

SAMPLE EXAMINATION ONE

SECTION I

Time—45 minutes

60 Multiple-Choice Questions

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by either four suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case and then fill in the appropriate letter in the corresponding space on the answer sheet.

1. For which of the following reasons was membership in the 114th Congress (2015–17) historic?

- (A) Members were far better educated than in the recent past.
- (B) The average age of members was much older than in the recent past.
- (C) More women were elected to the House and Senate than in the past.
- (D) There were no foreign-born members in either the House or Senate.
- (E) There were fewer African-Americans and Hispanic members than in the recent past.

Questions 2–3 refer to the quote below.

“To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

2. The quotation is referred to as the

- (A) supremacy clause
- (B) 1st Amendment
- (C) 14th Amendment
- (D) Federalist 10
- (E) elastic clause

3. The quotation reflects justification for which of the following?

- (A) checks and balances
 - (B) federalism
 - (C) the social contract theory
 - (D) expanding federal power
 - (E) separation of powers
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4. The data in the table below supports which of the following statements?

UNITED STATES NATIONAL VOTER TURNOUT IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Election Year	Voter Turnout (percentage)
2000 Presidential election	55.3%
2002 Mid-term election	40.5 %
2004 Presidential election	60.7 %
2006 Mid-term election	41.3 %
2008 Presidential election	62.2 %
2010 Mid-term election	41.8 %
2012 Presidential election	58.6 %
2014 Mid-term election	35.9%

*Source: United States Election Project, University of Florida
(Percentages based on Voter Eligible Population)*

- (A) American voters turn out in about the same numbers for all elections.
- (B) American voters believe it is important to vote in mid-term elections.
- (C) American voters historically turn out in higher numbers for presidential elections than mid-term elections.
- (D) Although the numbers are relatively low, the number of Americans voting in mid-term elections since 2002 has improved consistently through 2014.
- (E) In 2004 American voters turned out in lower numbers because the incumbent president, George W. Bush, was expected to win.
5. Which of the following is true regarding impeachment of the president?
- (A) Impeachment is determined by the Senate with a majority vote and proceeds to the House for trial with a majority vote needed for conviction.
- (B) Impeachment is considered collectively by the House and Senate and is brought about with a majority vote in both houses; the trial is conducted by the Supreme Court with a unanimous vote necessary to convict.
- (C) Impeachment is determined by the House with a majority vote; the impeachment trial is conducted by the Senate leadership and Supreme Court; a 2/3 vote is necessary for conviction.
- (D) Impeachment is determined by the House with a 2/3 vote; the trial is conducted by the Senate with a 2/3 vote needed to convict.
- (E) Impeachment is determined by the House by a majority vote; the trial is conducted by the Senate, presided over by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; conviction requires a 2/3 vote in the Senate.



6. Judicial independence in the United States political system is encouraged by the
- (A) length of terms served by federal judges.
 - (B) fact that the president's appointments must be evenly divided between the Republicans and Democrats.
 - (C) use of the American Bar Association to recommend salary increases.
 - (D) constitutional amendment process.
 - (E) bureaucratic decisions that carry out laws and court decisions.
7. A presidential advisory body that focuses on military affairs is the
- (A) Joint Chiefs of Staff.
 - (B) White House staff.
 - (C) Ways and Means Committee.
 - (D) Appropriations Committee.
 - (E) Foreign Affairs Committee.
8. The practice of one member of Congress supporting another member's project in return for support for his or her own project is known as
- (A) pork barrel legislation.
 - (B) gerrymandering.
 - (C) logrolling.
 - (D) filibustering.
 - (E) congressional courtesy.
9. Which of the following statements BEST represent the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizen's United v Federal Elections Commission*, 2010?
- (A) Individual political contributions to PACS may be restricted in order to ensure that they represent the views of its membership.
 - (B) Campaign contributions by corporations are protected by the 1st Amendment and cannot be restricted.
 - (C) PAC money contributed to presidential candidates may be restricted.
 - (D) Soft money from political parties to candidates may be limited.
 - (E) Federal government contributions to presidential candidates is unconstitutional.



10. The quote BELOW is from which of the following?

“It shall be an unlawful employment practice for an employment agency to fail or refuse to refer for employment or otherwise to discriminate against any individual because of his race, color, religion, sex, or national origin....”

- (A) Bipartisan Reform Act, 2002
- (B) *Brown v Board of Education*, 1954
- (C) Civil Rights Act, 1964
- (D) establishment clause of the Constitution
- (E) equal protection clause of the Constitution

Questions 11–12 are based on the following chart.

Favorable views of federal agencies and congress				
Institution	% Favorably Viewed by Group			
	Overall	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
CDC	75	70	80	78
NASA	73	76	74	74
Homeland Security	66	62	76	60
FDA	65	66	73	61
EPA	62	47	77	58
IRS	44	23	65	40
Dept. of Education	53	43	71	48
Justice Dept.	61	54	71	57
Congress	23	23	25	20

“Trust in Government Nears Record Low, But Most Federal Agencies Are Viewed Favorably,” Pew Research Center, Washington, DC (October, 2013) <http://www.people-press.org/2013/10/18/trust-in-government-nears-record-low-but-most-federal-agencies-are-viewed-favorably/>.

11. Which of the following BEST describes the information shown on the chart?

- (A) Independents view the government agencies more favorably than both Democrats and Republicans.
- (B) Americans overall approve of government agencies more than do Republicans.
- (C) Democrats and Independents both highly favor the Department of Education.
- (D) Homeland Security earned the highest favorable view with all groups.
- (E) Americans overall favorably view the work of the Justice Department more than any other individual group.



