

**10/29/19, Federal Government Test (COPY)**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Read the passage and answer the question that follows.**

The entire legislature can perform no judiciary act, though by the joint act of two of its branches the judges may be removed from their offices . . . The entire legislature, again, can exercise no executive prerogative, though one of its branches . . . can try and condemn all the subordinate officers in the executive department.

—James Madison, Federalist No. 47, 1788

**Which principle underlying the United States Constitution does James Madison explain in this passage?**

- A. Government powers are separated and balanced.
  - B. Legitimate political authority comes from the people.
  - C. The Bill of Rights protects individuals' due process rights.
  - D. Representatives to Congress are determined through elections.
2. **On November 4, 2008, Barack Obama became the first African American to be elected president of the United States. The following excerpt is from the beginning of his victory speech following the election results.**

If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer.

**Which message did Barack Obama MOST likely intend to convey with these words?**

- A. His election as president showed that U.S. democratic principles were upheld.
- B. The founding principles of U.S. democracy were not applicable to modern politics.
- C. Those who doubted that the United States could live up to its founding principles were right.
- D. Electing an African American president ended the challenges to equality in the United States.

3. Use the table to answer the question.

Supreme Court Decision	Effect
<i>Mapp v. Ohio</i> (1961)	Prohibited the use of evidence obtained by state and local authorities through illegal search and seizure
<i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i> (1963)	Recognized the right of defendants unable to afford a lawyer to have one provided by the government
<i>Miranda v. Arizona</i> (1966)	Required that a person must be informed of his or her rights when arrested

**Which statement BEST explains the importance of these Supreme Court decisions?**

- A They strengthened due process as a founding principle of U.S. democracy.
- B They weakened the rule of law by taking some powers away from authorities.
- C They placed a greater value on individual liberties than the founders had intended.
- D They upheld free elections as part of representative government in the United States.

4. **In 1886, a man named Yick Wo challenged the way that city officials in San Francisco refused to grant business permits to Chinese immigrants like himself. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Yick Wo, stating that the Fourteenth Amendment applied to all people in the United States “without regard to differences of race, of color, or of nationality.”**

**Which statement BEST describes the Supreme Court’s ruling in this case?**

- A It gave immigrant groups a special status.
- B It weakened the system of separation of powers.
- C It upheld the principle of equal justice under the law.
- D It required government bodies to have officials represented from all groups.

5. **What is the purpose of the U.S. system of checks and balances?**

- A to increase voter participation
- B to limit authority of government branches
- C to improve procedures for the legislature
- D to limit state powers

6. Use the excerpt below to answer the question.

We hold that, construed in its historical context . . . that Representatives be chosen “by the People of the several States” means that, as nearly as is practicable, one man’s vote in a congressional election is to be worth as much as another’s.

—*Wesberry v. Sanders*, 1964

**Which principle is supported by the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in this case?**

- A. Congressional districts must have roughly the same land area.
- B. Congressional districts should be relatively equal in population size.
- C. Congressional districts should have the same number of candidates for election.
- D. Congressional districts must reflect the ethnic diversity found in the country’s population.

7. Read the excerpt and answer the question.

One-half of the people of this nation to-day are utterly powerless to blot from the statute books an unjust law, or to write there a new and a just one. The women, dissatisfied as they are with this form of government . . . are this half of the people left wholly at the mercy of the other half, in direct violation of the spirit and letter of the declarations of the framers of this government. . . .

—Susan B. Anthony, “Is It a Crime for a Citizen of the United States to Vote?”, 1873

**Which statement BEST explains Susan B. Anthony’s argument in this excerpt?**

- A. Founding principles of United States government are unjust.
- B. Women are more capable than men of writing effective laws.
- C. The United States founding documents are invalid because the framers were all men.
- D. The United States is failing to uphold its principles by refusing women the right to vote.

