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# Test 2

1. The Founding Fathers divided the power to make, enforce, and interpret laws between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. What might have happened if they had given all of these powers to the executive branch?
  - A. The balance of power among the different branches would make government more efficient.
  - B. The president could have grown too powerful, leading to tyranny.
  - C. Congress would have had more occasions to override presidential vetoes.
  - D. Supreme Court justices would have had to strike down more laws as unconstitutional.
2. How did the English Bill of Rights influence delegates to the Constitutional Convention?
  - A. It was submitted as a model for the new constitution.
  - B. It spelled out the proper role for the legislative branch as the representative of the people.
  - C. It had established a number of rights that the delegates wished to guarantee in the new constitution.
  - D. It was the first document to limit the power of the monarch.
3. Use the quotation to answer the question.

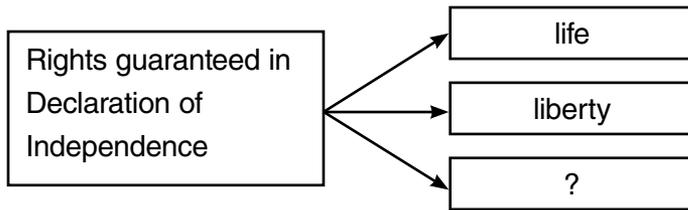
“Every thing that is right or natural pleads for separation. The blood of the slain, the weeping voice of nature cries, 'TIS TIME TO PART. Even the distance at which the Almighty hath placed England and America, is a strong and natural proof, that the authority of the one, over the other, was never the design of Heaven.”

—Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, 1776

- What is Thomas Paine trying to win support for?
- A. the separation of natural rights from legal rights
  - B. the separation of powers between state and federal governments
  - C. the separation of powers between the three branches of government
  - D. the separation of the colonies from Great Britain
4. Why were colonists outraged by taxes imposed by the British government?
    - A. because they were denied trials by a jury of their peers
    - B. because they had no representation in Parliament
    - C. because they made British paper products less expensive
    - D. because they had to house British soldiers

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5. Use the diagram to answer the question.



Which of the following correctly completes the diagram?

- A. freedom of speech
  - B. freedom of religion
  - C. freedom to own property
  - D. pursuit of happiness
6. Which of the following might have caused people to oppose the Articles of Confederation?
- A. Congress had the power to collect taxes.
  - B. Congress could not pay the soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War.
  - C. Congress controlled trade between the states.
  - D. Congress granted too much power to the executive branch.
7. Use the quotation to answer the question.

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

In which document is this statement found?

- A. the Bill of Rights
  - B. the Preamble of the Constitution
  - C. the Mayflower Compact
  - D. *The Federalist Papers*
8. How does the system of checks and balances reinforce the separation of powers?
- A. by giving each branch of government powers to limit the other branches
  - B. by dividing the government duties among three branches
  - C. by defining the roles of each branch of government in three separate articles
  - D. by dividing power between the national and state levels of government

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9. Why did Antifederalists want a bill of rights in the Constitution?
- A. to list their rights
  - B. to protect their rights
  - C. to prevent ratification of the Constitution
  - D. to argue with Federalists

10. Use the table to answer the question.

**Congressional Bills Vetoed, 1981–2008**

President	Regular Vetoes	Pocket Vetoes	Total Vetoes	Overridden
Ronald Reagan	39	39	78	9
George H.W. Bush	29	15	44	1
William Clinton	36	1	37	2
George W. Bush	12	0	12	4
Source: <i>U.S. Senate Library</i>				

Which constitutional principle does the information in the table illustrate?

- A. social contract
  - B. popular sovereignty
  - C. federal supremacy
  - D. checks and balances
11. Use the information in the box to answer the question.

“Army General Sentenced to Three Years for Killing Civilians”  
 “Former Senator Convicted of Money Laundering”  
 “Local Sheriff Arrested for Drunk Driving”

Which constitutional principle is best expressed by these headlines?

