

Mid-Year Practice Test

Indicate the answer choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. Baron de Montesquieu's ideas about power in government are referred to as the
 - a. branches of powers.
 - b. government triangle.
 - c. separation of powers.
 - d. social contract.

And thereupon the said Lords ... declare

That the pretended power of suspending the laws or the execution of laws by regal authority without consent of Parliament is illegal ...

—The English Bill of Rights, 1689

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/england.asp



2. According to the above excerpt from the English Bill of Rights, who now had authority to make or suspend laws?
 - a. American colonists
 - b. English people
 - c. the king of England
 - d. Parliament
3. Which laws were meant to punish Massachusetts, and especially Boston, for resisting British rule?
 - a. Intolerable Acts
 - b. Stamp Acts
 - c. Tea Acts
 - d. Townshend Acts
4. What are *natural rights*?
 - a. agreements among people relating to their government
 - b. freedoms people possess relating to life, liberty, and property
 - c. ideas about freedom that were first discussed in the American colonies
 - d. rights reserved only for monarchs
5. Why was the national government under the Constitution stronger than the national government under the Articles of Confederation?
 - a. It had the power to enforce its laws.
 - b. The supremacy clause made state laws the highest in the land.
 - c. It did not have the power to tax the people.
 - d. State governments had been dissolved.

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6. Which of the following phrases identifies one of the fundamental purposes of government described in the Preamble to the Constitution?
- a. “to create Checks and Balances”
 - b. “to enact a Federalist System”
 - c. “to insure domestic Tranquility”
 - d. “to separate the Powers”
7. The purpose of the system of checks and balances is to prevent
- a. any branch from becoming too powerful.
 - b. people from losing their rights.
 - c. states from losing more power.
 - d. the government from changing the Constitution.
8. “This new national government will have the power to overwhelm the states and exercise tyranny over the people.” Which group would make such a statement about the Constitution?
- a. Anti-Federalists
 - b. Enlightenment thinkers like John Locke
 - c. Federalists
 - d. member of Shays’s Rebellion
9. The Constitution allows government officials to be removed from office if they are found by Congress to be guilty of crimes. This is an example of
- a. federalism.
 - b. popular sovereignty.
 - c. rule of law.
 - d. separation of powers.

I hereby declare, on oath, that ... I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law ...

—Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America



10. To whom or what do naturalized citizens pledge their allegiance?
- a. to the Declaration of Independence
 - b. to the flag
 - c. to the president
 - d. to the U.S. Constitution

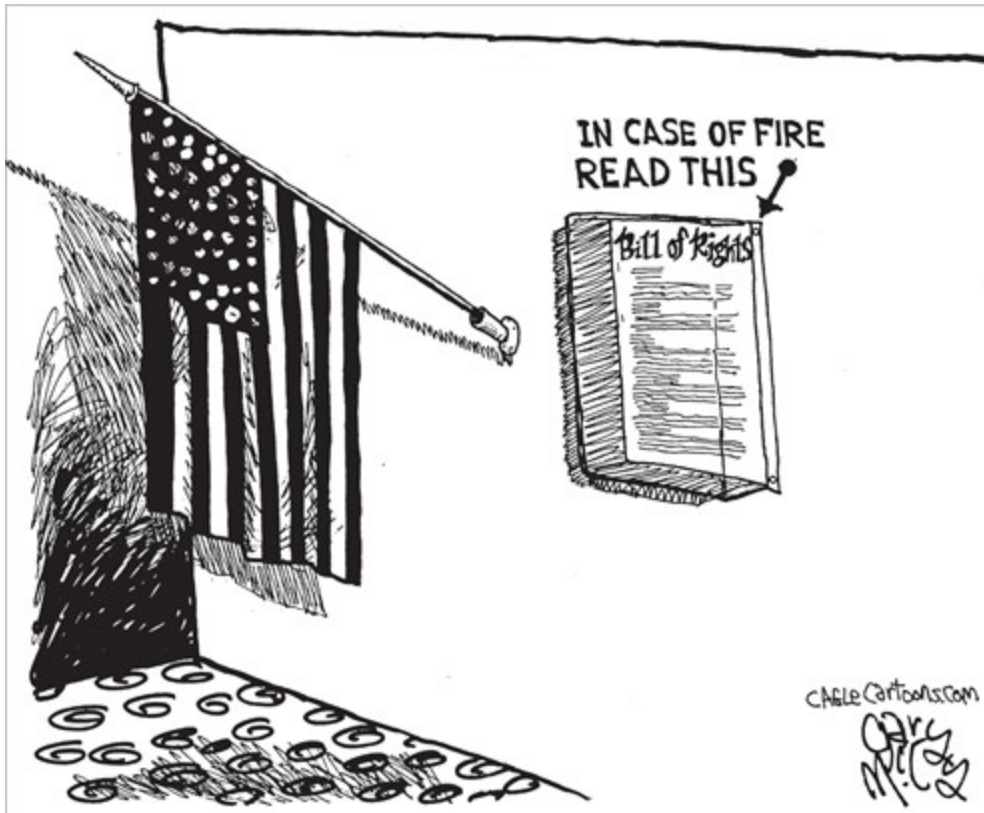
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11. Serving as a witness in a trial is a
 - a. duty.
 - b. responsibility.
 - c. right.
 - d. privilege.

