

**Unit 5: Political Participation**  
TEST A

1. According to the original U.S. Constitution who was responsible for determining voting qualifications?
  - a. Congress
  - b. The Supreme Court
  - c. The President and his Cabinet
  - d. Individual state and local governments
  
2. What impact did the Seventeenth Amendment have on voting in America?
  - a. Gave male property owners the right to vote
  - b. Provided for the direct election U.S. Senators
  - c. Gave women the right to vote
  - d. Dramatically increased the percentage of actual voters
  
3. What impact did the Nineteenth Amendment have on voting in America?
  - a. Gave male property owners the right to vote
  - b. Extended the vote to African Americans
  - c. Gave women the right to vote
  - d. Eliminated literacy tests as a voting barrier
  
4. The Twenty-Fourth Amendment ended poll taxes. What was the practical effect of this amendment?
  - a. Prospective voters were no longer impeded by an ability to pay a tax
  - b. Prospective voters were no longer impeded by an ability to read
  - c. Prospective voters were no longer impeded by an ability to answer political questions
  - d. Prospective voters were no longer impeded by an ability to own property
  
5. In *Shelby v. Holder* (2013) the Supreme Court affirmed that “the Constitution intended States to keep...the power to regulate elections” and that “equal sovereignty” was hindered by the disparate treatment of some states and not others. This decision impacted
  - a. The historical consequences of the Fifteenth Amendment
  - b. The historical consequences of the Seventeenth Amendment
  - c. The historical consequences of the Twenty-Sixth Amendment
  - d. The historical consequences of the Voting Rights Act of 1965
  
6. Rational choice theory is based upon
  - a. History
  - b. Economics
  - c. Sociology
  - d. Anthropology

7. Retrospective voting models emphasize

- a. Prospective issues
- b. Polls
- c. Party labels
- d. Performance

8. Prospective voting models emphasize

- a. Polls and public opinion
- b. Promises and compelling visions
- c. Culture and family influences
- d. Religious and ethnic traditions

9. Which of the following scenarios exemplifies a split-ticket vote?

- a. Tom votes for a Democrat for president and a Democrat for the Senate on the same ballot
- b. Tom votes for a Democrat for president and chooses not to vote for anybody else on the same ballot
- c. Tom votes for a Republican for president and a Democrat for the House in the next election
- d. Tom votes for a Democrat for president and a Republican for the Senate on the same ballot

10. According to political science, what is the number one determining factor of a person's vote?

- a. Age
- b. Race
- c. Income
- d. Partisan identification (ID)

Turnout of U.S. Voting Eligible Population, 2000-2012

2000	55%
2002	41%
2004	61%
2006	41%
2008	63%
2010	42%
2012	59%

Source: McDonald, United States Elections Project

11. What conclusion can be drawn from the voting data above?

- a. Voting around the world is more popular than in the U.S.
- b. Voting rates are relatively high in the U.S.
- c. Presidential elections elicit a higher voter turnout
- d. Congressional elections draw high turnout rates

12. All of the following demographic characteristics would describe the typical voter EXCEPT

- a. White
- b. Older
- c. College-educated
- d. Non-religious (Secular)

13. A Democrat would most likely say

- a. "Make voting easier"
- b. "Only the educated should be allowed to vote"
- c. "Voting is for old people"
- d. "Requiring voter ID is the right thing to do"

14. A Republican would most likely say

- a. "Make voting easier"
- b. "Only the educated should be allowed to vote"
- c. "Voting is for old people"
- d. "Requiring voter ID is the right thing to do"

15. In a recent Supreme Court decision it was argued, "It is for state legislatures to weigh the costs and benefits of possible changes to their election codes, and their judgment must prevail unless it imposes a severe and unjustified overall burden upon the right to vote, or is intended to disadvantage a particular class," (See *Crawford v Marion County Election Board*, 2008)

The Supreme Court justice who wrote this opinion would most likely be a

- a. Democrat
- b. Republican
- c. Libertarian
- d. Independent

16. In our democracy political parties, interest groups, elections and media are examples of

- a. Policy-making institutions
- b. Linkage institutions
- c. Partisan institutions
- d. Publicly held institutions

17. The U.S. Constitution says NOTHING about political parties. Why?

- a. The founding fathers feared factions
- b. There were no parties at that time in history
- c. There was only one party at that time in history
- d. It was considered an oversight