- A. individual rights
- B. majority rule
- C. rule of law
- D. minority rights

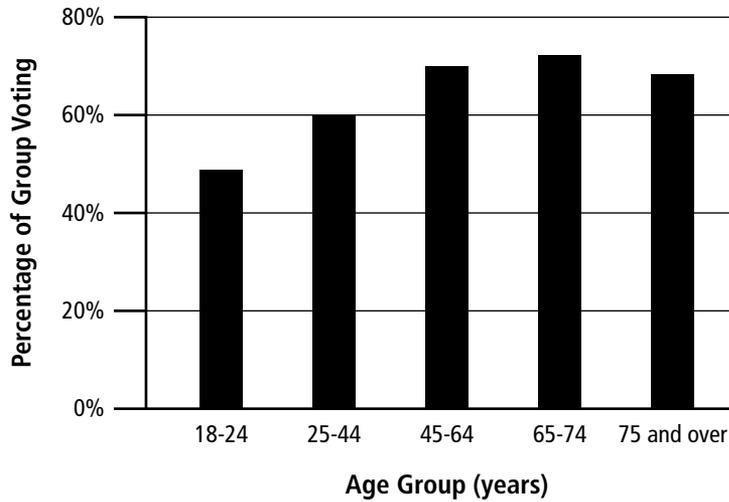
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12. Consider this situation: A man enters an electronics store and points a gun at the store clerk. He demands all of the cash in the register and flees the scene with \$3600. What type of law has been violated?
- A. criminal law
  - B. military law
  - C. common law
  - D. civil law
13. Which of the following **best** defines the term *citizen*?
- A. an individual who exercises political authority over a group of people
  - B. an individual who is able to vote in elections
  - C. a legally recognized member of a country
  - D. a person who is loyal to and proud of his or her country
14. Why should citizens know and understand the law?
- A. so that they can break it
  - B. so that they can change it
  - C. so that they can ignore it
  - D. so that they can obey it
15. Why is attending school considered a civic duty?
- A. Educated citizens are vital to the success of our democracy.
  - B. The more education a person has, the more money he or she is likely to earn.
  - C. School districts depend on having a certain number of students.
  - D. Today's high-tech society needs educated employees.



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16. Use the bar graph to answer the question.

**Voter Turnout by Age Group, 2008**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

- Which age group had the lowest voter turnout?
- A. 18 to 24 years
  - B. 25 to 44 years
  - C. 45 to 64 years
  - D. 65 to 74 years
17. Which amendment protects Americans from unreasonable searches and seizures?
- A. First Amendment
  - B. Fourth Amendment
  - C. Sixth Amendment
  - D. Thirteenth Amendment
18. The First Amendment protects freedom of speech, but there are some limits to free-speech rights. Why are some forms of speech not protected?
- A. because they are expressed in writing
  - B. because they could cause physical harm to others
  - C. because they criticize the government
  - D. because they support different religious views

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19. How does the Seventeenth 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. Rights such as those in the First Amendment fulfill which purpose of government?
- A. to guarantee freedoms
  - B. to help people cooperate
  - C. to limit rights of individuals
  - D. to provide services
21. Which of the following is the **best** reason that freedom of the press is vital to democracy?
- A. Freedom of the press allows newspapers to print anything they want.
  - B. Freedom of the press allows people to express opinions about government.
  - C. Without freedom of the press, the government would be a dictatorship.
  - D. Without freedom of the press, there would be few news outlets.
22. Which amendment to the Constitution might the U.S. Supreme Court have relied on when it struck down the death penalty for minors?
- A. First Amendment
  - B. Fifth Amendment
  - C. Eighth Amendment
  - D. Ninth Amendment
23. Use the quotation to answer the question.

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”  
—excerpt from the U.S. Constitution

To which group did this amendment grant the right to vote?

- A. African Americans
- B. land-owning men
- C. Native Americans
- D. women



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24. Use the quotation to answer the question.

“This case has shown that punch card balloting machines can produce an unfortunate number of ballots which are not punched in a clean, complete way by the voter. After the current counting, it is likely legislative bodies nationwide will examine ways to improve the mechanisms and machinery for voting.”