12. Voting in political elections is a
 - a. legal duty.
 - b. legal duty and a privilege.
 - c. mandatory obligation.
 - d. right and a responsibility.

13. The Tenth Amendment states that powers not given to the national government by the Constitution must be
 - a. reviewed by the Supreme Court.
 - b. considered civil liberties.
 - c. reserved to the states or people.
 - d. added as amendments.

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Source: SE page 174



14. This cartoon was created after the Supreme Court said that burning a United States flag was legal, because it was a type of
- a. due process.
 - b. free speech.
 - c. petition.
 - d. suffrage.
15. If the federal government wanted to build a highway on land that you owned, the government would
- a. be able to take your home, but would need to pay a fair price for it.
 - b. be able to take your home away from you without paying for it.
 - c. have to find a new location for the highway.
 - d. let you decide whether or not to sell your home to it.

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The Constitution was written by the Founders when they had not yet realized the vital necessity of politics and parties in the process of our elections. Further, the enormous transformation of politics from the part-time avocation [hobby] of public-spirited gentlemen to the multibillion-dollar enterprise of electoral institutions in a rich, diverse, continental Republic has not been matched by constitutional adaptation. The absence of modern politics in the Constitution—from the structure of presidential selection to the manner of congressional elections to some critical aspects of electioneering, such as redistricting and campaign finance—has caused no end of difficulties, which can only be corrected by the inclusion of thoughtful provisions in a new twenty-first-century Constitution. It is long past time to do so.

—Larry J. Sabato, Director of the Center for Politics, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, 2006



16. Sabato believes political parties are
- a. important to democracy.
 - b. Republican enterprises.
 - c. twenty-first-century hobbies.
 - d. unconstitutional.
17. To gain support, a candidate may go door-to-door in, or _____, a neighborhood.
- a. PAC
 - b. canvass
 - c. recall
 - d. debate
18. Which of these BEST explains a way that the media shape the public agenda?
- a. by giving publicity to a particular problem
 - b. by providing radio and television shows for free
 - c. by showing commercials and advertisements
 - d. by staging debates between political candidates
19. Which of the following is a reason that elections are not completely reliable as a measure of public opinion?
- a. People usually do not speak their mind.
 - b. Reasons for supporting a candidate are not always clear.
 - c. Results cannot be compared from state to state.
 - d. Winners and losers are not clearly identified.
20. Which of these is a way that the mass media influence the public agenda?
- a. by airing reality shows and contests
 - b. by briefly mentioning a story on television news shows
 - c. by giving lengthy coverage to the issue
 - d. by interviewing experts on the issue

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21. Which of the following is a possible course of action to protect state or local government buildings from potential terrorist attacks?
- a. increase the number of holidays for government workers
 - b. limit the number of people employed in government buildings
 - c. move government offices to a remote location
 - d. use security devices to search people entering government buildings

The globalization of the world economy has had profound effects on work, on workers, and on wages. Open markets mean products come into America that are made by people who work for wages Americans can't live on. This can cost some American workers their jobs and keep others from getting a raise.