8. **Which constitutional power is the U. S. House of Representatives exercising when it proposes a bill to increase tariffs on sugar?**

- A. regulating international trade
- B. overseeing interstate commerce
- C. regulating the value of currency
- D. meeting the conditions of a treaty

9. **Which of the following statements regarding the U.S. Senate is correct?**
- A. The Senate chooses a president pro tempore to run the Senate and has the sole power of impeachment.
  - B. U.S. senators must be 30 years old, a 9-year citizen of the United States, and reside in the state one wants to serve.
  - C. U.S. senators serve six-year terms, and both senators from a single state are up for reelection at the same time.
  - D. The vice president of the United States serves in the Senate as a representative for the District of Columbia.

10. **Which presidential role did Abraham Lincoln fulfill when he suspended the right of habeas corpus during the Civil War?**
- A. Chief Administrator
  - B. Chief Legislator
  - C. Chief Executive
  - D. Commander-in-Chief

11. **Use the excerpt below to answer the question.**

It's especially fitting that an American President sign this agreement in this great Hall of the Americas, the home of the Organization of American States. You see, the NAFTA represents the first giant step towards fulfillment of a dream that has long inspired us all, the dream of a hemisphere united by economic cooperation and free competition. . . . This hemisphere can be as well a zone of peace, where trade flows freely, prosperity is shared, the rule of law is respected, and the gifts of human knowledge are harnessed for all.

—“Remarks on Signing the North American Free Trade Agreement,” President George H.W. Bush, December 17, 1992

**Which role did President Bush take in this event?**

- A. chief legislator because he wrote the bill
- B. chief of party because the Republicans supported the treaty
- C. chief of state because he supported national values
- D. chief diplomat because the treaty addressed U.S. foreign policy

12. **How does the Supreme Court exercise the power of judicial review?**
- A. overturning an amendment
  - B. reversing a lower court ruling
  - C. declaring a law unconstitutional
  - D. confirming an appointment to the Court

13. Use the excerpt below to answer the question.

The Equal Protection Clause requires that, once a geographical unit for which a representative is to be chosen is designated, all who participate in the election must have an equal vote—whatever their race; whatever their sex; whatever their occupation; whatever their income, and wherever their home may be in that geographical unit.

—*Gray v. Sanders*, 1963

**Based on this opinion, which action was addressed in this case?**

- A. filling legislative vacancies through special elections
- B. designing electoral districts to strengthen the influence of some voters
- C. determining the results of presidential elections through popular vote
- D. redistricting based on historic voter registration records

14. Use the information below to answer the question.

In the case of *Reynolds v. Sims* (1964), a group of voters in Alabama had challenged the organization of senatorial districts in the state. They claimed that reapportionment of the districts had not occurred for more than sixty years instead of every ten years as required by the constitution of Alabama. This action had caused discrimination against the growing areas of the state, which had increased drastically since the last reapportionment in 1900.

**What was the result of this U.S. Supreme Court ruling on state legislative districts?**

- A. Population changes are the most important consideration when redistricting.
- B. State legislatures must consult groups of voters when redistricting.
- C. Eliminating racial discrimination is the most important consideration when redistricting.
- D. Legislatures must consider the state's geography when redistricting.

15. **The theory that the BEST government is one that is separated into national and state governments is known as**

- A. federalism.
- B. confederation.
- C. unitary government.
- D. feudalism.

16. **Which position leads the executive branch of the U.S. government?**

- A. President
- B. Secretary of Defense
- C. Senate Majority Leader
- D. Speaker of the House

