

## Unit 1: Foundations of Democracy TEST

1. Our limited government was and is rooted in historical tradition, theory, conflict and compromise. Both the writers of our constitution and the vast majority of voters today have settled upon this form of government
  - a. Representative Democracy
  - b. Representative Oligarchy
  - c. Direct Democracy
  - d. Direct Oligarchy
  
2. Our limited government is rooted in certain basic ideals. Those ideals include all of the following EXCEPT
  - a. Natural Rights
  - b. Popular Sovereignty
  - c. Republicanism
  - d. Communitarianism
  
3. A limited government was best protected, according to our founders, by diluting power. The dilution of power was achieved, in part, by creating three branches of government and by separating power between national and state governments. What is the separation of power between national and state governments called?
  - a. Constitutionalism
  - b. Federalism
  - c. Communitarianism
  - d. Republicanism
  
4. Jefferson's transformative text serves as a manifesto of freedom to oppressed people around the world. In it he stated:

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..."*

Written like a lawyer's brief, this document is commonly called:

- a. Mayflower Compact
- b. Second Treatise on Government
- c. Declaration of Independence
- d. U.S. Constitution

5. The U.S. Constitution is the longest lasting and most durable government charter in human history. When read, it essentially provides
  - a. A blue print of our federal government
  - b. A list of rights and responsibilities for citizens to follow
  - c. A warning to our enemies
  - d. Reasons for why we broke away from England
  
6. Popular sovereignty provides the ultimate legitimacy to our governing social contract. Which of the following serves as an example of popular sovereignty?
  - a. Congress passing laws
  - b. Voting
  - c. Judicial Review
  - d. Electoral College
  
7. In our original constitution, the people directly elected
  - a. The House of Representatives
  - b. The Senate
  - c. The Supreme Court
  - d. The President
  
8. Tensions continue to exist over how best to sustain representative democracy in the United States. Three primary models of representative democracy can be observed in our major institutions, policies, events and debates. In this model civil society is maintained when the broadest selection of citizens engages in the political process.
  - a. Participatory democracy
  - b. Elite democracy
  - c. Pluralist democracy
  - d. Direct democracy
  
9. Tensions continue to exist over how best to sustain representative democracy in the United States. Three primary models of representative democracy can be observed in our major institutions, policies, events and debates. In this model rival groups form to compete against each other in their desire to influence public policy.
  - a. Participatory democracy
  - b. Elite democracy
  - c. Pluralist democracy
  - d. Direct democracy
  
10. Tensions continue to exist over how best to sustain representative democracy in the United States. Three primary models of representative democracy can be observed in our major institutions, policies, events and debates. In this model the primary political decisions are made and enforced by a select group of advantaged citizens.
  - a. Participatory democracy
  - b. Elite democracy
  - c. Pluralist democracy
  - d. Direct democracy

11. In Federalist 10 James Madison lamented about the dangers of factions, one group or party that might dominate the whole. He advocated for pluralism. The best way to encourage competing groups was to build
- A large republic
  - A communitarian republic
  - Elite communities of civic minded citizens
  - Large direct democracies at the municipal level
12. Today in our society elites made up of elected officials, corporate voices and entertainers
- Play less of role in economic decisions but a decisive role in foreign policy
  - Play an insignificant role in governing decisions
  - Play a disproportionate role in our major institutions
  - Play a more significant role in choosing electoral candidates than ever before
13. The Federalists and the Anti-Federalists were two early political parties in the United States. They fought over this question
- How strong should our military be?
  - Who should be directly elected?
  - How strong should the central government be?
  - How should be select our chief executive?
14. This early political party argued for a strong central government overseeing a large republic. Such a government would be the best means to guard the power and rights of the people.
- The Federalists
  - The Anti-Federalists
  - The Democratic-Republicans
  - The Democrats
15. This early political party feared that by centralizing governmental power individual liberty would be compromised. The wealthy class easily corrupted strong central governments in history. Aristocratic tendencies should be expected.
- The Federalists
  - The Anti-Federalists
  - The Democratic-Republicans
  - The Democrats

16. The following is excerpted from

*In so extensive a republic, the great officers of government would soon become above the control of the people, and abuse their power to the purpose of aggrandizing themselves, and oppressing them. The trust committed to the executive offices, in a country of the extent of the United-States, must be various and of magnitude. The command of all the troops and navy of the republic, the appointment of officers, the power of pardoning offences, the collecting of all the public revenues, and the power of expending them, with a number of*