—*Bush v. Gore*, 2000

How did the Supreme Court expect *Bush v. Gore* to affect voting practices in the United States?

- A. Fewer people would turn out to vote.
  - B. More people would sign up for absentee ballots.
  - C. More states would use punch card balloting.
  - D. States would improve voting methods.
25. Use the table to answer the question.

2008 U.S. Presidential Election Results			
Candidate	Political Affiliation	Electoral Votes	Popular Votes
Barack Obama	Democratic	365	66,882,230
John McCain	Republican	173	58,343,671
TOTAL		538	125,225,901
Source: <i>CNN</i>			

How many more electoral votes did the Democratic candidate win than the Republican candidate?

- A. 173
  - B. 192
  - C. 365
  - D. 538
26. Which of the following statements about the Republican Party is **most accurate**?
- A. It is more likely to support increasing 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 social programs should be run by the federal government.

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27. What is the **most important** thing that a political debate can teach a voter about a candidate?
- A. how much support the candidate already has
  - B. what kind of television personality the candidate has
  - C. where the candidate stands on certain issues
  - D. whether the candidate is comfortable on camera
28. What would be the **most effective** way for a special-interest group to try to influence the outcome of a presidential election?
- A. to conduct a public opinion poll
  - B. to hire a lobbyist
  - C. to hold a primary election
  - D. to run television advertisements
29. What is the **best** reason that press releases from a politician or a government agency are not always the best source of public information about an issue?
- A. They are not covered by news outlets.
  - B. They give too much detail to be useful.
  - C. They may be released too late to be useful.
  - D. They may present only one point of view about an issue.
30. In a speech, a government official tries to increase support for a budget proposal by making an emotional appeal to liberty and equality. Which propaganda technique is being used?
- A. bandwagon
  - B. card stacking
  - C. glittering generalities
  - D. testimonial
31. What level of government would you **most likely** contact to address a community issue?
- A. local government
  - B. state government
  - C. federal government
  - D. international government

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32. Use the table to answer the question.

Important Issues for the President and Congress to Address, January 2011				
	Extremely Important	Very Important	Moderately Important	Not That Important/ No Opinion
Economy	63%	32%	4%	2%
Unemployment	54%	34%	9%	3%
Health care	52%	31%	12%	5%
Federal budget deficit	52%	33%	12%	2%
Social Security and Medicare	47%	35%	14%	4%
Education	47%	36%	13%	4%
Terrorism	45%	35%	17%	3%
Taxes	41%	36%	21%	2%
Situation in Afghanistan	36%	36%	26%	3%
Situation in Iraq	34%	30%	29%	7%
Energy policy	33%	37%	26%	5%
Illegal immigration	32%	29%	28%	11%
Gun policy	24%	19%	27%	30%

Source: *CNN Opinion Research Poll, January 21–23, 2011*

Which of the following issues is considered “extremely important” by the highest percentage of Americans polled?

- A. economy
  - B. health care
  - C. terrorism
  - D. unemployment
33. Which of the following issues would **most likely** be a domestic policy matter?
- A. declaring war
  - B. meeting with the prime minister of Great Britain
  - C. revising campaign finance laws
  - D. supervising democratic elections in Iraq

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34. Use the table to answer the question.

Organization	Purpose
NATO	?

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

- A. to promote peaceful coexistence and worldwide cooperation
- B. to protect member countries in North America and Europe
- C. to resolve international legal disputes
- D. to supervise and set rules for international trade
35. How is the Peace Corps different from many other U.S. government agencies working with foreign countries?
- A. American citizens volunteer to be a part of the Peace Corps.
- B. Members of the Peace Corps must also be members of the diplomatic corps.
- C. The Peace Corps allows voters to choose where it sends workers.
- D. The Peace Corps only works on technology projects.
36. What policy did Woodrow Wilson attempt to follow in 1914 when World War I began?
- A. dollar diplomacy
- B. interventionism
- C. neutrality
- D. protectionism
37. Which of the following systems proposes that society should organize and control the means of production for the welfare of all?
- A. communism
- B. monarchy
- C. socialism
- D. direct democracy
38. What sort of government was established by the Articles of Confederation?
- A. a union in which some states had more power than others
- B. a loose association of states
- C. a firm union of states
- D. a federal arrangement with a strong central government

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39. Use the table to answer the question.

