

D 7**STUDENT MULTIPLE-CHOICE TEST**

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

Instructions

For each question, select the one best answer. Mark your answers on a separate answer sheet as instructed by your teacher.

**THE HISTORY AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION**

1. According to natural rights philosophy, the main purpose of government is to
 - a. create a democracy.
 - b. protect individual rights.
 - c. create a system of separation of powers.
 - d. promote the rights of the ruling class.
2. To say that the rights to life, liberty, and property are unalienable means that they
 - a. cannot be given up or taken away.
 - b. belong only to citizens.
 - c. are subject to governmental approval.
 - d. are protected by the Constitution.
3. Which of the following statements describes a constitution?
 - a. A list of obligations of citizens.
 - b. A priority for achieving particular policies.
 - c. A plan that sets forth the structure and powers of government.
 - d. A compilation of statutes that have been in effect at least fifty years.
4. One major issue left unresolved by the Philadelphia Convention in 1787 was
 - a. the power of the states to coin money.
 - b. the power of the House to initiate revenue bills.
 - c. the definition of national citizenship.
 - d. the power of the national government to regulate commerce with the Indian tribes.



5. Civic virtue is best defined as

- a. giving authority to government in exchange for protection of natural rights.
- b. putting the common good above individual interests.
- c. giving up some natural rights to create a strong government.
- d. separating power among groups to maintain balanced government.

6. The Founders believed that the separation of powers was important to

- a. make the government more efficient.
- b. allow more people to hold office.
- c. prevent the misuse of power.
- d. provide for legislative supremacy.

7. In comparison with the Greek and Roman ideals of civic virtue, the Judeo-Christian tradition

- a. advocates enlightened self-interest.
- b. emphasizes the common good.
- c. stresses the dignity and worth of each individual.
- d. reduces the importance of individual rights.

8. The Enlightenment inspired America's Founders by

- a. endorsing executive supremacy.
- b. making society more rigidly structured.
- c. justifying divine right of kings.
- d. emphasizing what could be achieved through the exercise of human reason.

9. The distribution of powers between the national government and the states in the U.S. is known as

- a. federalism.
- b. feudalism.
- c. separation of powers.
- d. delegation of powers.

10. The Magna Carta included the important constitutional principle that established

- a. freedom of religion.
- b. equal rights for all citizens.
- c. government based on the rule of law.
- d. the supremacy of Parliament.



11. The purpose of a writ of habeas corpus is to protect the individual against
- accusation of treason.
 - unlawful detention.
 - cruel and unusual punishment.
 - self-incrimination.
12. In colonial America, the right to vote most often depended on a person's gender and
- national origin.
 - social class.
 - ancestry.
 - property ownership.
13. The Declaration of Independence asserted that
- a "candid world" would emerge from the American revolution.
 - the colonies were now free and independent states.
 - Parliament had oppressed the colonies through the Townsend Acts.
 - American independence respected "the opinions of mankind."
14. The idea that political power is derived from the people is called
- popular sovereignty.
 - judicial review.
 - unitary government.
 - executive supremacy.
15. Many of the first state constitutions included
- unrestricted voting rights.
 - the right of initiative and referendum.
 - executive supremacy.
 - bills of rights.
16. Some Founders believed that majority rule could be a threat to
- states' rights.
 - local self-government.
 - individual rights.
 - constitutional government.



17. A major weakness of the national government under the Articles of Confederation was its
- a. lack of authority to regulate interstate trade.
 - b. unequal representation of the states.
 - c. power to violate individual rights.
 - d. plural executive.
18. The delegates to the Philadelphia Convention were authorized to
- a. draft treaties governing international trade.
 - b. write a new constitution for the nation.
 - c. amend the Articles of Confederation.
 - d. develop a plan for admitting new states to the union.
19. In the debate over representation in Congress, the Virginia Plan advocated
- a. equal representation of the states.
 - b. proportional representation.
 - c. bipartisan representation.
 - d. limited representation.
20. According to the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution, "supreme law of the land" refers to
- a. acts of the president.
 - b. decisions of the Supreme Court.
 - c. the Constitution, laws enacted by Congress, and treaties.
 - d. laws passed by state legislatures.
21. The right of the Senate to ratify or reject a treaty made by the president is an example of
- a. the "general welfare" clause.
 - b. checks and balances.
 - c. proportional representation.
 - d. federalism.
22. The Framers adopted the Electoral College method of choosing the president because
- a. they wanted to assure a wise consideration in the choice of president.
 - b. they were afraid women would vote.
 - c. the colonies had used that system.
 - d. it was used successfully in the French system.



