

Unit 2: Interaction Among Government Branches
TEST – B

1. Our representative democracy finds agency through our Congress. Our representative branch is primarily based upon what founding ideal?
 - a. Checks and balances
 - b. Equality
 - c. Republicanism
 - d. Federalism

2. The enumerated powers of Congress are found in Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. Which of the following is an enumerated power of Congress?
 - a. Overriding Supreme Court opinions
 - b. Declaring war
 - c. Producing an annual State of the Union report
 - d. Creating a national bank

3. In which of the following functions of Congress can they wield their greatest power?
 - a. Nominating presidential candidates
 - b. Vetoing a Supreme Court opinion through a legislative veto
 - c. Overriding a presidential veto
 - d. Controlling the federal budget

4. The Senate floor is much different than the House floor. In the Senate there are no strict time limits. In fact, one member can stall or delay the entire Senate calendar by filibustering. Today almost every bill in the Senate must overcome a filibuster. Which of the following is true about ending a filibuster?
 - a. Electoral vote of 270
 - b. Cloture vote of 60
 - c. Committee of the Whole vote of 51
 - d. Majority Leader rules

5. What was unique about the House of Representatives when our constitution was first ratified?
 - a. The House was the only government institution directly elected
 - b. The House was the only chamber that could veto a Supreme Court opinion
 - c. The House was open to both men and women
 - d. The House was the only government institution that made public policy

6. Who holds the most powerful leadership position in the Senate?
 - a. Speaker
 - b. Majority leader
 - c. Majority Whip
 - d. Chair of the Caucus

7. Congress at work is Congress in committee. Expertise and specialization are built by Congressional members by serving on these committees
 - a. Standing
 - b. Conference
 - c. Select
 - d. Special

8. Certain federal budget line items receive mandatory funds each year. Which of the following entitlement programs makes up a large majority of our federal budget?
 - a. Military
 - b. Education
 - c. Social Security and Medicare
 - d. Homeland Security

9. Approval ratings of Congress in recent years has been
 - a. Historically low
 - b. At historic norms
 - c. Historically high
 - d. Edging up from historic norms

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

By any measure, the modern Congress is a polarized one. In the past 40 years, more conservative Republicans have replaced retiring Republicans, and incoming Democrats have been more liberal than those that they replaced. The departure of Southern Democrats, once a stronghold of moderate views on issues besides civil rights, has exacerbated this trend. In the 1950s, political scientists complained that it was difficult to differentiate between the two parties. By the 1980s the parties in Congress were mostly differentiated, and today ideological overlap between the parties is essentially gone. Congressional polarization may be the most prominent stylized fact of American political science...

10. Which of the following would characterize Congressional polarization today?
 - a. Party platforms that differ from public policy positions
 - b. Highly differentiated policy positions
 - c. Efficient divided government
 - d. Party leadership at odds with their own caucus

11. According to the reading, which of the following was a leading cause of today's polarized Congress?
- Regional realignments
 - Gerrymandering
 - Social media
 - Controversial candidate centered candidates
12. Drawing new congressional districts is called redistricting. What is it called when congressional districts are drawn by state legislators for political advantage?
- Malapportionment
 - Gerrymandering
 - Reapportionment
 - Discharge petition
13. The presidency has been enhanced beyond its expressed constitutional powers. Which of the following would best exemplify this claim?
- The Presidential signing-statement
 - The President as commander-in-chief
 - The President agenda setting through the State of the Union Address
 - The Presidential appointments of Supreme Court justices
14. When a president uses a "bully pulpit" he/she is
- Serving out a term as a lame duck
 - Appropriately nominating his running mate
 - Well placed to veto a Congressional act
 - Uniquely positioned to persuade public opinion
15. Which of the following informal presidential power carries the same authority as law but without Congressional assent?
- Executive Order
 - Executive Agreement
 - Executive Veto
 - Executive declaration of war
16. There are many limits placed on our president. Some are more formal. How did the 22nd Amendment limit the modern president?
- Limited to a smaller cabinet
 - Limited to a diminished budget
 - Limited to 2 terms
 - Limited legislative authority

