

Unit 4 (Presidency and Bureaucracy) Take-Home Test (AP GaP)

Please complete these test items on the GradeCam form provided by your teacher. These are designed to be practice test items in preparation for the Midterm exam and for the AP exam. It is most beneficial if you use these as a true test of your understanding of the content. In other words, don't cheat (it doesn't count towards your grade!) and don't look up the answers (this won't test your learning or understanding of the content).

1. Which institutional resource is closest and most loyal to the president?
 - a. Executive Office of the President
 - b. White House staff
 - c. armed forces
 - d. National Security Council
2. Historically, vice presidential candidates have often been chosen to _____.
 - a. help set the president's agenda
 - b. mentor the president
 - c. placate symbolic constituency
 - d. ensure that the president's party will have a good chance of winning the next presidential election
3. Which presidential power is checked by required approval of the Senate with a two-thirds vote?
 - a. extending diplomatic recognition to foreign governments
 - b. terminating relations with other nations
 - c. negotiating treaties with other nations
 - d. negotiating executive agreements with foreign heads of state
4. What was intended to give Congress a greater voice in the decision to introduce American troops into hostilities?
 - a. the Twenty-second Amendment
 - b. executive privilege
 - c. the legislative veto
 - d. the War Powers Resolution
5. The use of _____ in foreign matters is an example of the president acting as a chief diplomat.
 - a. pocket vetoes
 - b. executive privilege
 - c. executive agreements
 - d. signing statements
6. Which is one reason why the power and responsibility of the presidency has increased?
 - a. The presidents' use of the line-item veto has increased their power over the Congress.
 - b. The budgets for government agencies have decreased, leaving more responsibility to the president.
 - c. Modern presidents have to exercise powers as commander in chief, while earlier presidents did not.
 - d. The United States has increased its prominence on the world stage.

7. Which of the following reviews potential legislative proposals suggested by executive agencies and assesses their budgetary implications?
 - a. secretary of the treasury
 - b. Office of Management and Budget
 - c. secretary of commerce
 - d. chief of staff
8. Which of the following is a group of 15 presidential advisers that is too large, diverse, and concerned with individual fiefdoms to effectively serve as a collective board of directors, leaving ultimate decision-making authority with the president?
 - a. the White House staff
 - b. the Executive Office of the President
 - c. the chiefs of staff
 - d. the cabinet
9. Which of the following is a collection of executive branch officials who assist the president, but who also fulfill duties required by law and are therefore limited in the extent of their loyalty to the president?
 - a. the White House staff
 - b. the Executive Office of the President
 - c. the chiefs of staff
 - d. the Court of Executive Assistants
10. In which way do modern presidents differ from the original intentions of the Framers?
 - a. Modern presidents are considerably less democratic than the Framers originally intended.
 - b. Modern presidents have considerably less power as leaders of their political parties than the Framers originally intended.
 - c. Modern presidents are much more influential in the legislative process than the Framers originally intended.
 - d. Modern presidents are more subservient to the will of Congress than the Framers originally intended.
11. When might citizens be particularly concerned about an expansion of presidential power?
 - a. in times of relative peace and prosperity
 - b. in times of economic crisis
 - c. during presidential election years
 - d. when they oppose the president's agenda
12. Which of the following statements provides the best characterization of the members of the White House staff?
 - a. The White House staff is a loose collection of bureaucrats who are loyal to executive agencies.
 - b. The White House staff is composed of advisers who do whatever is in the best interest of the president.
 - c. The White House staff is composed of policy specialists who have little personal loyalty to the president.
 - d. The White House staff is the link between executive agencies in the bureaucracy and Congress.
13. Which describes something that Barack Obama did that caused his critics to charge that he has become too powerful?
 - a. He established the Department of Homeland Security.
 - b. He proposed reforming Social Security and immigration policy.
 - c. He used drones to kill terrorist suspects, some of whom were American citizens.
 - d. He used his veto power more than any other president.

14. Why did Congress enact the War Powers Resolution?
 - a. to expand the powers of the president in the conduct of war
 - b. to make Congress the sole actor in the conduct of war
 - c. to limit the powers of the president in the conduct of war
 - d. to empower the president to act unilaterally when American troops are in harm's way
15. Which of these presidents had low budget deficits during his presidency?
 - a. Ronald Reagan
 - b. Barack Obama
 - c. Bill Clinton
 - d. George H. W. Bush
16. The Social Security Act was enacted in _____.
 - a. 1865
 - b. 1890
 - c. 1935
 - d. 1964
17. In which of the following years was Medicare added to the Social Security system?
 - a. 1935
 - b. 1965
 - c. 1998
 - d. 2001
18. In which of the following years were prescription drug benefits added to Medicare?
 - a. 1965
 - b. 1974
 - c. 2003
 - d. 2012
19. A(n) _____ is an act of Congress that funds programs established by authorization bills.
 - a. joint proclamation
 - b. appropriations bill
 - c. budget resolution
 - d. omnibus bill
20. Which of the following illustrates American citizens' usual attitude toward the budget?
 - a. Americans want to decrease taxes, decrease spending, and balance the budget.
 - b. Americans want to increase taxes, decrease spending, and balance the budget.
 - c. Americans want to keep taxes low, maintain or increase spending, and balance the budget.
 - d. Americans want to keep taxes low, decrease spending, and run a budget surplus.
21. Which of the following is a law that limits how much the federal government may borrow?
 - a. debt ceiling
 - b. capital budget
 - c. tax expenditure
 - d. budget resolution

