

Unit 1: Foundations of Democracy TEST

1. *“Men being, as has been said, by nature, all free, equal and independent, no one can be put out of this estate, and subjected to the political power of another, without his own consent.”*

In this quote from the *Second Treatise on Government* (1690), John Locke was clearly advocating for

- a. Popular sovereignty
- b. Separation of powers
- c. Checks and balances
- d. Federalism

2. *“Men being, as has been said, by nature, all free, equal and independent, no one can be put out of this estate, and subjected to the political power of another, without his own consent.”*

John Locke wrote this in the *Second Treatise on Government* (1690). If he were alive today he would be pleased to know that

- a. Our House of Representatives is directly elected
- b. Congress declares war but the President is the commander-in-chief
- c. The House of Representatives can impeach sitting judges
- d. The Tenth Amendment protects states' rights

3. *“When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty; because apprehensions may arise, lest the same monarch or senate should enact tyrannical laws, to execute them in a tyrannical manner.”*

In this quote from *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748), Montesquieu was clearly advocating for

- a. Popular sovereignty
- b. Separation of powers
- c. Checks and balances
- d. Federalism

4. This transformative document has been and continues to be used as a manifesto of freedom to oppressed peoples around the world.

- a. Montesquieu's *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748)
- b. *The Mayflower Compact* (1620)
- c. *The Declaration of Independence* (1776)
- d. *The U.S. Constitution* (1789)

5. This seminal document established the essential blue print for a unique form of political democracy in America. Even today it can be cited as the longest lasting and most durable government charter in human history.

- a. Montesquieu's *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748)
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6. Essential to any government wishing to exert its authority is for said government to be readily accepted by its people. In other words, all governments work towards

- a. Democracy
- b. Legitimacy
- c. Authoritarianism
- d. Aristocracy

7. Certain salient concepts gave breath to the grand American experiment in self-rule. Fundamentally our Founders maintained an essential commitment to all of the following EXCEPT

- a. Limited government
- b. Separation of powers
- c. Federalism
- d. Direct democracy

8. In the Declaration of Independence Jefferson wrote, "That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government..." In this revolutionary statement, Jefferson was advocating

- a. Separation of Powers
- b. Checks and Balances
- c. Popular Sovereignty
- d. Federalism

9. Conservative groups like the Tea Party and liberal groups like Occupy Wall Street have mobilized thousands of every day citizens to advocate for new public policies by taking to the streets, calling their representatives, voting for alternative candidates and raising money.

What model of representative democracy is represented above?

- a. Participatory democracy
- b. Pluralist democracy
- c. Elite democracy
- d. This is an example of an autocratic government

10. Recently the president of the United States met with high-tech leaders, Hollywood stars and media moguls to discuss how best to address the issue of education reform.

What model of representative democracy is represented above?

- a. Participatory democracy
- b. Pluralist democracy
- c. Elite democracy
- d. This is an example of an autocratic government

11. A constitutional convention in 1787 created a blue print for American government. The Founding Fathers settled upon a republican form of government, also called a

- a. Confederation of elites
- b. Representative democracy
- c. Parliamentary polity
- d. Direct democracy

12. Early in the life of American government questions emerged over “who to empower and where?” The Federalists, an early political party, envisioned a government

- a. Strongly centralized but not too strong
- b. Made up of smaller localized units
- c. Centralized around a strong king
- d. Made up of landless serfs

13. Early in the life of American government questions emerged over “who to empower and where?” The Anti-Federalists, an early political party, envisioned a government

- a. Strongly centralized but not too strong
- b. Made up of smaller localized units
- c. Centralized around a strong king
- d. Made up of landless serfs

14. In Federalist 10 James Madison argued that the “mischief of factions” could best be controlled by

- a. Expanding suffrage
- b. Frequent elections
- c. An energetic president
- d. A large republic

15. When assessing government in America today, the Federalists seemed to have succeeded in securing a strong _____ government; and the Anti-Federalists also succeeded in securing viable _____ governments.

- a. Central; local
- b. Local; central
- c. Autocratic; authoritarian
- d. Authoritarian; autocratic

16. The first national charter, a government blue print, that established a “firm league of friendship” between the thirteen original colonies after the American Revolution was called the

- a. Federalist Papers
- b. Mayflower Compact
- c. Articles of Confederation
- d. U.S. Constitution

17. A rowdy Shays’ Rebellion in Massachusetts following the American Revolution exposed the weaknesses of our first United States government. What weakness of that early central government was exposed the most by Shays’ Rebellion?

- a. The lack of a national standing army to put down the rebellion
- b. The inability of state governments to forgive debt
- c. Porous borders that allowed for unsustainable numbers of immigrants
- d. Irresolvable disputes between northern and southern states

18. During the “critical period” George Washington wrote to a friend saying, “The disinclination of the individual States to yield competent powers to Congress for the Federal Government – their unreasonable jealousy of that body and of one another – and the disposition which seems to pervade each, of being all-wise and all-powerful within itself, will, if there is not a change in the system, be our own downfall as a Nation. This is as clear to me as the A.B.C.”

