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# Test 1

1. Why did the Founding Fathers separate the power to make, enforce, and interpret laws between different branches of government?
  - A. to prevent one branch of government from becoming too powerful
  - B. to make the national government more efficient
  - C. to increase the power of the presidency
  - D. to ensure that Congress would act according to the will of the people
2. What pamphlet denounced British rule and fanned the flames of revolution?
  - A. Magna Carta
  - B. *Two Treatises of Government*
  - C. Mayflower Compact
  - D. *Common Sense*

3. Use the quotation to answer the question.

“THE HORRID MASSACRE IN BOSTON, Perpetrated in the evening of the fifth day of March, 1770, by soldiers of the Twenty-ninth Regiment, which with the Fourteenth Regiment were then quartered there; with some observations on the state of things prior to that catastrophe.”

—anonymous account, *A Short Narrative of the Horrid Massacre in Boston, 1770*

- Who **most likely** wrote this passage and for what reason?
- A. a Redcoat, to describe the risks faced by soldiers
  - B. a Patriot, to raise fears about the British army in the colonies
  - C. a Loyalist, to gain support for quartering British troops
  - D. an eyewitness, to promote nonviolent protest
4. Consider this situation: On January 25, 2011, widespread pro-democracy demonstrations began in Egypt. For 18 days, hundreds of thousands of Egyptians took to the streets, demanding free elections, free speech, and an end to government corruption, police brutality, and President Hosni Mubarak’s regime. Finally, on February 11, Mubarak resigned. Which of the following ideas expressed in the U.S. Declaration of Independence **best supports** the actions of the Egyptian people?
    - A. The government grants rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
    - B. Citizens have a right to overthrow a government that violates their natural rights.
    - C. All citizens are created equal and have unalienable rights.
    - D. Citizens must consent to follow the rules of a social contract.

**GO ON** 

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5. What is the **most likely** reason it was difficult to pass laws under the Articles of Confederation?
- Passage required a unanimous vote of the 13 states.
  - Passage required the votes of 9 of the 13 states.
  - The government did not have a legislature.
  - Americans were content to follow British laws.
6. The Preamble of the Constitution lists six goals, including which of the following?
- to separate from Britain
  - to form a more perfect union
  - to decide who can be a Supreme Court justice
  - to decrease the power of the federal government
7. Use the table to answer the question.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Branch	Power
Legislative	Makes laws
Executive	Carries out laws
Judicial	Interprets laws

Which of the following best completes the title of this table?

- The Federal System
  - Separation of Powers
  - Checks and Balances
  - Popular Sovereignty
8. Use the information in the box to answer the question.

**Speaker 1:** "We can't ratify the Constitution. It has no bill of rights!"

**Speaker 2:** "I think the states should have more power."

**Speaker 3:** "We just fought for liberty. Why submit to a new tyrant?"

Who are the speakers and what are they afraid of?

- Patriots; ineffective government
- Federalists; the loss of liberty
- Antifederalists; a strong national government
- Loyalists; the loss of property rights



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9. Use the quotation to answer the question.

“My political curiosity . . . leads me to ask, who authorized them to speak the language of ‘We, the People,’ instead of ‘We, the States’?”

—Patrick Henry, June 4, 1788

- Which group did Patrick Henry **most likely** side with during the ratification debate?
- A. the Loyalists  
B. the Federalists  
C. the Antifederalists  
D. the Constitutionals
10. What is meant by “the rule of law”?
- A. the idea that people are the source of government power  
B. the idea that all people, including rulers and leaders, must obey the law  
C. the theory that power should be divided among three branches of government  
D. the power of the courts to interpret the Constitution and other laws
11. A court decides that the First Amendment permits a journalist to write an article on something the government wants to keep secret. What type of law was **most** involved in the decision?
- A. constitutional law  
B. common law  
C. statutory law  
D. administrative law
12. Use the information in the box to answer the question.

**ART. 85. DESERTION**

- (a) Any member of the armed forces who—  
(1) without authority goes or remains absent from his unit, organization, or place of duty with intent to remain away therefrom permanently . . . is guilty of desertion.

What is the source of this law?

- A. statutory law  
B. common law  
C. administrative law  
D. military law

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13. Use the diagram to answer the question.