17. **All of the following statements regarding the House of Representatives are true EXCEPT:**
- A. Members are elected by state legislatures to serve six-year terms.
  - B. The total number of 435 representatives is apportioned among the states by population.
  - C. The House of Representatives has the sole authority to bring impeachment.
  - D. A member must be 25 years old, citizen of the U.S. for at least seven years, and reside in the state represented.
18. **Which concern prompted the addition of the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States?**
- A. the lack of protection of individual rights
  - B. the risk of increased amounts of military spending by the government
  - C. the inability of states to regulate trade
  - D. the risk of more populous states dominating the government
19. **The legal concept established in the case of *Marbury v. Madison* was**
- A. federal supremacy.
  - B. judicial review.
  - C. executive privilege.
  - D. separation of powers.
20. **Since 9/11, the federal government has increased security at major airports, large venues, and federal buildings. Of the six purposes stated in the Preamble of the United States Constitution, which of the following is MOST closely related to this example?**
- A. “insure domestic Tranquility”
  - B. “to establish Justice”
  - C. “to secure the Blessings of Liberty”
  - D. “promote the general Welfare”

21. Read the passage and answer the question that follows.

A March 2014 *New York Times* article reported on opposition to new rules that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) planned to introduce in order to more clearly define which bodies of water are subject to the Clean Water Act. The American Farm Bureau Federation and several other agriculture trade groups were cooperating to prevent the new rules from being implemented because they feared the EPA would begin monitoring small streams on farms. Some farmers are worried about the time and money new EPA regulations might cost them.

**According to the passage, what two concerns are in competition with each other?**

- A. the freedom of the press and an individual's right to privacy
- B. the supremacy of federal laws and the ability to pay for their enforcement
- C. the government's duty to enforce laws and the economic interest of farmers
- D. the right of citizens to organize for change and the authority of the government

22. Read the passage and answer the question that follows.

As part of the investigation into the Watergate scandal, a special prosecutor requested that President Richard Nixon turn over audio tapes that had recorded conversations in the Oval Office of the White House. President Nixon refused, claiming that "executive privilege" gave him the right to withhold information in the interests of confidentiality or national security. In 1974, the Supreme Court ruled in *United States v. Nixon* that "the fundamental demands of due process of law in the fair administration of justice" outweighed the president's claim to executive privilege.

**The Supreme Court's decision emphasized what important principle of constitutional government?**

- A. rule of law
- B. states' rights
- C. equal opportunity
- D. universal suffrage

23. Use the table to answer the question.

**Congressional Leadership  
109th Congress, 2005–2007  
(R = Republican; D = Democrat)**

Position	Member
Speaker of the House	Dennis Hastert (R)
House Majority Leader	Tom DeLay (R)
House Minority Leader	Nancy Pelosi (D)
Senate Majority Leader	Bill Frist (R)
Senate Minority Leader	Harry Reid (D)

**This table identifies congressional leaders at the opening of the 109th session. Based on this information, which statement about the 109th Congress is correct?**

- A. Republicans had more influence than Democrats about which bills to consider.
- B. Republican members had been in Congress longer than Democratic members.
- C. Republicans could organize their members more easily than Democrats could.
- D. Republicans had fewer members serving as committee chairs than Democrats did.

24. Read the information and answer the question.

In Baltimore, the mayor can refuse to sign a bill passed by the city council. However, the city council can still make the bill a law if a three-quarters majority votes to reject the mayor's decision. At the federal level of government, the president can refuse to sign a bill into law that Congress has passed. Congress can reject the president's decision if two-thirds of the members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate vote to do so.

**This information describes which part of the lawmaking process?**

- A. cloture used to stop a filibuster
- B. legislative override of executive vetoes
- C. introducing ballot propositions to pass a bill
- D. the role of the committee system in passing laws



25. **Read the information and answer the question.**

In 1992, U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato from New York successfully prevented the Senate from voting on a tax bill by speaking for 15 hours and 14 minutes. In 1977, Bill Meier spoke for 43 hours to keep the Texas State Senate from voting on a bill. His effort was unsuccessful when a vote was finally held and the bill passed.

**Which tactic was practiced by these legislators?**

- A. cloture
- B. filibuster
- C. override
- D. veto

26. **Use the information below to answer the question.**

A group of students decided to wear black armbands to show their support for a truce in the Vietnam War. The principals of their school asked the students to remove the armbands, and when they refused, suspended the students. The parents of the students sought an injunction to prevent the suspensions. Eventually the U.S. Supreme Court held that the wearing of armbands did not pose a disruption to the school environment, and the students' actions were protected.