*other powers, must be lodged and exercised in every state, in the hands of a few. When these are attended with great honor and emolument, as they always will be in large states, so as greatly to interest men to pursue them, and to be proper objects for ambitious and designing men, such men will be ever restless in their pursuit after them. They will use the power, when they have acquired it, to the purposes of gratifying their own interest and ambition, and it is scarcely possible, in a very large republic, to call them to account for their misconduct, or to prevent their abuse of power*

- a. Federalist 10
- b. Brutus 1
- c. Declaration of Independence
- d. The Second Treatise on Government

17. Our original constitution invited numerous disputes by various factions that continue to this day because of its

- a. Inherent vagueness
- b. Complexity
- c. Extreme specificity
- d. Length

18. What was the name given to the first governing charter in the United States?

- a. Mayflower Compact
- b. Declaration of Independence
- c. Articles of Confederation
- d. U.S. Constitution

19. Our current constitution was the direct result from

- a. The war of independence
- b. The failures of our first governing charter
- c. Ben Franklin's attempt to attract French capital
- d. Slave owners' usurpation of power from the national government

20. George Washington called this government "little more than a shadow without substance." Unable to tax, regulate interstate commerce and maintain a standing army doomed it from the beginning.

- a. Mayflower Compact
- b. Declaration of Independence
- c. Articles of Confederation
- d. U.S. Constitution

21. Angry mobs under the leadership of Daniel Shays threatened not only Massachusetts in 1787 but also the security of the entire nation. An important consequence was

- a. A constitutional convention calling for a stronger national government
- b. A constitutional convention calling for stronger state governments
- c. A constitutional convention calling for a Bill of Rights
- d. The dissolution of the King's authority in America

22. A distinctive characteristic of our new constitution was the creation of both a House and a Senate. In political science this is called a
- Authoritative congress
  - Deliberative body
  - Bicameral legislature
  - Parliamentary authority
23. The constitutional convention that met in Philadelphia in the summer of 1787 was called to
- Recommend a new government charter that made the central government stronger
  - Recommend a new government charter that made the central government weaker
  - Recommend a new government charter that included provisions to protect slavery
  - Recommend a new government charter that outlawed foreign alliances
24. Representative democracy relies upon meaningful deliberation and compromise. One primary difference debated at the constitutional convention in 1787 revolved around representation. This was a dispute between
- The North and the South
  - Big states and Small states
  - The rich and the poor
  - Democrats and Republicans
25. Representative democracy relies upon meaningful deliberation and compromise. One primary difference debated at the constitutional convention in 1787 revolved around different economic bases. This was a dispute between
- The North and the South
  - Big states and Small states
  - The rich and the poor
  - Democrats and Republicans
26. Roger Sherman, a constitutional convention delegate from Connecticut, suggested proportional representation in a House of Representatives, but equal state representation in a Senate. Without this compromise, no new constitution would have been had. It is commonly called
- Sherman's March
  - The Conventional Wisdom
  - The Philadelphia Settlement
  - The Great Compromise

27. A more difficult issue needing compromise at our constitutional convention would be what some have called “the snake” of slavery. The document ultimately ratified included certain implicit protections of that “the peculiar institution,” without which it is unlikely an agreement between the 13 states would have been reached. Yet some have argued that the seed of abolition was sewn into the new constitution as seen in

- a. The creation of a stronger central government
- b. The Great Compromise
- c. The 3/5s Compromise
- d. The establishment of judicial review

28. Article V, sometimes called “the escape hatch,” allowed for amendments to be added to the constitution later. The most popular means by which our constitution has been formally changed requires

- a. The House to propose, and the Senate to ratify
- b. The Congress to propose, and the Courts to ratify
- c. The Congress to propose, and the states to ratify
- d. The states to propose, and the Congress to ratify

29. *“This Constitution is said to have beautiful features; but when I come to examine these features, sir, they appear to me horribly frightful. Among other deformities, it has an awful squinting; it squints towards monarchy; and does not this raise indignation in the [heart] of every true American?”* Who is most likely to have said this in the summer of 1788?

- a. Federalist
- b. Anti-Federalist
- c. George Washington
- d. King of England

30. Gaining approval for our new constitution was not easy. One delegate argued:

*It has been asserted that the interests, habits, and manners of the thirteen states are different; and hence it is inferred that no general free government can suit them. This diversity of habits, &c., has been a favorite theme with those who are disposed for a division of our empire, and, like many other popular objections, seems to be founded on fallacy. I acknowledge that the local interests of the states are in some degree various, and that there is some difference in the manners and habits. But this I will presume to affirm, that, from New Hampshire to Georgia, the people of America are as uniform in their interests and manners as those of any established in Europe.*

Who would have been most likely to argue this point?

