- (A) Department of Justice
  - (B) Department of the Interior
  - (C) Department of Health and Human Services
  - (D) Department of State
  - (E) Department of Homeland Security
39. The federal courts that are actual trial courts are the
- (A) Circuit courts
  - (B) Courts of Appeals
  - (C) District courts
  - (D) Supreme Court
  - (E) Probate courts
40. An issue that has recently been a "litmus test" for potential Supreme Court justices has been his/her views on
- (A) the power of the Supreme Court
  - (B) gays in the military
  - (C) abortion
  - (D) the power of the presidency
  - (E) the right of an individual to own weapons
41. Which Supreme Court decision has had the greatest effect on public school education in the United States in the past sixty years?
- (A) *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*
  - (B) *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*
  - (C) *Brown v. Board of Education*
  - (D) *Johnson v. Selma School District*
  - (E) *Davis & Leach v. State of Mississippi*
42. In 1967 Lyndon Johnson appointed the first African American to the Supreme Court. Who was this justice?
- (A) Andrew Young
  - (B) Thurgood Marshall
  - (C) John Lewis
  - (D) Clarence Thomas
  - (E) Charles Diggs
43. Recent Supreme Court rulings concerning religion have emphasized which of the following?
- (A) It is constitutional for a public school to have informal prayer periods in its daily schedule.
  - (B) It is constitutional for a state to reimburse parochial schools for religious textbooks.
  - (C) Public schools that teach evolution must also teach creationism.
  - (D) Student-led prayers at public-school events are constitutional.
  - (E) School-sanctioned prayers in public schools during the school day are unconstitutional.

44. What pivotal 1966 Supreme Court case held that suspects in police custody must be informed of their rights?  
 (A) *Terry v. Ohio*  
 (B) *Wolf v. Colorado*  
 (C) *Nix v. Williams*  
 (D) *Miranda v. Arizona*  
 (E) *United States v. Leon*
45. What pivotal 1963 Supreme Court case held that the state must provide the defendant with an attorney in state courts if he/she cannot afford one?  
 (A) *Gideon v. Wainwright*  
 (B) *Betts v. Brady*  
 (C) *Powell v. Alabama*  
 (D) *Escobedo v. Illinois*  
 (E) *Furman v. Georgia*
46. Which of the following is a reason why some conservatives criticize recent federal legislation to improve student test scores (the No Child Left Behind Act)?  
 (A) The Act contradicts previous federal legislation on education.  
 (B) The Act is not fully supported by the Department of Education.  
 (C) The Act is not fully supported by teacher unions.  
 (D) They believe that the control of education should be left to the states.  
 (E) They believe that the Act doesn't go far enough to impose federal control over education.
47. Which president did the most to extend the social welfare programs that began in the New Deal era?  
 (A) Dwight Eisenhower  
 (B) Gerald Ford  
 (C) Lyndon Johnson  
 (D) Ronald Reagan  
 (E) Bill Clinton
48. Criticism of American foreign policy during the presidency of George W. Bush (2001–2008) included all EXCEPT which of the following?  
 (A) American efforts in Iraq cost billions of dollars and would have long-term economic consequences.  
 (B) American efforts alienated many potential allies in Europe and elsewhere.  
 (C) American policymakers were too concerned with America's image in the eyes of the world.  
 (D) American efforts created as many enemies as friends in the Middle East.  
 (E) Stories of human rights abuses in American prisons in Iraq did much to harm the image of the United States in the Middle East.
49. Which of the following has the least significant role in the creation of American foreign policy?  
 (A) United States Information Agency  
 (B) Department of State  
 (C) Central Intelligence Agency  
 (D) Department of Defense  
 (E) National Security Council
50. Who are the main authors of the initial budget proposal presented to Congress by the president?  
 (A) officials from the Department of the Treasury  
 (B) staff members of the congressional appropriations committees  
 (C) staff members from the Congressional Budget Office  
 (D) staff members from the Office of Management and Budget  
 (E) staff members from the president's National Economic Council
51. During which presidential campaign was televised political advertising widely used for the first time?  
 (A) the campaign of Franklin Roosevelt in 1944  
 (B) the campaign of Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952  
 (C) the campaign of John F. Kennedy in 1960  
 (D) the campaign of Richard Nixon in 1968  
 (E) the campaign of Richard Nixon in 1972