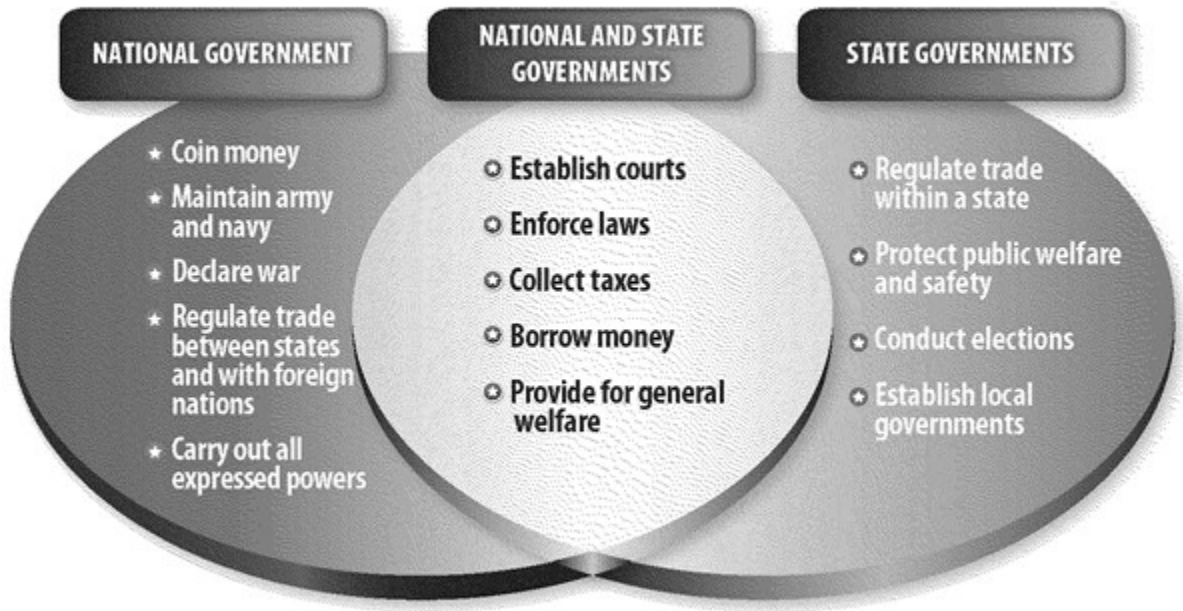
But, overall, trade has brought vast benefits to most Americans. Jobs in exporting companies on average pay considerably higher wages than jobs in companies that sell only within the U.S.

—President Bill Clinton, *Between Hope and History*



22. Which of these statements BEST reflects the point of view expressed by Clinton?
- a. Free trade has some negative effects, but it benefits most Americans.
 - b. Free trade has some positive effects, but it is bad for most Americans.
 - c. The United States should expand tariffs and quotas.
 - d. World trade has little effect on national economies.
23. Which of the following is a form of democracy?
- a. absolute monarchy
 - b. constitutional monarchy
 - c. dictatorship
 - d. totalitarianism
24. Which of the following distinguishes the U.S. government from Great Britain's government?
- a. The U.S. government is federal, while Great Britain's is confederal.
 - b. The U.S. government is unitary, while Great Britain's is federal.
 - c. The U.S. government has a congress and president, while Great Britain's has a parliament and a prime minister.
 - d. The U.S. government is a republic, while Great Britain's is an absolute monarchy.
25. The statement in the Constitution that "Executive Power shall be invested in a President" means that the president is responsible for
- a. appointing the heads of the cabinet departments.
 - b. carrying out the laws passed by Congress.
 - c. giving information to the country about the state of the union.
 - d. introducing legislation to Congress for consideration.

