

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is largely a ceremonial position in the Senate?
 - (A) majority leader
 - (B) majority whip
 - (C) president of the senate
 - (D) *president pro tempore*
2. Which of the following statements correctly describes the power of the Speaker of the House?
 - (A) The power of the speaker has become more ceremonial since World War II.
 - (B) The power of the speaker has recently been challenged by the majority leader in the House.
 - (C) The power of the speaker is dependent upon the support and unity of his/her party.
 - (D) The speaker's power has grown considerably since the turn of the 21st century.

**Question 3 refers to the following:**

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill (also known as the BP oil spill) in the Gulf of Mexico in April 2010 is considered to be the largest marine oil spill in the history of the petroleum industry. The U.S. federal government estimated that close to 5 million barrels were spilled into the gulf. It was also considered to be one of the largest environmental disasters in American history that would affect coastline along the Gulf of Mexico from Texas, Louisiana and Florida including marine life in the gulf.

3. Which of the following Congressional actions would be an appropriate response to the incident in order to prevent another similar disaster?
- (A) fire heads of bureaucratic agencies that did not sufficiently oversee the oil drills
 - (B) hold public hearings to investigate BP leadership and bureaucracy regulations to determine what went wrong
 - (C) reduce congressional funding to the bureaucracies responsible for overseeing oil drills
 - (D) hold closed door meetings with congressional leaders, BP Petroleum and bureaucratic agencies to determine the next course of action.
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4. Which of the following is a correct description of a closed rule for debate in the House of Representatives?
- (A) the speaker of the house does not lead the debate
 - (B) the bill has strict time limits for debate
 - (C) only the bill's sponsors will be recognized to speak
 - (D) a discharge petition has resulted in a bill's appearance for floor debate
5. Which of the following powers does the president share with Congress as a whole?
- (A) approving legislation
 - (B) appointing ambassadors
 - (C) making treaties with other nations
 - (D) appointing bureaucratic heads of agencies



6. Which of the following scenarios most accurately compares the majority leader in the House of Representatives to the majority leader in the Senate?
- (A) The majority leader in the Senate is likely to cooperate with the minority leader; the House majority leader has little choice but to cooperate with the minority leader.
 - (B) The majority leader in the House is usually more dependent on the good will of the president than is the Senate majority leader.
 - (C) The majority leader is usually not the most powerful leader in the House; in the Senate, the majority leader has the top leadership post.
 - (D) Both majority leaders have the top positions in their respective house, but the majority leader in the House has more concentrated power.

Question 7 refers to the following:

“No person shall attain this office who shall not have attained the age of thirty years, and been nine years a citizen of the United States, and who must be an inhabitant of that state for which he shall be chosen.”

7. The description refers to the Constitutional description of which office?
- (A) President
 - (B) Supreme Court justice
 - (C) member of the House
 - (D) member of the Senate
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8. Which of the following powers does the Constitution prohibit Congress from exercising?
- (A) to regulate apples shipped from Washington state to Wisconsin.
 - (B) to tax articles of trade exported from the United States to France.
 - (C) to determine the number of justices serving on the Supreme Court.
 - (D) to borrow money in order to meet the needs of the nation.



Questions 9, 10 and 11 refer to the following chart:

Characteristics of Congress

Characteristic	114th Congress (2015–2017)		115th Congress (2017–2019)		116th Congress (2019–2021)	
	House of Representatives	Senate	House of Representatives	Senate	House of Representatives	Senate
Women	88	20	92	23	106	25
African American	46	2	49	3	55	3
Hispanic	34	4	41	5	45	5
Lawyers	151	51	168	50	161	53
With military service	81	20	76	17	78	18
Average Age	57	61	57	61	57	63
Length of Service	8.8	9.7	9.4	10.1	8.6	10.1

Source: Congressional Research Service

Note: The figures in the chart include delegates from D.C., Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands and Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico.

9. Which of the following statements is supported by the chart?
- (A) African Americans have experienced better representation in Congress than have Hispanics.
 - (B) It has been difficult for women to gain elective office in Congress.
 - (C) A law degree is necessary in order to gain a congressional seat.
 - (D) The length of service for those in the House is longer than those in the Senate.
10. Which of the following groups have made and sustained the highest level of representation?
- (A) Hispanic Americans
 - (B) African Americans
 - (C) Women
 - (D) Those with a military service background
11. Which of the following statements best describes the pattern of members of the House of Representatives serving in the military?
- (A) The numbers of the members of the House serving in the military has increased significantly from 2015 to 2019.
 - (B) Members of the House who served in the military are younger than those that did not serve.
 - (C) The members of the House with the longest service have also served in the military.
 - (D) Since 2015 the numbers of members of the House serving in the military has decreased slightly.