23. **Anti-Federalists objected to the proposed Constitution because they believed that it**
- a. placed too much power in the national government.
 - b. established the supremacy of Congress.
 - c. enumerated individual rights in too many places.
 - d. authorized the Supreme Court to exercise judicial review.
24. **The “establishment clause” of the First Amendment**
- a. prohibits the press from inquiring into government operations.
 - b. prohibits Congress from establishing a national religion.
 - c. prohibits the government from requiring individuals to house soldiers.
 - d. places limits on an individual’s right to free expression.
25. **The most persuasive objection to the Constitution by George Mason and other Anti-Federalists was that**
- a. the judicial branch lacked sufficient power.
 - b. it gave too much power to the House of Representatives.
 - c. certain actions required more than a simple majority vote.
 - d. it did not contain a bill of rights.
26. **In comparison with the executive branch as organized by the First Congress, the executive branch today has**
- a. lost much of its original power.
 - b. asked Congress to be more active in developing federal regulations.
 - c. allowed the cabinet to dominate the presidency.
 - d. grown larger and more complex.
27. **The primary method Congress uses to consider proposed legislation is**
- a. open debate on the floor of the House.
 - b. the committee system.
 - c. public opinion polls.
 - d. executive orders from the president.
28. **The Tenth Amendment was included in the Bill of Rights**
- a. over the objections of Anti-Federalists.
 - b. to protect rights that were not specifically listed.
 - c. so that the states could not violate individual rights.
 - d. in an effort to reserve powers not specifically stated in the Constitution, to the states or to the people.



29. Which of the following is an example of a “positive right” found in the U.S. Bill of Rights?

- a. The First Amendment, which states, “Congress shall make no law” that violates fundamental rights to freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.
- b. The Sixth Amendment, which guarantees criminal defendants in criminal cases the right to speedy and public trials.
- c. The Third Amendment, which states, “No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.”
- d. The Second Amendment, which requires the government infringing upon the “right of the people to keep and bear Arms.”

30. Congress represents both the people and the states by

- a. gerrymandering electoral districts.
- b. proportional representation in the House and equal state representation in the Senate.
- c. requiring consensus on all bills approved by the House and Senate.
- d. having the power to override presidential vetoes.

31. Political parties in the United States

- a. were created by Article IV of the U.S. Constitution.
- b. are examples of narrow factions and interests.
- c. have their rules approved by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- d. generally reflect broad coalitions of interests.

32. Critics of judicial review claim that it conflicts with principles of

- a. original jurisdiction.
- b. the supremacy clause.
- c. executive supremacy.
- d. legislative supremacy.

33. In the American federal system, the scope of the national government’s authority grew significantly because of the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the

- a. “privileges and immunities” clause.
- b. “free exercise” clause.
- c. “commerce” clause.
- d. “full faith and credit” clause.

STUDENT MULTIPLE-CHOICE TEST (CONTINUED)

34. The Federalists defended the proposed Constitution because it would
- be easy to amend.
 - rely on separation of powers and checks and balances.
 - provide for a highly educated people.
 - allow all adult males the right to vote.
35. A fundamental difference between the Articles of Confederation and the Virginia Plan was that
- the Articles of Confederation allowed the national government to collect taxes from individuals.
 - the Virginia Plan called for a strong national government.
 - the Virginia Plan recommended a weak legislative branch.
 - the Articles of Confederation called for a strong national government.
36. When Southern states seceded from the Union, they justified their actions by arguing that the United States is a
- sovereign nation.
 - constitutional democracy.
 - democratic republic.
 - federation of sovereign states.
37. Black Codes were passed in some states to
- help African Americans find employment.
 - limit the newly won freedoms of former slaves.
 - help local governments protect African Americans.
 - deny state citizenship to freed slaves.
38. In the decades immediately following their ratification, the Civil War Amendments did little to protect the rights of African Americans because
- freed slaves refused to support the amendments.
 - U.S. Congress passed laws preventing the amendments from taking effect.
 - state government officials did little to enforce the provisions of the amendments.
 - the U.S. Supreme Court declared state civil rights laws unconstitutional.



39. The guarantee of equal protection of the laws in the Fourteenth Amendment means that government

- a. is responsible for seeing that Americans have the same opportunities.
- b. may not unfairly or unreasonably treat people differently.
- c. is responsible for ensuring that people have a decent standard of living.
- d. may not conduct unreasonable searches and seizures of private property.

40. The Fourteenth Amendment changed the Constitution by

- a. defining national and state citizenship.
- b. making national citizenship unavailable to Confederate officials.
- c. defining the period of residence required to become a naturalized citizen.
- d. giving the states exclusive power over citizenship.

41. The power of Congress to investigate is an example of its

- a. delegated powers.
- b. reserved powers.
- c. inherent powers.
- d. implied powers.

42. The leaders of civil rights movements are significantly aided by the Constitution's protection of

- a. freedom to assemble and petition.
- b. the privileges and immunities of citizenship.
- c. property rights.
- d. the separate but equal doctrine.

43. The struggle to extend voting rights to women was made especially difficult by

- a. the increase in women entering the workforce.
- b. fears that it would set back the cause for former slaves.
- c. constitutional questions over whether women are citizens.
- d. the failure of states to grant women voting rights.