12. The trends shown on the chart most likely result in
- (A) low public trust in the EPA to solve environmental problems.
 - (B) public support to reduce budgets of the CDC and NASA.
 - (C) support by Democrats to increase budgets and authority of most agencies.
 - (D) closer media scrutiny of all agencies.
 - (E) increased trust in Congress to work with and control government agencies.
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13. Which of the following legislative electoral system tends to result in a political system with two dominate broad-based political parties?
- (A) proportional representation system
 - (B) single-member district system
 - (C) a mixed proportional representation and single-member district system
 - (D) primary electoral system
 - (E) an instant run-off system
14. A bill debated under “closed rules”
- (A) can exist only in the Senate.
 - (B) may be considered with strict time limits and no floor amendments permitted.
 - (C) exists in both houses, but may have non-germane amendments only in the Senate.
 - (D) may have strict time limits, but amendments from the floor must always be permitted.
 - (E) may have amendments from the floor, but no time limits may be imposed.
15. Which of the following has the LEAST accountability to the public?
- (A) House of Representatives
 - (B) Senate
 - (C) bureaucracy
 - (D) state legislature
 - (E) vice president
16. A political system that permits power to be shared between levels of government is called a
- (A) representative democracy.
 - (B) direct democracy.
 - (C) unitary system.
 - (D) confederation.
 - (E) federal system.



17. The Great Compromise at the Constitutional Convention was intended primarily to solve disputes between
- (A) merchants and farmers.
 - (B) Britain and the United States.
 - (C) large and small states.
 - (D) North and South.
 - (E) East and West.
18. A Supreme Court justice who writes a dissenting opinion for a Court decision usually does so because he/she
- (A) agrees with the majority opinion as well as with the reasons given by the justice who writes the majority opinion.
 - (B) agrees with the majority opinion but disagrees with the reasons given by the justice who writes the majority opinion.
 - (C) wishes to express his/her reasons for disagreeing with the majority opinion.
 - (D) is neutral on the decision and wants to explain why.
 - (E) must abstain from voting in the case due to personal conflicts of interest.
19. Political polarization, divided government and separation of powers can result in which of the following?
- (A) presidential use of the line-item veto
 - (B) an increase in judicial authority
 - (C) increased power to House and Senate leaders.
 - (D) public approval of the presidential use of executive privilege
 - (E) gridlock in policy-making
20. Blue Dog Democrats are members of Congress who share a common
- (A) concern for pollution issues.
 - (B) concern for global warming.
 - (C) interest in equal rights for minorities.
 - (D) support for fiscal conservatism.
 - (E) support for the right-to-life.
21. The 22nd Amendment (1952) affects the presidency in which of the following ways?
- (A) It requires Congressional approval in order to replace a vice-president that dies or resigns.
 - (B) It limits the president to two elected terms.
 - (C) It mandates that the president explain the reason(s) for vetoing a bill.
 - (D) It requires the president to gain approval from the senators of a state before appointing federal judges in their state.
 - (E) It requires Congress to gain presidential approval before sending a Constitutional amendment to the states for ratification.



22. Which of the following is a reserved power of the states rather than a concurrent power?
- (A) building and repair of infrastructure such as roads and bridges
 - (B) taxation of income
 - (C) administration of elections
 - (D) administration of parks and recreation
 - (E) law enforcement and security
23. Voters in primary elections tend to
- (A) care more about foreign policy.
 - (B) have more moderate views.
 - (C) be independent voters.
 - (D) be more conservative in views.
 - (E) have more partisan political views.
24. Which of the following is an example of an *in forma pauperis* case?
- (A) *Dartmouth v Woodward*
 - (B) *Engle v Vitale*
 - (C) *Gideon v Wainwright*
 - (D) *Gibbons v Ogden*
 - (E) *Marbury v Madison*
25. Which of the following is NOT an accurate description of the members of Congress?
- (A) Most are white males.
 - (B) The average age is late 50s for representatives and early 60s for senators.
 - (C) Most members have college degrees.
 - (D) As many as 1/3 are non-Christians.
 - (E) Most come from the upper-middle class or higher.
26. The practice of government officials leaving their jobs to become lobbyists or political consultants for organizations or businesses is known as the
- (A) spoils system.
 - (B) merit system.
 - (C) reward system.
 - (D) revolving door system.
 - (E) plurality system.



27. Political Action Committees (PACs) are important to the United States political process primarily because they
- (A) identify possible federal judicial appointments for the president.
 - (B) organize voter mobilization campaigns at the grassroots level.
 - (C) raise money for political campaigns.
 - (D) recruit possible candidates for state and local office.
 - (E) create “issue ads” for presidential candidates.
28. The process used by Congress to work out differences between House and Senate versions of a bill is to refer the bill to the
- (A) conference committee, made up of members from both chambers.
 - (B) president in order to facilitate negotiation in shaping the final legislation.
 - (C) Ways and Means Committee to negotiate ways to find a solution to save the bill.
 - (D) original standing committees in the House and Senate.
 - (E) appropriations committees in each chamber.
29. The main intent of most gerrymandering is to
- (A) equalize the population in House districts to better represent citizens.
 - (B) increase the number of minority candidates that win House seats.
 - (C) create districts that favor candidates from one party over those of the opposition.
 - (D) increase the competitive nature of House districts to reduce partisan districts.
 - (E) increase voter turnout in mid-term elections.
30. When government programs require joint action between federal and state governments, the process reflects the principle of
- (A) divided government.
 - (B) dual federalism.
 - (C) checks and balances.
 - (D) cooperative federalism.
 - (E) joint federalism.
31. The type of primary that requires all voters to previously identify a party preference is known as a/an
- (A) open primary.
 - (B) run-off primary.
 - (C) blanket primary.
 - (D) closed primary.
 - (E) presidential-preference primary.