18. Which of the following political party objectives is considered their primary goal?
- Staff the government
  - Nominate candidates
  - Fund campaigns
  - Win elections
19. Which of the following best describes the political party system in the United States?
- Dominant party system
  - Multi-party system
  - Two-party system
  - Three-party system
20. Though partisan identification (ID) continues to be a major determinant of ones vote, today's political parties are generally
- Stronger
  - Weaker
  - Similar
  - Bipartisan
21. Political scientists agree that information technology has weakened political parties. This is because information technology
- Has enabled candidate-centered campaigns
  - Has made campaigns significantly more expensive
  - Has considerably increased voter turnout
  - Has increased trust and faith in the political process, but not political parties
22. Voters in the South tend to be solid supporters of the
- Democratic Party
  - Republican Party
  - Minor Parties
  - Voters in the South show no consistent preference
23. This term is used when a local party leader builds loyalty and devotion by passing out perks and privileges. As our political process has grown more and more democratic and as our political parties have grown weaker and weaker we see these less and less.
- Party machine
  - Party platform
  - Party plank
  - Party caucus

24. The Democratic and Republican parties are decentralized. Which of the following provides an example?

- a. The two political parties hold to rigid platforms
- b. The leader of the two respective political parties controls all decisions
- c. Leadership and issues can vary from state to state
- d. Democrats in some states align with Republicans in other states

25. Plurality elections go a long way to explain our political party system. What is true of plurality elections?

- a. Most votes win
- b. Majority wins
- c. Run-off elections are required
- d. You must win twice

26. Which of the following provides an important role played by third parties in American politics?

- a. Third parties champion new issues
- b. Third parties champion rising new candidates
- c. Third parties unite the other two parties
- d. Third parties distract voters from the real issues

27. All of the following help explain why the United States maintains a two-party political system EXCEPT

- a. Rigid ideological policy commitments
- b. Plurality elections
- c. Winner-take-all rules
- d. Single-member districts

28. Which of the following best describes how most Americans perceive interest group activity?

- a. 25% believe interest groups have too much power and authority
- b. 50% believe interest groups have too much power and authority
- c. 75% believe interest groups have too much power and authority
- d. 100% believe interest groups have too much power and authority

29. Who is most likely to join an interest group?

- a. The poor
- b. Working class
- c. Young activists
- d. Those with better than average incomes

30. In American politics a free rider is someone who

- a. Votes against all incumbents in both primary and general elections
- b. Receives a benefit from an interest groups without participating
- c. Gives money to local interests but not national interests
- d. Wins an election without facing any opposition

31. Tom resigned from the Senate after serving four consecutive terms. He was quickly hired by a large special interest group in Washington DC where he utilized his contacts to influence public policy. In political science terms Tom

- a. Violated the non-delegation doctrine
- b. Took advantage of an amicus curiae brief
- c. Went through the “revolving door”
- d. Is now employed as an earmark

32. Most political scientists recognize that the single greatest commodity held by interest groups is

- a. The ability to mobilize large numbers of voters
- b. The ability to raise large sums of money
- c. The ability to provide invaluable information
- d. The ability to nominate winning candidates

33. Political Action Committees (PACs) were created to circumvent restrictive campaign laws. PACs primary responsibility is to

- a. Collect money and give it candidates
- b. Disseminate negative campaign ads
- c. Recruit volunteers to work door-to-door for the candidates
- d. Vet potential vice-presidential candidates

34. Which of the following best describe an iron triangle?

- a. A bureaucratic agency, an interest group, and a congressional committee
- b. The president, an interest group, and a congressional committee
- c. Senate majority leader, an interest group, and the president
- d. A Cabinet secretary, a state governor, and a congressional committee

35. Critical elections, often called realignments, are rare occurrences in American politics. Which of the following would be an example of a critical election?

- a. Turnout rates in a presidential election drop below 50%
- b. A leading candidate drops out of a race just prior to the election
- c. A third-party candidate receives the endorsement of a major party
- d. African Americans switch from being Republican to being Democrat

36. If political parties primarily want to win elections what do interest groups primarily want to do?

- a. Raise money for campaigns
- b. Influence public policy
- c. Choose candidates
- d. Also win elections

37. Tom has decided to get involved in this year's presidential election. He wants to be a part of choosing the candidates for next fall's presidential election. His party, however, has an incumbent running without a challenger. Tom goes instead to cast a vote for an opposition candidate. At the polling place he is told that unless he switches his membership he cannot vote for a candidate from the opposing party. What rule is his state following?