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26. What power do federal and state governments share?
- a. to borrow money
 - b. to maintain an army
 - c. to regulate trade with foreign nations
 - d. to regulate trade within a state
27. A proposed amendment to the Constitution becomes law when it is ratified by
- a. a national election.
 - b. the Supreme Court.
 - c. three-fourths of the states.
 - d. the U.S. House and Senate.

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A federal appeals panel . . . declined this week to spare [two journalists] the prospect of being jailed . . . [for] refusing to testify about confidential sources. . . . The chilling possibilities for journalism . . . are obvious. . . . Journalists will more than ever have to weigh the risk of jail against the need to protect worthy sources, a practice with a long history of [being] to the citizenry's benefit.

—“The Need for a Federal Shield,” *The New York Times*,
February 17, 2005



28. What constitutional right does this piece defend?
- a. freedom of assembly
 - b. freedom of speech
 - c. freedom of the press
 - d. right to bear arms
29. The two amendments that specifically extended suffrage to new groups of people are the
- a. Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments.
 - b. Fourteenth and Eighteenth Amendments.
 - c. Sixteenth and Eighteenth Amendments.
 - d. Sixteenth and Nineteenth Amendments.
30. The cabinet is made up of
- a. economic advisers.
 - b. foreign policy advisers.
 - c. intelligence officers.
 - d. the heads of 15 departments.
31. After a lawmaker introduces a bill, what is the next step in the process of that bill becoming law?
- a. The bill goes to a committee for review and approval.
 - b. The bill goes to the governor for signing.
 - c. The bill is returned to the people for citizen approval.
 - d. The bill is voted on by the full legislature.
32. In contrast with today's laws, the Code of Hammurabi
- a. originated in England.
 - b. set harsh penalties for crimes.
 - c. was passed orally from one generation to the next.
 - d. was written by the people themselves.

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33. What kind of court is most likely to hear a civil suit between neighbors?
- a. appellate court
 - b. state supreme court
 - c. trial court
 - d. U.S. Supreme Court
34. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, broke with precedent in deciding the issue of
- a. segregation in schools.
 - b. separate but equal schools.
 - c. free speech in schools.
 - d. illegal searches in schools.
35. As a result of the Supreme Court's decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright*,
- a. all trials involving a felony must be heard by a jury.
 - b. defendants who plead guilty are guaranteed a lesser punishment.
 - c. preliminary hearings are only held when the prosecution has probable cause.
 - d. states must provide a lawyer to defendants who cannot afford to hire one.
36. Florida's current constitution went into effect in
- a. 1838.
 - b. 1868.
 - c. 1885.
 - d. 1968.
37. Which typically provides sewer and water services?
- a. appointed selectmen
 - b. board of assessors
 - c. county government
 - d. district attorney's office
38. The purpose of trade agreements between nations is to
- a. end trade barriers.
 - b. limit global interdependence.
 - c. promote democracy.
 - d. reduce competition among developing nations.
39. NGOs usually depend on
- a. government agency funds.
 - b. member nations' dues.
 - c. sales of products.
 - d. volunteers and private donations.

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40. NATO is a treaty promising mutual defense between the United States and
- a. all of Europe.
 - b. Canada and all of Europe.
 - c. Canada and some of Europe.
 - d. Canada only.

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Answer Key

1. c

2. d

3. a

4. b

5. a

6. c

7. a

8. a

9. c

10. d

11. a

12. d

13. c

14. b

15. a

16. a

17. b

18. a

19. b

20. c

21. d

22. a

23. b

24. c

25. b

26. a

27. c

28. c

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29. a

30. d

31. a

32. b

33. c

34. a

35. d

36. d

37. c

38. a

39. d

40. c