17. Hamilton in Federalist 70 called for an “energetic president.” What did he mean?
- a. Presidents should be charismatic
 - b. Presidents should be able to act unilaterally
 - c. Presidents should use their bully pulpit against Congress
 - d. Presidents need to work harder than other political offices
18. In which public policy arena would presidents have the advantage over Congress?
- a. Changing court jurisdiction
 - b. Passing a budget
 - c. Foreign policy
 - d. Educational policy
19. Presidents are required by the U.S. Constitution to fill vacated seats on the Supreme Court. Who is responsible to confirm these appointments?
- a. House of Representatives
 - b. U.S. Senate
 - c. Congress – both House and Senate
 - d. Department of Justice
20. In both divided and unified governments presidents clash with Congress. Agenda setting and passing public policy is never easy. Which of the following tends to be the biggest hurdle to passing meaningful public policy?
- a. Public opinion
 - b. Foreign agents
 - c. The Cabinet
 - d. State governments
21. We have, in more recent years, come to expect much more from our president. The President of the United States has to wear many hats. Today’s modern president is expected to fulfill many different roles. Which of the following would be an example of the president serving as Chief of Party?
- a. Overseeing electoral strategies
 - b. Mobilizing troops
 - c. Serving as ceremonial leader – like a King
 - d. Vetoing legislation
22. We have, in more recent years, come to expect much more from our president. The President of the United States has to wear many hats. Today’s modern president is expected to fulfill many different roles. Which of the following would be an example of the president serving as Chief of State?
- a. Overseeing electoral strategies
 - b. Mobilizing troops
 - c. Serving as ceremonial leader – like a King
 - d. Vetoing legislation

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

The modern president sits atop a vast military and civilian bureaucracy capable of generating laws, adjudicating disputes, and executing policy. No other governing officer has available such an immense range of resources and legal tools to shape the everyday lives of Americans. No other governing office is as visible a representation of Americans. No other governing office is as visible a representation of American constitutional aspirations. Presidents shape not only specific national policies but also normative conceptions of constitutional meaning, each capable of mobilizing people and resources. Moreover, through the constitutional visions they articulate, presidents seek legitimacy for the practices that further their policies. Rooted in constitutional claims, new policy directions find legitimacy in their coherence with our constituted past. A political reward for winning the presidency is the ability to use the office's substantial public voice to persuade others to see the national community in a way that furthers the office holder's preferred vision. Marshaling party and patronage, the modern president has the ability to communicate to the American people through many voices utilizing all the tools of modern media communications. In turn, when people seek government action, the president is the most direct recipient of the public's attention.

23. Which of the following make up the "immense range of resources" available to modern presidents?
- a. Trillion-dollar budgets
 - b. Billionaire Cabinet members
 - c. Party support in Congress
 - d. Military and civilian bureaucracy
24. Today when people seek government action, despite what our constitution might say, they are most attentive to?
- a. The Congress
 - b. The President
 - c. The Courts
 - d. The Media
25. The Constitution requires presidents to give an annual State of the Union address. What has been the traditional importance of this Address?
- a. Agenda setting
 - b. Election campaigning
 - c. Bully the opposing party
 - d. Fund raising for the party

26. Michael Novak has written, "If we are to reform the presidency, the heart of the matter is the president's power over reality, his symbolic power. The social reality of the U.S. cannot be left to definition by one man alone." What is most responsible for the modern president's power over perception?
- The ability to travel the world in a matter of hours
 - Modern technologies including social media
 - An uneducated and illiterate populace
 - Congressional gridlock
27. A 24/7 media cycle has
- Created a love/hate relationship with presidents
 - Made it impossible to be an effective president
 - Allows the president to build deceptively high approval ratings
 - Has recently been ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court
28. Modern communications have helped to create for all presidents a permanent campaign. Which of the following would be an example?
- President Tom appointed a political advisor to serve in his White House office.
 - President Tom chose to invade Iraq.
 - President Tom appointed a member of the opposition party as Secretary of State.
 - President Tom chose to visit England to help them overcome a natural disaster.
29. Article III of the U.S. Constitution did not say much. It established a judicial branch but left the details out. Who was responsible for creating our first courts and establishing their jurisdiction?
- The Congress
 - The President
 - The Courts
 - The Department of Justice
30. The design of the judicial branch protects the Court's independence as a branch of government, and the emergence and use of judicial review remains a powerful judicial practice. Which of the following best guards the Court's independence?
- Advise and consent of the Senate
 - Presidential litmus tests
 - Limited media coverage
 - Life terms for federal judges
31. Marbury v. Madison (1803) has become a court weapon propelling it into the political limelight. What constitutional principle was established in the seminal court case?
- Selective incorporation
 - National supremacy
 - Judicial review
 - Free speech applied to symbolic speech