22. What is incrementalism?
- the tendency for budgets to increase modestly from year to year
 - income tax rates that increase in increments as income increases
 - congressional resolutions that prohibit spending increases except in times of emergency
 - the tendency for the national debt to increase in large increments every year
23. The increase in _____ threatens the viability of the intergenerational system for funding Social Security.
- birthrates
 - life expectancy
 - social insurance taxes
 - the size of the working population
24. In what sense is Social Security spending “uncontrollable”?
- Congress determines how much it will spend for Social Security each year.
 - Social Security spending varies according to how much money is available in the Social Security Trust Fund.
 - Congress has enacted laws that make Social Security payments automatic for all those who are eligible.
 - Social Security requires funding from excise taxes that are unpredictable from year to year.
25. What is the purpose of continuing resolutions?
- to allow agencies to continue to spend money even when Congress has not met its budgetary timetable
 - to essentially override presidential vetoes
 - to lump together multiple authorization bills to increase the chance of passage
 - to ensure that the federal budget is balanced except in emergencies
26. Which is an example of intragovernmental debt?
- money borrowed from foreign governments
 - money the government has borrowed from Social Security revenue for general spending
 - money borrowed from private corporations that purchase government bonds
 - money borrowed from citizens who purchase government bonds
27. Which of the following is an excise tax?
- tax levied on corporate income
 - tax levied on personal income
 - tax levied on the consumption of a certain good
 - tax levied on the top 2 percent of income earners
28. How might democracy distort budgeting?
- The income tax is a progressive tax.
 - Politicians spend public funds to win votes.
 - Funds are borrowed from foreign governments.
 - Congress approves taxes and appropriations.
29. What does the federal government do when it is unable to cover its expenditures?
- sells bonds
 - indexes taxes to the cost of living
 - changes the tax code
 - invests in pork projects

30. Which of the following federal bureaucracies employs the most people?
- the Department of Homeland Security
 - the Department of Defense
 - the Social Security Administration
 - the U.S. Postal Service
31. The civil service system was introduced with the passage of what law?
- the Hatch Act
 - the Pendleton Act
 - the Administrative Procedures Act
 - the Freedom of Information Act
32. Under the spoils system, who was awarded jobs in the federal bureaucracy?
- those who scored highest on aptitude tests
 - those who did not affiliate with a political party
 - those who previously served in the military
 - those who helped candidates win election
33. Which of the following is a means of enforcing a bureaucratic regulation?
- sending inspectors to evaluate compliance
 - charging higher taxes to those not in compliance
 - deploying the armed forces to force compliance
 - sending members of Congress to assess the need for new legislation
34. Those who believe that regulations on business and industry are too numerous and too complex are most likely to favor the policy of _____.
- incentive systems
 - command-and-control systems
 - executive orders
 - deregulation
35. _____ refers to the authority of administrators in the federal bureaucracy to make choices concerning the best way to implement policies.
- Adjudication
 - Discretion
 - Division of labor
 - Executive control
36. Which of these statements about the bureaucracy is most accurate?
- Americans generally like bureaucrats.
 - The number of federal bureaucrats is increasing rapidly.
 - Most federal bureaucrats work in Washington, D.C.
 - Bureaucracies are inefficient.
37. What does a government corporation do?
- generate significant profit for the federal government
 - provide services that could be provided by the private sector
 - break up monopolies and promote free-market principles
 - expand international trade

38. How do standard operating procedures influence bureaucratic decision making?
- a. They promote uniform application of rules.
 - b. They promote administrative discretion.
 - c. They promote close coordination with Congress on implementation decisions.
 - d. They promote coordination across agencies on implementation decisions.
39. Which of the following statements best describes the president's influence over agency budgets?
- a. The president has final say over all department budgets, but has no control of the budgets of independent agencies.
 - b. The president proposes agency budgets, but depends on Congress for appropriations of federal money.
 - c. The president has sole authority to determine executive administrative budgets.
 - d. The president has no authority in the budgeting process.
40. Which of the following is a primary goal of privatizing government functions?
- a. to provide services that the private sector cannot
 - b. to strengthen government accountability
 - c. to improve the efficiency of public service delivery
 - d. to expand the size of the federal bureaucracy
41. Under what circumstance are bureaucrats most likely to exercise discretion?
- a. when an agency is creating environmental regulations
 - b. when an agency is under congressional investigation
 - c. when an agency is implementing a vague law
 - d. when an agency is proposing legislation
42. Why do Americans tend to think that red tape is more prevalent than it actually is?
- a. Americans tend to notice the bureaucracy only when it is inefficient and not when it works well.
 - b. Americans unwittingly transfer their negative assessments of private bureaucracies (such as businesses and churches) to the public sphere.
 - c. Americans generally have poor experiences when dealing with bureaucrats.
 - d. Red is a more inflammatory color than black.