- a. Federalist
- b. Anti-Federalist
- c. George Washington
- d. King of England

31. Both history and theory instructed our Founding Fathers to be weary of consolidating the functions of government. Sovereign authority in one place only invited abuse. Therefore, a tripartite government was established. The U.S. Constitution vests three branches of government with certain specialized power and authority. Which branch writes laws?

- a. Legislative
- b. Executive
- c. Judicial
- d. Federal

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- a. Legislative
- b. Executive
- c. Judicial
- d. Federal

33. Both history and theory instructed our Founding Fathers to be weary of consolidating the functions of government. Sovereign authority in one place only invited abuse. Therefore, a tripartite government was established. The U.S. Constitution vests three branches of government with certain specialized power and authority. Which branch interprets laws?

- a. Legislative
- b. Executive
- c. Judicial
- d. Federal

34. *"If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself. A dependence on the people is, no doubt, the primary control on the government; but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions."*

The creation of a government characterized by the separation of powers has proven those "auxiliary precautions" to be fortuitous. Where would you find these prescient words?

- a. Declaration of Independence
- b. U.S. Constitution
- c. Federalist 10
- d. Federalist 51

35. All of the following would be considered legislative branch checks on the other branches EXCEPT

- a. Veto executive orders
- b. Changing the size and jurisdiction of federal courts
- c. Impeaching the president
- d. Declaration of war

36. All of the following would be considered executive branch checks on the other branches EXCEPT
- Veto Supreme Court decisions
  - The Vice President serves as the President of the Senate
  - Pardon power
  - Appointment of federal judge
37. Elihu Root called the separation of powers “one of the great underlying principles of our Constitution.” Creating a constitutional system defined by the separation of powers and characterized by checks and balances was not merely a simple choice of governance, but considered at the time an essential strategy of national security. The following is the most obvious consequence of a system defined by the separation of powers
- Distinct functions have been given to our three branches
  - Inevitably the executive branch grows more powerful
  - The Courts are able to usurp power without the public noticing
  - Foreign powers find it difficult to navigate negotiation strategies
38. Designed to protect us from tyranny, the reality of a system defined by the separation of powers created a government with many different access points to influence public policy. The unanticipated result has been
- Continuous divided government
  - A system vulnerable to abuse and corruption
  - One tyrannical president after another
  - Foreign governments exert unparalleled influence over public policy
39. Impeachment was seen as a blunt weapon against entrusted civil servants who engaged in political malpractice and neglect of their delegated duties. It was to be used as a last resort and not subject to the whims of mere partisan differences. Which of the following accurately describes our federal impeachment process?
- House impeaches; Senate holds the trial; Chief Justice presides
  - Senate impeaches; House holds the trial; Vice-President presides
  - Congress impeaches; State legislatures vote; Attorney General counts votes
  - Public outcry brings charges; Department of Justice investigates; National referendum
40. The dynamic distribution of power between national and state governments is called
- Democratic republicanism
  - Federalism
  - Concurrent constitutionalism
  - Democratic socialism

41. Over time the balance of power between national and state governments has grown more and more complicated. This provision has been used to strengthen the power of the national government beyond its original reach.
- Tenth Amendment
  - Fourteenth Amendment
  - Enumerated powers found in the constitution
  - Northwest Ordinance
42. Over time the balance of power between national and state governments has grown more and more complicated. This provision has been used to check the power of the national government despite trends moving in the opposite direction.
- Tenth Amendment
  - Fourteenth Amendment
  - Eighteenth Amendment
  - Northwest Ordinance
43. Federalism reflects the dynamic distribution of power between national and state governments. Efforts to legalize marijuana demonstrate the power of
- The national government
  - Judicial interpretation
  - State governments
  - Foreign governments
44. The Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) was a mandate that, in part, required all public buildings to be wheel chair accessible. Mandates like these demonstrate the power of
- The national government
  - Judicial interpretation
  - State governments
  - Foreign governments
45. Federal block grants typically are more desirable over categorical grants because they
- Provide the most discretion
  - Provide the most direction
  - Provide the most money
  - Provide the least foreign interference
46. The national government uses both sticks (mandates) and carrots (block grants and categorical grants) to interact with state and local governments in the policy making process. The results of these strategies are to
- Build a stronger central government
  - Build stronger state and local governments
  - Build stronger relationships between branches
  - Build stronger foreign alliances