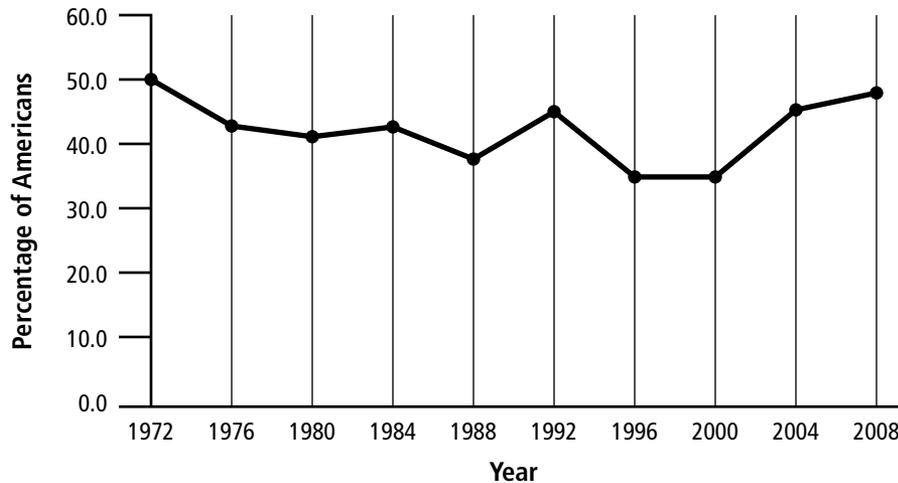
The diagram above identifies the steps in becoming a U.S. citizen. Which of the following **best** completes the diagram?

- A. be interviewed and pass citizenship tests
  - B. complete a background check
  - C. receive appointment letter
  - D. wait five years
14. What does a person born in any U.S. territory automatically become?
- A. a native-born citizen
  - B. a naturalized citizen
  - C. a permanent resident alien
  - D. a refugee
15. Why is it important for citizens to pay taxes?
- A. to allow the country to start a draft
  - B. to help citizens become informed voters
  - C. to make sure that laws are up to date
  - D. to provide money to pay for government services

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16. Use the line graph to answer the question.

### Percentage of Americans Aged 18-24 Who Voted in Presidential Elections



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

- Which of the following **best** describes the trend of voting among Americans aged 18 to 24 between the 1988 and 2008 presidential elections?
- A. a gradual decline, followed by a sharp increase, and then a sharp decline
  - B. a gradual increase, followed by a gradual decline, and then a sharp decline
  - C. a sharp decline, followed by a gradual increase, and then a gradual decline
  - D. a sharp increase, followed by a sharp decline, and then a gradual increase
17. How does registering to vote fulfill a responsibility of citizenship?
- A. Registering to vote communicates your opinions to your representatives.
  - B. Registering to vote makes you eligible to be called for jury duty.
  - C. Without registering, you cannot express your political views through voting.
  - D. Without registering, you cannot give money to a political campaign.

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18. Use the quotation to answer the question.

“The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.”  
—excerpt from the U.S. Constitution, Amendment IX

Which statement **most accurately** explains the significance of the excerpt?

- A. Congress must approve any rights not listed in the Constitution before they are granted to the people.
  - B. Despite only granting certain rights, the Constitution does not deny other rights.
  - C. People have only the rights granted in the Constitution.
  - D. People have only the rights granted in the Ninth Amendment.
19. How does the Twenty-second Amendment protect individual rights?
- A. By defining citizenship, it declares that all citizens have the same rights.
  - B. By granting women the right to vote, it ensures that women have a say in government.
  - C. By imposing presidential term limits, it prevents one president from gaining too much power.
  - D. By requiring the direct election of senators, it protects the principle of direct representation.
20. Which of the following **best** describes the purpose of the Bill of Rights?
- A. to explain the procedure for amending the Constitution
  - B. to guarantee freedoms that belong to every citizen
  - C. to inspire the governments of other nations
  - D. to limit the rights of individual citizens
21. How does the Fifth Amendment protect an individual’s right to own property?
- A. by guaranteeing every citizen the right to apply for a home loan
  - B. by preventing a police search of private property without a warrant
  - C. by preventing the government from taking private property without fair payment
  - D. by prohibiting the quartering of soldiers without permission
22. To what age did the Twenty-sixth Amendment lower the voting age?
- A. 16
  - B. 18
  - C. 21
  - D. 25

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23. How did the Twenty-fourth Amendment allow more Americans to vote?
- A. It changed voting laws, which meant that non-U.S. citizens were able to vote.
  - B. It outlawed poll taxes, which many states used to prevent poor Americans from voting.
  - C. It prevented grandfather clauses, which many states used to prevent women from voting.
  - D. It required literacy tests, which meant that Americans became better educated about voting.
24. Use the quotation to answer the question.

“It is emphatically [definitely] the province [role] and duty of the Judicial Department to say what the law is. . . . If two laws conflict with each other, the Courts must decide on the operation of each.”