This quote clearly shows that George Washington

- a. As a Federalist knew that the Articles of Confederation created an inadequate central government
- b. As a Federalist advocated keeping the Articles of Confederation in order to protect liberty
- c. As an Anti-Federalist feared that a strong central government threatened states’ rights
- d. As an Anti-Federalist knew early on that state debts would threaten public school systems

19. John Dickinson, a Founding Father and contributor to the new U.S. Constitution in 1787, wrote: “Let our government be like the sun and the states the planets, repelled yet attracted, and the whole moving regularly and harmoniously in several orbits.”

What founding principle is Dickinson’s metaphor describing?

- a. Popular sovereignty
- b. Federalism
- c. Separation of powers
- d. Checks and balances

20. If the United States were still governed by the Articles of Confederation, issues like health care and education would be primarily handled by

- a. The President
- b. Congress
- c. The Supreme Court
- d. The States

21. The most pressing need at the constitutional convention in Philadelphia in 1787 was
- The central government would need to be stronger
 - State governments would need to pay their fair share
 - The issue of slavery would need to be resolved
 - Foreign policy issues threatened national security
22. The United States Constitution would never have succeeded had it not been for the Great Compromise. This compromise resulted in a bicameral legislature. What fundamental issue divided the convention?
- Northerners versus southerners
 - Urban citizens versus rural citizens
 - Big states versus small states
 - Internationalists versus isolationists
23. Slavery was protected in the Articles of Confederation based upon the principle of
- Executive prerogative
 - State sovereignty
 - Individual agency
 - Equal protection
24. Compromises at the Philadelphia constitutional convention in 1787 were necessary in order to assure ratification. Some important issues were left unresolved. It is for this reason, perhaps, that the escape hatch found in Article V was included. What did Article V provide for?
- A route to return to the Articles of Confederation
 - A means to breach the original charter and thus begin anew
 - A means of amending and changing the original constitution
 - State legislatures were given the power to veto Presidential acts
25. The formal amendment process, changing the language of the U.S. Constitution, has been used sparingly. This is true, in part, because of the difficulty of the amendment process. Two-thirds of _____ must propose a change and three-fourths of _____ must ratify.
- State legislatures; Congress
 - Congress; State legislatures
 - State legislatures; the Supreme Court
 - Congress; the Supreme Court
26. Dividing power through three branches, according to James Madison, was necessary because history taught that abuses of government
- Are to be expected due to human nature
 - Are to be expected due to poorly written constitutions
 - Are to be expected in large republics
 - Are to be expected in direct democracies

27. Arguably, the separation of powers makes abuse and corruption even more likely due to
- Its overemphasis on individual liberty
 - Its inevitable culture of rebellion
 - Its dominant court system
 - Its inherent multiple access points
28. One example of checks and balances built into our U.S. Constitution is
- The House can impeach a president but the Senate must hold the trial of removal
 - The president must declare war but the Congress funds troop deployment
 - The Congress writes laws but the state legislatures approve them
 - The Electoral College chooses nominees but the people vote for president
29. One example of checks and balances built into our U.S. Constitution is
- Political parties nominate judges but the president approves them
 - The president appoints federal judges but the Senate confirms them
 - Federal judges propose bills but presidents sign them into law
 - Presidents declare war but state governments provide the troops
30. One way the Congress can check the Courts is to
- Veto Supreme Court decisions
 - Deny enforcement
 - Change the size and jurisdiction of the federal courts
 - Abolish the federal court system
31. The legislative branch of the U.S. government has been empowered by the Constitution to
- Make laws
 - Enforce laws
 - Interpret laws
 - Make, enforce and interpret laws
32. The executive branch of the U.S. government has been empowered by the Constitution to
- Make laws
 - Enforce laws
 - Interpret laws
 - Make, enforce and interpret laws
33. The judicial branch of the U.S. government has been empowered by the Constitution to
- Make laws
 - Enforce laws
 - Interpret laws
 - Make, enforce and interpret laws

34. Many political scientists have acknowledged that hazardous leaks, resulting in possible security breaches, are a byproduct of the separation of powers. Governments characterized by the separation of powers are vulnerable to security leaks because

- a. Checks and balances have never been fully funded
- b. The number of access points given to corrupting influences
- c. The three branches rarely communicate with each other
- d. The Supreme Court has advocated for security leaks as a means of protecting liberty

35. The separation of powers and checks and balances are all a part of the promise of good government that lies behind the creation of our U.S. Constitution. Which of the following provides an example of this promise in action?