12. Which of the following correctly describes the purpose of Congressional caucuses?
- (A) Caucuses decide who will hold key leadership positions in Congress.
 - (B) Caucuses base their membership on strong partisan supporters.
 - (C) Caucuses actively support their common special interest.
 - (D) Caucuses are primarily social organizations based solely on regional considerations.
13. After a bill is presented in the House where is the bill likely to go in order to be reviewed, changed or rewritten?
- (A) to a subcommittee
 - (B) to the Rules Committee
 - (C) to the Committee of the Whole
 - (D) to the office of the majority leader
14. Which of the following is the process of amending or rewriting a bill before it is presented to the floor for a vote?
- (A) discharge petition of a bill
 - (B) marking up a bill
 - (C) conferencing about a bill
 - (D) place on the calendar
15. If one congressional district in a state has three times the population of another district in the state, the problem is referred to as
- (A) gerrymandering.
 - (B) cloture.
 - (C) malapportionment.
 - (D) logrolling.
16. Which of the following court cases addressed the issue of unequal district population that existed in states?
- (A) *Baker v. Carr*
 - (B) *Engel v. Vitale*
 - (C) *Shaw v. Reno*
 - (D) *United States v. Lopez*



Questions 17 and 18 refer to the following text:

A dependence on the people is, no doubt, the primary control on the government; but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions. ... We see it particularly displayed in all the subordinate distributions of power, where the constant aim is to divide and arrange the several offices in such a manner as that each may be a check on the other that the private interest of every individual may be a sentinel over the public rights.

...it is not possible to give to each department an equal power of self-defense. In republican government, the legislative authority necessarily predominates. The remedy for this inconveniency is to divide the legislature into different branches; and to render them, by different modes of election and different principles of action, as little connected with each other as the nature of the common functions and their common dependence on the society will admit. It may even be necessary to guard against dangerous encroachments by still further precautions. As the weight of the legislative authority requires that it should be thus divided, the weakness of the executive may require, on the other hand, that it should be fortified.

James Madison, *Federalist #51*

17. According to *Federalist #51*, which of the following explains why the framers created a bicameral legislature?
- (A) To accommodate the various factions of the day
 - (B) To decentralize power to prevent governmental abuse
 - (C) To handle the amount of legislation necessary
 - (D) To represent both rural and urban interests
18. Which of the following is a reason given for dividing the power of the departments of government?
- (A) To check the power of each department in order to balance government power
 - (B) To ensure that state power does not overpower that of the federal government
 - (C) To help prevent gerrymandering of house districts by the legislature
 - (D) To divide the development of foreign and domestic policy between the departments
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19. Which of the following correctly explains an important difference between an executive agreement with a foreign head of state and a treaty?
- (A) A treaty is among several countries; and executive agreement is between the president and one other head of state.
 - (B) An executive agreement addresses less important issues; a treaty deals primarily with areas of trade.
 - (C) A treaty requires ratification by the Senate; an executive agreement does not.
 - (D) An executive agreement is not limited to the president that signed it; treaties must be renegotiated with each new administration.



- 20. On which of the following committees would a representative in Congress seek membership in order to be ensured that projects in his/her district would be properly funded?
 - (A) Judiciary Committee
 - (B) Armed Services Committee
 - (C) Veterans Affairs Committee
 - (D) Appropriations Committee

- 21. Which of the following accurately describes the organization of the House and Senate?
 - (A) Both the House and Senate have a Rules Committee to determine the terms of debate on a bill.
 - (B) The House does not permit a member of the Senate to come into the chamber and present a bill; the Senate permits a House member to do so in its chamber.
 - (C) Neither the House or Senate permit additional amendments to bills on the floor before voting begins.
 - (D) Time limits on debate are set in the House; no time limits are set in the Senate.

Questions 22 and 23 refer to the following chart:

2010 Congressional Redistricting Results

Gain four	Gain two	Gain one	Lose one	Lose two
Texas	Florida	Arizona Georgia Nevada South Carolina Utah Washington	Illinois Iowa Louisiana Massachusetts Michigan Missouri New Jersey Pennsylvania	New York Ohio

- 22. Which of the following states will gain the largest advantage in the Electoral College based on the information in the chart?
 - (A) Pennsylvania and Michigan
 - (B) Texas and Florida
 - (C) Georgia and South Carolina
 - (D) Arizona and New Jersey

- 23. Which of the following is the reason for the changes indicated in the chart?
 - (A) the census results from 2010
 - (B) the mid-term election results of 2010
 - (C) the general election results of 2008
 - (D) the Supreme Court decision of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010)



Questions 24 and 25 refer to the following cartoon:



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24. Which of the following is the message conveyed in the cartoon?
- (A) Congress sees its role as protecting taxpayers from unnecessary pork spending.
 - (B) Special interest groups prefer to work with state legislatures rather than Congress.
 - (C) Congress is unconcerned about the costs of pork legislation passed onto the taxpayer.
 - (D) Taxpayers generally approve of pork spending by Congress.
25. According to the cartoon which of the following is a problem with pork legislation?
- (A) There are not enough pork projects to help the taxpayers.
 - (B) Pork legislation benefits Congress and special interests more than taxpayers.
 - (C) The increased cost of pork legislation makes it difficult for special interest groups to represent their members.
 - (D) Congress may limit beneficial pork legislation due to the increased costs to the taxpayers.