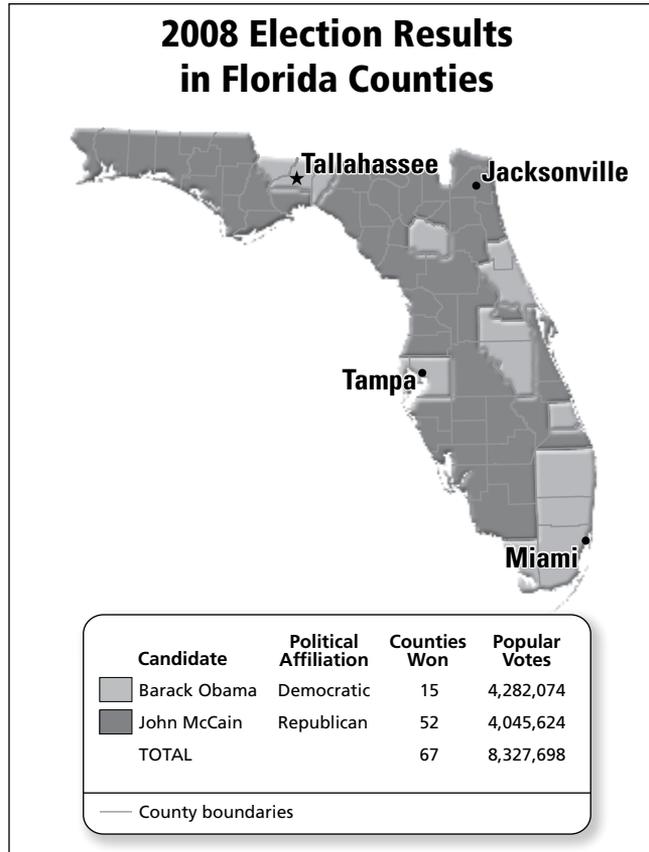
—Chief Justice John Marshall, *Marbury v. Madison*, 1803

According to the Supreme Court, which branch of government has the power and responsibility to interpret the law?

- A. executive
- B. judicial
- C. legislative
- D. state legislature

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25. Use the map to answer the question.



Which of the Florida cities indicated on the map is located in a county won by the Republican candidate?

- A. Jacksonville
  - B. Miami
  - C. Tallahassee
  - D. Tampa
26. Which of the following statements about the Democratic Party is **most accurate**?
- A. It is more likely to support reducing the power of the federal government.
  - B. Its members are said to be more conservative.
  - C. Its members are said to be more liberal.
  - D. Its members generally believe state and local government should run social programs.
27. Which is the correct description of a party platform?
- A. It is a place where political candidates make speeches.
  - B. It is a statement that outlines views on issues.
  - C. It is determined by means of a primary election.
  - D. It is held after the nominating convention.

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28. Which question would a citizen want to ask to determine whether a lobbyist is working on behalf of the public interest?
- A. Has the lobbyist worked as a public official before?
  - B. How long has the person been a lobbyist?
  - C. How much is the lobbyist being paid?
  - D. What organization hired the lobbyist?
29. Which is a main purpose of public opinion polls?
- A. analyzing citizen support for a law
  - B. getting a law passed
  - C. interpreting a newly passed law
  - D. opposing a law
30. “Everybody’s doing it” is the new slogan for a campaign encouraging people to vote. What propaganda technique is being used?
- A. bandwagon
  - B. glittering generalities
  - C. name calling
  - D. plain-folks appeal
31. You want to get a law passed requiring radon detectors in all houses. What type of group would you **most likely** organize to help reach that goal?
- A. city council
  - B. focus group
  - C. interest group
  - D. political party
32. Which debate during the Constitutional Convention is most related to recent controversy over the USA PATRIOT Act?
- A. distributing power between the state and national governments
  - B. ensuring popular sovereignty
  - C. guaranteeing individual rights
  - D. having a unicameral or bicameral legislature
33. Which of the following issues would **most likely** be a foreign policy matter?
- A. balancing the federal budget
  - B. negotiating a treaty with Mexico
  - C. raising the retirement age for Social Security
  - D. revising neighborhood zoning restrictions



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34. Use the table to answer the question.

Organization	Purpose
United Nations	?

Which of the following **best** completes the table?