32. Former Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes wrote, “We are under a Constitution, but the Constitution is what the judges say it is.” This kind of court confidence might have surprised Alexander Hamilton but it does not seem to bother you and I. The federal judiciary is no longer “the least dangerous branch.” It may be the most dangerous. What Federalist essay foreshadowed a powerful judicial branch?
- Federalist 10
 - Federalist 51
 - Federalist 70
 - Federalist 78
33. The bedrock of the American legal system is justice for all. Throughout our history we have committed to equality under the law. An important pillar of this system is the use of legal precedence. What is the Latin word for basing legal decisions on previous cases?
- Stare decisis
 - Writ of certiorari
 - Voir Dire
 - Ex Post Facto
34. Ideological changes have dramatically impacted both the composition and outcomes of Supreme Court decisions. This recent case exposed the conservative bent of the Supreme Court in the area of campaign finance by permitting corporations to give unlimited soft money to campaigns?
- McCulloch v. Maryland
 - McDonald v. Chicago
 - Gitlow v. New York
 - Citizens United v. FEC
35. When the court does deviate from precedent it can be accused of becoming a policy-making institution. Here again we see why the court is no longer “the least dangerous branch.” The Court has evolved into an important political force. Where is this most scene today?
- Controversy over Senate confirmation of federal judges
 - Larger and larger court docket
 - Televised oral arguments
 - The number of cases that are no longer enforced by Congress
36. The technical word for a court’s decision-making process is called?
- Jurisdiction
 - Jurisprudence
 - Jurisdictive
 - Juristic

37. Which of the following would be an example of a federal judge practicing judicial restraint?
- a. Judge Tom ruled based on his study of the historic background of the law in question
 - b. Judge Tom ruled based on his personal experience with a similar issue
 - c. Judge Tom ruled based on his attempt to counter a civil injustice
 - d. Judge Tom ruled based on his liberal background
38. Which of the following would be an example of a federal judge practicing judicial activism?
- a. Judge Tom ruled based on his study of the historic background of the law in question
 - b. Judge Tom ruled based on his personal experience with a similar issue
 - c. Judge Tom ruled based on his principled constitutional study
 - d. Judge Tom ruled based on his conservative background
39. How does federalism limit the U.S. Supreme Court?
- a. Jurisdictional limits
 - b. States are not bound to comply with U.S. Court precedent
 - c. Governors are opening critical of partisan justices
 - d. Stare decisis
40. How can Congress counter a widely unpopular Court opinion?
- a. Passing a Constitutional amendment
 - b. Enacting new legislation
 - c. Forcing justices to resign
 - d. Moving up the date of critical elections
41. The federal bureaucracy is a powerful institution implementing federal policies with sometimes-questionable accountability. The Civil Service Act of 1883 eliminated
- a. Patronage
 - b. The merit system
 - c. The Cabinet
 - d. The organized hierarchy
42. The Department of State is primarily responsible for
- a. Monetary policy
 - b. Foreign policy
 - c. National security
 - d. Public education
43. The EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency, develops policies and programs to clean our environment. The EPA is an example of
- a. A Cabinet agency
 - b. An Independent Agency
 - c. A Government Corporation
 - d. The White House Office

44. Which of the following make up the three points to an Iron Triangle?

- a. Private corporation; Congressional committee; Interest Group
- b. State commission; Executive Agency; Interest Group
- c. Congressional committee; Executive Agency; Interest Group
- d. Congressional committee; Interest Group; PAC

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Bureaucrats are powerful political actors because they have some flexibility as they interpret the law and implement public policy. For instance, police officers overlook some offenses during their shifts and welfare caseworkers decide the order and speed with which applicants receive their benefits. Of course, the actions of police officers and caseworkers, like all bureaucrats, are at least theoretically bound by the law. The point is not that bureaucrats are rogue actors but that they have some latitude as they make decisions.

45. What is the primary claim of this passage?

- a. Bureaucrats have grown weaker
- b. Bureaucrats have discretion
- c. Bureaucrats have grown dependent upon public opinion
- d. Bureaucrats have too much power

46. If bureaucrats can write policy, implement policy and interpret policy what constitutional principle are they jeopardizing?

