

Roles and Powers of the President

Explain how the president can implement a policy agenda.

1. All of the following would be considered formal powers of the U.S. President EXCEPT

- a. Commander-in-Chief
- b. Serve as Party leader
- c. State of the Union address
- d. Appoint ambassadors

2. President's possess both formal and informal powers. Many of the informal powers are based upon tradition. These powers are not found in the constitution but are routinely practiced without any reservations. What informal power is being exercised in the following scenario?

"The president orders the Wildlife Service to crack down on animal trafficking. Congress left out."

- a. Executive Order
- b. Executive Privilege
- c. Executive signing statement
- d. Executive Agreement

3. President's possess both formal and informal powers. Many of the informal powers are based upon tradition. These powers are not found in the constitution but are routinely practiced without any reservations. What informal power is being exercised in the following scenario?

"The president signs a pact with Syria regarding chemical weapons. Senate left out"

- a. Executive Order
- b. Executive Privilege
- c. Executive signing statement
- d. Executive Agreement

4. President's possess both formal and informal powers. Many of the informal powers are based upon tradition. These powers are not found in the constitution but are routinely practiced without any reservations. What informal power is being exercised in the following scenario?

"Congress enquired about the president's meeting with tech-leaders back in January but he has refused cooperating with them."

- a. Executive Order
- b. Executive Privilege
- c. Executive signing statement
- d. Executive Agreement

5. Which of the following would be true regarding the president's use of the veto power?

- a. Considered an informal power
- b. Considered an insignificant power
- c. Overridden less than 4% of the time
- d. Used less than 4% of the time

6. A recent Blue Ribbon commission of lawyers wrote, "The President's constitutional duty is to enforce laws he has signed into being unless and until they are held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court or a subordinate tribunal...The Constitution is not what the President says it is."

What presidential practice do you suppose these lawyers were responding to?

- a. State of the Union Address
- b. Signing statements
- c. Veto
- d. Meeting with members of Congress

7. The power of the president has grown exponentially over the years. All of the following have helped to expand the president's power EXCEPT

- a. The increased importance of foreign policy
- b. Domestic crises
- c. Increased role of mass media
- d. A closer reading of the U.S. Constitution

8. Which of the following best represent why Congress passed the War Powers Act of 1974?

- a. Congress felt ill prepared to fight the war on terror
- b. Congress felt the need to limit the president's war making powers
- c. Congress wanted to share in the credit for foreign policy achievements
- d. Congress needed help passing a military budget

9. It has been said that impeachments provide the perfect civics lesson. All of the following lessons can be learned EXCEPT

- a. Impeachments demonstrate checks and balances
- b. Impeachments help to define the separation of powers
- c. Impeachments reveal federalism's assertion of state powers
- d. Impeachments, fueled by public opinion, reflect popular sovereignty

10. The U.S. Supreme Court has attempted to limit presidential power in a number of cases. How was the presidency limited in the case *U.S. v. Nixon* (1974)?

- a. Executive Privilege had limits
- b. Executive Orders were unconstitutional
- c. Signing statements had limits
- d. Cabinet authority was diminished

11. According to many political scientists the most imposing constraint on U.S. presidents is

- a. Congress
- b. Supreme Court
- c. State legislatures
- d. Public opinion

12. Which of the following scenarios best exemplifies a president's use of the bully pulpit?

- a. The president engaged in hard-nosed negotiations with Iran
- b. The president traveled the country giving speeches about raising the minimum wage
- c. The president submitted to Congress a piece of legislation that increased his military power
- d. The president traveled to another country for a peace summit

13. Foreign governments and their leaders can limit the president's power in a number of ways. Most noticeably, however, they can

- a. Serve as agenda gatekeepers
- b. Challenge the president to use the veto more
- c. Divide the loyalties of the American people
- d. Reduce immigration

Critical Thinking Prompt 1: Why have presidential powers grown exponentially over time? Assess the advantages and disadvantages of this evolution.



Critical Thinking Prompt 2: Investigate the size of the modern presidential White House Office. Where have past presidents found their best recruits for the White House office? List the three (3) most important positions in the White House office. Imagine you are the president, fill those three (3) positions with real people. Explain your choices.