**Why was the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in this case an example of judicial activism?**

- A. It expanded the interpretation of free speech.
- B. It increased the authority of school principals.
- C. It protected the practice of religious expression.
- D. It enforced the use of suspension for disciplinary procedures.

27. **During the 1950s, the Supreme Court ruled against segregation in public schools in which landmark case?**

- A. *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- B. *Brown v. Board of Education*
- C. *U.C. Regents v. Bakke*
- D. *Sweatt v. Painter*

28. **In what decision did the Supreme Court rule that medical schools, when choosing who would be admitted, could not use specific quotas?**

- A. *Sweat v. Painter*
- B. *Miranda v. Arizona*
- C. *U.C. Regents v. Bakke*
- D. *Brown v. Board of Education*

29. Where are all federal cases first tried?

- A. Supreme Court
- B. Appeals Court
- C. District Court
- D. Civil Court

30. Read the passage and answer the question that follows.

A college student is arrested for stealing a classmate's term paper and selling it on the internet. When the accused student appears before the court, he asks for a lawyer to be present to help in his defense. The judge refuses the student's request on the grounds that he was not being charged with a felony. The student is subsequently convicted.

**An appeals court reviewing this case would have to consider which constitutional right?**

- A. the Fourth Amendment right against illegal search and seizure
- B. the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination
- C. the Sixth Amendment right to counsel
- D. the Fourteenth Amendment right to equal protection

31. Read the passage and answer the question that follows.

Two police officers suspect that the owner of a house is selling pirated DVD movies. They go to the house and knock on the door. One of the officers explains his suspicions to a man who answers the door and asks to search the house. The man tells the officers that he doesn't live there but lets them into the house, anyway. After searching the house, the officers find hundreds of copies of a recent movie that they determine to be pirated. The homeowner challenges the charges that are subsequently filed against her.

**A judge hearing the homeowner's challenge to the officers' actions would have to consider which constitutional right?**

- A. the First Amendment right to freedom of speech
- B. the Fourth Amendment right against illegal search and seizure
- C. the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination
- D. the Fourteenth Amendment right to equal protection

32. Use the information in the table to answer the question that follows.

Constitutional Provisions	Issues Addressed
Article I, Section 9	habeas corpus
Fourth Amendment	searches and seizures
Fifth Amendment	double jeopardy; self-incrimination
Sixth Amendment	trial by jury; legal counsel
Eighth Amendment	bail and punishment

The sections of the Constitution listed above protect people in what circumstances?

- A. when registering to vote
- B. when seeking employment
- C. when charged with a crime
- D. when applying for citizenship

33. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

- A. 7
- B. 9
- C. 5
- D. 8

34. Which of the following is a check the judicial branch has on the legislative branch?

- A. Judicial Review
- B. Declaring War
- C. Appointing Justices
- D. Passing Laws

35. What check does the legislative branch have on the judicial branch?

- A. Decalre War
- B. Appoint Justices
- C. Decare a Law Unconstitutional
- D. Make New Laws

36. Which of the following positions must you be appointed for?
- A. Supreme Court Justice
  - B. President
  - C. House of Representatives
  - D. Senate
37. Which branch of government was intended to have the most power?
- A. Legislative
  - B. Executive
  - C. Judicial
  - D. States
38. Why are Supreme Court precedents important?
- A. They establish the true law.
  - B. They limit the ability of people to act freely.
  - C. They have excellent writing samples filled with legal jargon.
  - D. They provide guidelines on how future situations should be handled.
39. How many electoral votes must a presidential candidate receive to win the presidency?
- A. 435
  - B. 270
  - C. 100
  - D. 535
40. What happens if there is no majority winner in the electoral college?
- A. The Senate elects the president.
  - B. The House of Representatives elects the president.
  - C. There is a re-vote to try and get more voter participation and a clear winner.
  - D. The Supreme Court elects the president.