- a. Popular sovereignty
- b. Separation of powers
- c. Federalism
- d. Republicanism

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Philip Hamburger has recently written,

After absolute power was defeated in England and America, it circled back from the continent through Germany, and especially through Prussia. There, what once had been the personal prerogative power of kings became the bureaucratic administrative power of the states. The Prussians were the leaders of this development in the 17th and 18th centuries. In the 19th century they became the primary theorists of administrative power, and many of them celebrated its evasion of constitutional law and constitutional rights.

47. The defeated prerogative kingly power during our revolution has been surprisingly replaced with our modern

- a. Administrative State
- b. Presidency
- c. Judicial Branch
- d. Plebiscite government

48. What founding principle is most at risk with a strong federal bureaucracy?
- a. Constitutionalism
 - b. Liberty and Order
 - c. Federalism
 - d. Representative democracy
49. How does Congress best play the role of “watchdog on the Hill”?
- a. Strategic use of the necessary and proper clause
 - b. Exercising its authority to regulate interstate commerce
 - c. Declaring war
 - d. Federal budget
50. If the president has the “Power of the Sword,” Congress has the
- a. Power of the Courts
 - b. Power of the Purse
 - c. Power of the People
 - d. Power of the Litigators
51. A recent political scientist has claimed that Congress’ policing of executive activity looks more like firefighting. Legislators, it is argued, “jump into action” only when enough alarm is raised by outside groups. It appears then, that if we want an attentive Congress “we the people” will need to be more attentive. Or in other words
- a. Democracy works best when we the people pay attention
 - b. Democracy works best when foreign governments hold us accountable
 - c. Democrats are more likely to practice Congressional oversight than Republicans
 - d. Republicans are more likely to practice Congressional oversight than Democrats
52. Madison in Federalist 51 understood the importance of Congressional oversight. What constitutional principle did he espouse in Federalist 51?
- a. Constitutionalism
 - b. Checks and Balances
 - c. Federalism
 - d. Independent judiciary
53. The power to write the law is vested in our Congress. The power to enforce the law is vested in our President. What “vesting clause” advantage does the president have?
- a. Presidents can appoint judges without being checked
 - b. Presidents’ are not independent like the judiciary
 - c. The President is a unitary person. Easier to set agendas.
 - d. Congressional approval ratings are too high to escape scrutiny
54. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) plays a crucial role in presidential power. What is the primary duty of OMB?
- a. Prepare the budget
 - b. Reject the budget
 - c. Manage Congress
 - d. Spend the federal budget

55. Prerogative powers once given to a king are now in certain ways vested in our president. Which of the following would be an example?
- President declares war on terror and begins to collect meta-data
 - President in his State of the Union address proposes "Health Care for all"
 - President meets with the world champion Chicago Cubs in the White House
 - President meets with Cuban leader to discuss the future of our two countries
56. Sitting in plain view atop President Harry S Truman's Oval Office desk sat a simple sign, "The buck stops here." Truman was not the type of president to skirt responsibility. Decisions made by the executive branch through its agencies and departments were ultimately acting as agents of the president. What is the practical effect of this responsibility?
- Presidents abuse their power because of no real check and balance
 - Presidents often receive credit for winning global wars
 - Presidents often are able to skirt blame for national events
 - Presidents take credit and blame for events often out of their control
57. Recent presidents have tried this method to control the federal bureaucracy?
- Used more and more patronage to assure loyalty
 - Apply private business models to government services
 - Cutting and slashing budgets
 - Become more and more bipartisan in their appointments
58. Which of the following would be an example of Congress holding oversight hearings?
- The House Judiciary Committee subpoenas the President's taxes
 - The EPA investigates an abandoned power plant
 - The Senate Appropriations Committee debates the Army's budget
 - The Speaker of the House holding a press conference to call out the president
59. Who possesses the ultimate check on our federal bureaucracy?
- Congress
 - President
 - Courts
 - State governments
60. A balance between governmental power and individual rights has been a hallmark of American political development. In other words, our political arena is a battle between
- Constitutionalism and the rule of men
 - Liberty and order
 - Civic participation v. representative democracy
 - Competing policy-making interests