- a. The EPA can regulate air quality around the world
- b. The legislative branch checks governors by controlling their respective budgets
- c. The executive branch prepares the budget; the legislative branch approves the budget
- d. State governments can veto presidential actions

36. A fundamental question we as a representative democracy have had to answer since our inception is

- a. How strong should our central government be?
- b. How many states should we have?
- c. Should we have a king or a parliament?
- d. Should our Supreme Court be the least dangerous branch?

37. Which of the following best defines federalism?

- a. The separation of power between national, state and local governments
- b. The separation between legislative, executive and judicial branches
- c. The separation between foreign and domestic policy
- d. The separation between church and state

38. What did Thomas Jefferson mean when he stated: “The Constitution belongs to the living and not to the dead”?

- a. The Constitution should be rewritten by every generation
- b. Each and every citizen should uniquely personalize the constitution
- c. Meanings and interpretations evolve with time
- d. Meanings and interpretations are rooted in original contexts

39. The emergence of a movement to legalize marijuana at the state level provides an example of

- a. The persistent tension over where government power is best suited
- b. The settled debate over where government power is found
- c. The negligible authority that still remains at the state level
- d. The authoritative role played by national governments

40. Using what you have learned, what constitutional provision do you suppose legitimized the passage of The Controlled Substances Act (1970) which authorized the national government to preside over a vast drug policy?

- a. Free faith and credit clause
- b. The interstate commerce clause
- c. The necessary and proper clause
- d. Tenth Amendment

41. Reserved powers, powers retained by the states, were given Constitutional authority in which amendment?

- a. First
- b. Second
- c. Fifth
- d. Tenth

42. Political scientists have like to use metaphors to explain the unique relationships developed by federalism in American government and politics. Which of the following metaphors has been used most often?

- a. Layer cake
- b. Marble cake
- c. Angel food cake
- d. Fruit cake

43. The story of American government is a story of national aggrandizement. What does this mean?

- a. The national government has grown in power at the expense of state and local governments
- b. State and local governments have grown in power at the expense of the national government
- c. Federalism no longer exists
- d. Governmental legitimacy has been replaced with national authority

44. Which of the following Supreme Court cases provided the seminal interpretation for the following language found in the U.S. Constitution?

“This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.”

U.S. Constitution Article 6, Section 2

- a. Marbury v. Madison (1803)
- b. McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
- c. Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)
- d. Barron v. Baltimore (1833)

45. In this case the Supreme Court ruled the Gun-Free School Zones Act went beyond what the Constitution's commerce clause could allow. For the first time since the New Deal the Court limited the scope and reach of the Commerce Clause.

- a. Mapp v. Ohio (1961)
- b. Miranda v. Arizona (1966)
- c. Roe v. Wade (1973)
- d. U.S. v. Lopez (1990)

46. Our Congress, the legislative branch, often leads in the public policy process because of

- a. Its legislative authority
- b. Its virtual representation
- c. Its access to media outlets
- d. Its high incumbency rates

47. Our President, along with the whole executive branch, have taken on an increased role in the policy making process because of

- a. The growth of public trust in the president
- b. The growth of the administrative state
- c. The growth of the role played by the Vice President
- d. The Constitutional authority vested in the president

48. The Supreme Court isn't just blind anymore. It too is involved in the public policy making process. The principal way the Supreme Court can influence public policy is to

- a. Alert the media
- b. Work closely with the Congress
- c. Set agendas and formulate solutions
- d. Formally amend the constitution through their opinions

49. The Congress, the president and the Courts have used this constitutional provision to legitimately advance the rights and privileges of certain minority groups

- a. The supremacy clause
- b. The necessary and proper clause
- c. The interstate commerce clause
- d. The Bill of Rights

50. The Supreme Court in the case *Hearts of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States* (1964) argued:

The power of Congress to deal with these obstructions depends on the meaning of the Commerce Clause. Its meaning was first enunciated 140 years ago by the great Chief Justice John Marshall in Gibbons v. Ogden (1824) in these words: 'The subject to be regulated is commerce, and . . . to ascertain the extent of the power, it becomes necessary to settle the meaning of the word. The counsel for the appellee would limit it to traffic, to buying and selling, or the interchange of commodities . . . but it is something more: it is intercourse . . . between nations, and parts of nations, in all its branches, and is regulated by prescribing rules for carrying on that [activity].'

To what commerce does this power extend? The constitution informs us, to commerce 'with foreign nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.'

It has, we believe, been universally admitted that these words comprehend every species of commercial [activity] . . . No sort of trade can be carried on . . . to which this power does not extend.

As a result of this Court argument

- a. The Court expanded the legitimate power of the central government
- b. The Court formulated a policy that set back the civil rights movement
- c. The Court enforced once and for all states' rights
- d. The Court reduced the size and reach of the Department of Commerce