47. In his Second Inaugural Address FDR proclaimed:

*We the Republic sensed the truth that democratic government has innate capacity to protect its people against disasters once considered inevitable, to solve problems once considered unsolvable. We would not admit that we could not find a way to master economic epidemics just as, after centuries of fatalistic suffering, we had found a way to master epidemics of disease. We refused to leave the problems of our common welfare to be solved by the winds of chance and the hurricanes of disaster. In this we Americans were discovering no wholly new truth; we were writing a new chapter in our book of self-government.*

The natural implication of this statement is to

- a. Build a stronger central government
- b. Build stronger state and local governments
- c. Build stronger relationships between branches
- d. Build stronger foreign alliances

48. The United States Constitution recognized the importance and sovereignty of individual state governments. The U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights distribute power not only to the people and the respective branches of the national government but also to innumerable state and local governments. In essence our Founders created an innovative system of government based upon

- a. Divided legitimacy
- b. Divided sovereignty
- c. Dual legitimacy
- d. Dual sovereignty

49. Federalism is less about distinct powers between national and state governments and more about their shared functions. An appropriate metaphor used by political scientists for this evolution of federalism over time has been

- a. Marble cake federalism
- b. Layer cake federalism
- c. Picket fence federalism
- d. Fenced in federalism

50. The national government, exclusively, has the ability to go to war and negotiate foreign policy. This kind of exclusive power is called

- a. Delegated
- b. Concurrent
- c. Reserved
- d. Arbitrary

51. The national and state governments, together, share responsibility for providing healthcare. This kind of shared power is called
- Delegated
  - Concurrent
  - Reserved
  - Arbitrary
52. The national government has limits. Certain functions of government are exclusively the right of state and local government to perform, such as providing drivers' licenses. These exclusive state powers are called
- Delegated
  - Concurrent
  - Reserved
  - Arbitrary
53. Where in the U.S. Constitution would you find these words:
- The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.*
- Fifth Amendment
  - Ninth Amendment
  - Tenth Amendment
  - Fourteenth Amendment
54. In this U.S. Supreme Court case the national government was greatly empowered due to a liberal interpretation of the *supremacy clause*.
- McCulloch v. Maryland
  - U.S. v. Lopez
  - Marbury v. Madison
  - Citizens United v. FEC
55. In this U.S. Supreme Court case the national government was greatly limited due to a conservative interpretation of the *commerce clause*.
- McCulloch v. Maryland
  - U.S. v. Lopez
  - Marbury v. Madison
  - Citizens United v. FEC
56. Conservatives in recent years have attempted to return certain powers back to the states, thus restoring the balance of power. This devolution of federal power, according to the political class, has been called
- Classical Federalism
  - New Federalism
  - Reserved Federalism
  - Limited Federalism

57. All three branches were created to participate in the national public policy making process. With the growth, however, of the administrative state this branch has taken on an increased role in public policy making

- a. Legislative
- b. Executive
- c. Judicial
- d. State and local governments

58. Once called the “least dangerous branch,” this arm of the national government has increasingly played the role of policy maker. Through their decisions, contrasting to their historic avoidance of the “political thicket,” they create and implement public policy with great authority.

- a. Legislative
- b. Executive
- c. Judicial
- d. State and local governments

59. All three branches were created to participate in the national public policy making process. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was validated under the U.S. Constitution’s interstate Commerce Clause (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3). In the case *Hearts of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States* (1964) the court ruled that a ban on discrimination at the privately-owned hotel was constitutional on the grounds that it catered to interstate travelers.

In what national policy area was this effort a gamechanger?

- a. Tax policy
- b. Race relations policy
- c. Immigration policy
- d. Foreign policy

60. Political science is the study of government systems, political activity and behavior. In this unit we have discovered that political science is ultimately a power struggle. Theory, conflict and compromise have defined our quest to be self-governing. The outcome of any study in representative democracy is an appreciation for how best to become agents of public policy.

If one had to summarize our power struggle from its inception, the constitutional convention in 1787 to today, it would be fair to say we still agree with this maxim:

- a. We want a strong central government but not too strong
- b. We want good government at any cost
- c. To prevent tyranny by one we are willing to create a tyranny of the majority
- d. The legitimacy and authority to govern depends upon strong and able leadership