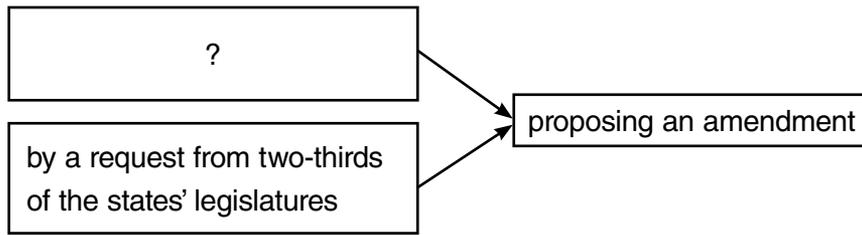
Legislative branch	Passes bills that become the law of the land
Executive branch	?
Judicial branch	Interprets the meaning of laws and punishes lawbreakers

Which phrase completes the table?

- A. Appoints officials and administers agencies to carry out the laws
  - B. Rules on the constitutionality of laws
  - C. Enforces laws not under another jurisdiction
  - D. Creates legislatures to develop new laws
40. If a northern state's governor has a dispute with Canada over the location of the U.S.-Canada border, which of the following is prohibited by law?
- A. meeting with the Canadian prime minister
  - B. refusing to buy Canadian products
  - C. declaring war on Canada
  - D. threatening a tourism boycott of Canada
41. Of the following, what is one thing that both the federal government and state governments are allowed by law to do?
- A. raise armies
  - B. negotiate treaties
  - C. collect taxes
  - D. administer elections

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42. Use the diagram to answer the question.



This diagram shows two methods for proposing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. What method correctly fills in the top box?

- A. by a request from a majority of the states' governors
  - B. by a two-thirds vote in both houses of the U.S. Congress
  - C. by a petition from five of the U.S. Supreme Court justices
  - D. by a request from at least 26 state conventions
43. Which of the following may happen after the Supreme Court declares a law unconstitutional?
- A. Congress can over-rule the Supreme Court by a two-thirds majority.
  - B. The president can propose an amendment that makes the law constitutional.
  - C. Congress can pass a new law that addresses the Supreme Court's concerns.
  - D. The president can over-rule the Supreme Court.
44. What is an ordinance?
- A. a regulation that governs a community
  - B. a local law that conflicts with state law
  - C. a state law amended to fit local requirements
  - D. a basic plan for a local government unit
45. What are the three main levels of federal courts?
- A. district courts, courts of appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court
  - B. city courts, state courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court
  - C. mayor's court, city court, and federal court
  - D. district courts, magistrate courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court

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46. Use the quotation to answer the question.

“There are two things you don’t want to see being made—sausage and legislation.”

- This quotation has been attributed to Otto von Bismarck, Germany’s chancellor from 1871 to 1890. When people quote this line, what do you think they are saying?
- A. Law-making can be messy and unpleasant.
  - B. Law-making should be done in secret.
  - C. Legislation is made up of many pieces, like sausage.
  - D. Legislation should be left to politicians.
47. What is one way in which the U.S. and Florida constitutions differ?
- A. The Florida governor is allowed to create new cabinet positions, but the U.S. president cannot.
  - B. The Florida Constitution requires the governor to be appointed by the legislature, in contrast to the popular election of the U.S. president.
  - C. The U.S. Constitution requires election of cabinet secretaries, but Florida’s constitution does not.
  - D. Florida identifies specific cabinet positions that must be part of the executive branch, but the U.S. Constitution does not.
48. Selling lottery tickets is a common way of raising money for education. If a majority of Floridians decided they wanted to end the lottery, to which division of the government would they complain?
- A. their county commissioners’ courts
  - B. the state
  - C. their city council
  - D. their school superintendents