52. What was the major political party that developed in the United States in opposition to the Democratic Party of Andrew Jackson?
- (A) Anti-Masonic Party
  - (B) Free-Soil Party
  - (C) Whig Party
  - (D) Republican Party
  - (E) Know-Nothing Party
53. What was the first document that limited the power of the British monarch?
- (A) Petition of Right
  - (B) *Two Treatises on Civil Government*
  - (C) Magna Carta
  - (D) English Bill of Rights
  - (E) *The Social Contract*
54. Shays Rebellion and other acts of violence in 1787–1788 demonstrated to many in the new nation that
- (A) farmers had too much power
  - (B) the economic well-being of the country was still tied to Great Britain
  - (C) the nation had expanded too quickly
  - (D) the government of Massachusetts was ineffective
  - (E) the Articles of Confederation had to be revised to create a stronger national government
55. Which of the following is one advantage of the multi-party elections that characterize many European political systems?
- (A) Often one party does not emerge victorious.
  - (B) Coalition governments often have to be formed.
  - (C) Voters are given meaningful choices in elections.
  - (D) Citizens generally give more money to candidates in multi-party elections than they do to candidates in a two-party system.
  - (E) Multi-party elections tend to promote stability in government.
56. What was the major reason that some states formerly had poll taxes and literacy requirements for voting?
- (A) to maintain Republican Party control
  - (B) to prevent third parties from gaining influence
  - (C) to prevent African Americans and other minorities from voting
  - (D) to ensure that incumbents remain in power
  - (E) to carry on the legacy of progressives in those states
57. Which of the following was an effect of the Watergate scandal?
- (A) a rise in membership of the Republican Party
  - (B) a new interest in government service among many young Americans
  - (C) a strong sense that the power of the executive branch should be increased
  - (D) an increasing skepticism and cynicism towards government
  - (E) a strong national sense that the laws concerning impeachment should be altered
58. When critics complain about how the media cover politics, they are speaking of all EXCEPT which of the following?
- (A) the tendency of the media to follow sensational stories at the expense of more serious ones
  - (B) the tendency of the media to “create” news stories out of insignificant or unintended comments or actions by politicians
  - (C) the tendency of the media to lean to the liberal side when covering the news
  - (D) the tendency of the media to lean to the conservative side when covering the news
  - (E) the tendency toward “pack journalism”



59. In the 1989 *Texas v. Johnson* decision, the Supreme Court ruled that burning of an American flag was constitutionally protected. According to the Court, this decision was based on which of the following reasons?
- (A) There was precedent in previous rulings.
  - (B) Flag burning is a symbolic form of speech.
  - (C) The flag burning had taken place on a military base.
  - (D) Protestors had gotten a permit for the rally where the flag was burned.
  - (E) Congress had passed a bill legalizing the burning of the American flag in political rallies.
60. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, Japanese Americans living on the West Coast were placed in internment camps. The Supreme Court
- (A) stated that internment was a matter that should be left to individual states
  - (B) immediately ruled the internment to be unconstitutional
  - (C) in 1944 ruled the internment to be constitutional
  - (D) made no ruling on this issue until 1954
  - (E) deferred to the executive branch on this policy

**END OF SECTION I**



2. There are many commentators who say that it is time to get rid of the Electoral College and change the way presidents are selected.
- (a) Explain how the United States elects a president through the Electoral College system. Include examples in which the Electoral College system has produced a president who did not get the most popular votes.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - (b) What are the advantages of this system? In other words, what are the arguments against changing the system?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - (c) What are the major disadvantages of the Electoral College system? If we eliminate the Electoral College, what system should we put in its place and why?
3. In the first part of the 21st century, there are a number of policy dilemmas that any U.S. president confronts.
- (a) What are three major policy areas that a president in our era must grapple with? In EACH of these policy areas, identify the big issues that must be debated and decided.

- (b) For EACH of the three policy areas you chose, what departments, committees, and interest groups from the executive branch, the legislative branch, and outside of government would the president and the executive staff work with to craft a policy for that area?

4. There has been considerable debate over the years on what the role of the Supreme Court should be. Some courts have practiced judicial activism, while others have not.

- (a) Describe the principle of judicial activism.

- (b) What are arguments in favor of a Supreme Court that practices judicial activism?

- (c) What are the arguments against a Supreme Court that practices judicial activism?

- (d) Pick one specific time period from the past and analyze the level of judicial activism. Be sure to discuss specific rulings the Court made to support your position.