- A. to promote peaceful coexistence and worldwide cooperation
- B. to protect member countries from North America and Europe
- C. to resolve international legal disputes
- D. to supervise and set rules for international trade
35. Why might a citizen oppose the U.S. government's involvement with the United Nations?
- A. Because the UN does not give each member country a vote in the General Assembly, UN membership may lead to greater conflict.
- B. Because the UN does not have a permanent army, U.S. military forces may become involved in action taken against an aggressor country.
- C. Because the United States does not pay a share of UN operating costs, it does not have a say in the General Assembly.
- D. Because the United States is not a permanent member of the Security Council, it may not have much influence on UN decisions.
36. How did President Washington respond to the war between Great Britain and France in 1793?
- A. by establishing an international alliance to end the conflict
- B. by forming an alliance with France
- C. by forming an alliance with Great Britain
- D. by practicing isolationism and issuing the Neutrality Proclamation
37. Which of the following comparisons is correct?
- A. Direct democracies have always been more common than oligarchies.
- B. An autocracy might be a monarchy or a dictatorship.
- C. In a theocracy, the people have more power than they do in a representative democracy.
- D. Socialism and direct democracy are often combined in the same government.
38. Which of the following statements is true of the British Parliament?
- A. It is unicameral.
- B. Like the U.S. Congress, it is made up of representatives from the states.
- C. The head of the government is the prime minister.
- D. It is controlled directly by the queen or king.



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39. Use the quotation to answer the question.

“ . . . shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States . . . to borrow Money . . . to regulate Commerce . . . to coin Money . . . ”

—U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8

To which branch of the government does the quotation refer?

- A. judicial
  - B. presidential
  - C. legislative
  - D. executive
40. Which level of government could pass a law changing the age at which people can marry?
- A. state
  - B. federal
  - C. county
  - D. city
41. Use the quotation to answer the question.

“Why don't they pass a constitutional amendment prohibiting anybody from learning anything? If it works as well as prohibition did, in five years Americans would be the smartest race of people on Earth.”

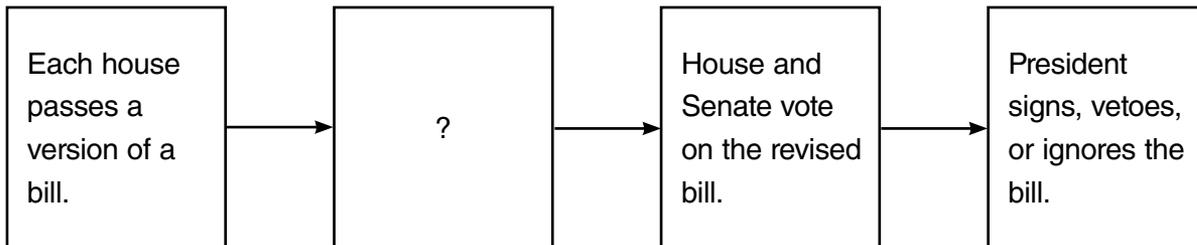
—Will Rogers, “How to Spend It,” *Tulsa Daily World*, January 4, 1925

To what was Will Rogers referring?

- A. the success of prohibition
  - B. the right to a public education as guaranteed by the Twenty-first Amendment
  - C. the importance of being able to easily amend the U.S. Constitution
  - D. the failure of the Eighteenth Amendment to stop alcohol consumption
42. What term refers to redrawing congressional district boundaries to favor a particular political party?
- A. gerrymandering
  - B. censure
  - C. impeachment
  - D. apportionment

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43. Use the diagram to answer the question.



The diagram above summarizes part of the process of how a bill becomes a federal law. Which sentence fills in the second box correctly?

- A. The bill is assigned to a subcommittee.
  - B. The president submits his or her recommendations for improvement.
  - C. Amendments are added to make the two bills identical.
  - D. A conference committee merges the two bills.
44. Of the following, what may happen following a guilty verdict in a criminal case?
- A. A U.S. Court of Appeals asks to review the case.
  - B. The criminal case becomes a civil case.
  - C. The defendant appeals the case to a higher court.
  - D. The U.S. Supreme Court automatically reviews the case.
45. Why do some states prefer the Missouri Plan for choosing judges?
- A. It requires all candidates for judgeships to pass a qualifying test.
  - B. It ensures that people who funded the governor's campaign are disqualified.
  - C. It combines appointment of judges with election of judges.
  - D. It guarantees that only qualified judges can serve for life.
46. Like the U.S. Constitution, the Florida Constitution establishes which of the following?
- A. three branches of government
  - B. small claims courts
  - C. the right to form treaties with foreign governments
  - D. delegated powers

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47. Use the quotation to answer the question.

“The way to have good and safe government is not to trust it all to one, but to divide it among the many, distributing to everyone exactly the functions in which he is competent.”

—Thomas Jefferson, letter to Joseph C. Cabell, 1816

- How does this quote support the idea of different obligations for state and local governments?
- A. State governments are more reliable than local governments for providing a city with services.
  - B. Different levels of government can provide the same services equally well.
  - C. Local governments can offer a wider range of services to people living nearby.
  - D. Different levels of government can provide separate services more easily and efficiently.
48. Which official is the top law enforcement official at the county level of government?
- A. sheriff
  - B. mayor
  - C. county commissioner
  - D. police commissioner