- a. Open primary
- b. Closed primary
- c. Blanket primary
- d. Non-partisan primary

38. National party conventions, held every four years, have all of the following important objectives EXCEPT

- a. Hold debates between the two leading candidates
- b. Nominate their presidential candidate
- c. A kick-off to the general election campaign
- d. Showcase their platform and prospective ticket

39. Early primaries and caucuses in a national presidential campaign play a disproportionate role. The influence of these early primaries and caucuses is called "frontloading." The two states that traditionally frontload their primaries and caucuses are

- a. Iowa and Nevada
- b. Iowa and New Hampshire
- c. New Hampshire and Nevada
- d. Minnesota and New Mexico

40. When assessing the Electoral College it becomes apparent that large amounts of campaign resources are applied in bellwether states. Why?

- a. These are the few competitive states
- b. These are the home states of the candidates
- c. These are the few states with the highest media costs
- d. These are the most populated states

41. You must win 270 of the 538 electoral votes to become president. If no candidate wins a simple majority in the Electoral College how is our next president chosen?

- a. Supreme Court
- b. Run off election
- c. Vote by state governors
- d. House of Representatives

42. Look at the following data set and determine the most likely Electoral College outcome for the states provided. [For each state listed their total Electoral College vote is in parenthesis].

2012 Results	Votes for Obama	Votes for Romney
Illinois (20)	3,019,512	2,131,216
Indiana (11)	1,152,887	1,420,543
Iowa (6)	822,544	730,617
Wisconsin (10)	1,620,985	1,407,966

- a. Obama wins 36-11
- b. Obama wins 25-22
- c. Obama wins 3 states to 1
- d. Romney wins 24-23

43. Incumbents have all of the following advantages EXCEPT

- a. Name recognition
- b. Media endorsements
- c. Ease of raising money
- d. Gerrymander protections

44. Gerrymandered districts have this impact on congressional districts

- a. Less competitive
- b. More competitive
- c. More male oriented
- d. Less diverse

45. What does it mean when congressional elections are nationalized?

- a. National issues overtake local issues
- b. Local issues overtake national issues
- c. National candidates overtake local candidates
- d. Local candidates overtake national candidates

46. WANTED: "...a professional who is engaged primarily in the provision of advice and services, such as polling, media, creation and production, and direct mail fundraising, to candidates, their campaigns and other political committees."

This sounds like a job description for a

- a. Political campaign consultant
- b. Candidate for president
- c. Investigative journalist
- d. Political scientist with an interest in campaign theory

47. To win a general election candidates worry about "getting out the vote" (GOTV). All of the following are important strategies to getting out the vote EXCEPT

- a. Likeable branding of the candidate
- b. Money to pay for peoples' votes
- c. Use of social media
- d. Sophisticated micro targeting of potential voters



48. Recent campaign finance reforms passed by Congress have had the expressed purpose of

- a. Leveling the playing field
- b. Protecting the rich
- c. Amending our understanding of free speech
- d. Protecting third and minor parties

49. *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976) is considered a landmark Supreme Court case that addressed campaign finance. Its most enduring legacy is

- a. Both hard and soft campaign money cannot be limited
- b. Campaign money is protected under the First Amendment's free speech clause
- c. Candidates cannot give more to their own campaign than private citizens can
- d. Political Action Committees (PACs) can only give to the national political parties

50. All of the following are true of independent expenditure groups EXCEPT

- a. They cannot coordinate with a candidate's campaign
- b. They can collect unlimited amounts of money
- c. They help reduce the perception that big money is behind politics
- d. They can also be called 527s and Super PACs

51. Though still prevented from giving money directly to candidates, this highly charged U.S. Supreme Court case opened the door for corporations to give money to campaigns through independent expenditures.

- a. *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976)
- b. *FEC v. Akins* (1998)
- c. *McConnell v. FEC* (2003)
- d. *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010)

52. The Supreme Court in *Associated Press v. United States* (1945) said,

*The indirect possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources is essential to the welfare of the public.*

Which of the following best exemplifies what the Court meant?

- a. Availability of multiple cable news channels like FOX, CNN and MSNBC with different viewpoints
- b. Listening to the president's State of the Union address on C-SPAN with no commentary before or after
- c. Congress publishes a daily Record that highlights both actions in committee and on the floor
- d. Finding a reliable news station and committing to watching at least thirty minutes of news each day