44. Citizenship of Native Americans was resolved by the

- a. Indian Citizenship Act of 1924.
- b. *Dred Scott* decision of 1857.
- c. Missouri Compromise of 1821.
- d. Northwest Ordinance of 1787.



45. Nations try to maintain international order by

- a. collective security, in which nations agree to protect one another from attack.
- b. participating in the League of Nations.
- c. participating in the international police force to enforce international law.
- d. enforcing trade agreements.

46. Americans can influence Congress in all the following ways except

- a. petitioning.
- b. testifying before committees.
- c. lobbying on behalf of pending legislation.
- d. voting on pending legislation.

47. "The right of the people peaceably to assemble" means that government may

- a. forbid assemblies based on their content, subject, or theme.
- b. prohibit the use of public property for assemblies or demonstrations.
- c. apply restrictions to some groups but not to others.
- d. make reasonable "time, place, and manner" restrictions.

48. The due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment is important because it

- a. changed the emphasis of the Magna Carta on procedural rights of subjects.
- b. has been used to extend the protections of most of the provisions of the Bill of Rights.
- c. provides a referendum on pending national legislation.
- d. modifies the commerce clause of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

49. Time, place, and manner restrictions of free expression generally are upheld by the courts if they

- a. give local authorities adequate discretion to limit the rights of unpopular groups.
- b. apply only to obscene material or libelous statements.
- c. are authorized by Congress or a majority of state legislatures.
- d. are applied in a nondiscriminatory manner toward particular groups or individuals.



50. Which of the following situations might violate a First Amendment right?

- a. Police search a high school student's locker for drugs.
- b. A state legislature passes a law prohibiting the possession of firearms.
- c. Prisoners are not allowed to consult their attorneys.
- d. A city council refuses to grant a controversial group's permit to march.

51. Individuals and groups that lobby government officials are exercising their constitutional rights of

- a. due process.
- b. petition and association.
- c. habeas corpus.
- d. privilege against self-incrimination.

52. The Fourth Amendment protects an individual's privacy from government intrusion in which of the following ways?

- a. It requires a general warrant to be issued before search or seizure.
- b. It requires absolute proof of a crime committed before issuing a warrant for arrest.
- c. It prohibits general warrants because they allow indiscriminate searches.
- d. It prohibits general warrants because they limit government power.

53. Procedural due process is based on the idea that

- a. defendants' rights must be considered over the needs of society.
- b. systems of criminal justice must be affordable.
- c. police officers must have necessary authority to enforce the law.
- d. government officials must follow recognized procedures when making or enforcing the law.

54. Which of the following is an important characteristic of an adversary legal system?

- a. Cross-examination of witnesses conducted by the judge.
- b. Two opposing sides present their cases to an impartial judge or jury.
- c. There are no jury trials.
- d. Cases are presented by the parties themselves, without assistance of counsel.

55. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are examples of ways Americans can

- a. advance the common good without relying on government.
- b. receive charters from Congress to perform quasi-legislative duties.
- c. avoid other civic responsibilities.
- d. avoid registering for the draft.



56. States are called "laboratories of democracy" because they
- test the validity of executive orders at the local level.
 - issue advisory opinions to Congress.
 - implement novel social and economic policies.
 - place limits on the federal government.
57. Administrative agencies are important because they
- make rules to implement laws passed by Congress.
 - are elected by the people.
 - are provided for in Article VII of the Constitution.
 - are not required to exercise judgment.
58. A fundamental difference between citizens and resident aliens is that only citizens may
- enjoy the protections of the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment.
 - engage in social and political actions.
 - serve on juries.
 - buy and sell real estate.
59. Because many Americans believe that their own opportunity to succeed is related to the well-being of society, they
- act for the common good out of enlightened self-interest.
 - put aside civic virtue for the sake of their families.
 - respect and accept the opinions of elected public officials.
 - reject classical republicanism in favor of the natural rights philosophy.
60. In American constitutional democracy, citizens are expected to
- promote their individual rights without regard to the common good.
 - allow government to assume responsibility for solving social problems.
 - ignore their own personal interests when making political choices.
 - think critically about public issues and participate in public affairs.
61. Which of the following is not a fundamental principle of the American constitutional system?
- checks and balances
 - popular sovereignty
 - rule of law
 - executive supremacy



62. Civil disobedience differs from mere lawbreaking in which of the following ways?

- a. Civil disobedience is not breaking the law because the First Amendment protects it.
- b. Civil disobedience is a spontaneous act.
- c. Civil disobedience is not breaking the law because it has been an important tool in civil and voting rights movements.
- d. Civil disobedience seeks to justify its actions by reference to higher moral laws.

63. A basic difference between the Bill of Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is that the Bill of Rights

- a. is enforceable by an authorized government.
- b. enumerates more rights.
- c. is more recent.
- d. contains only "positive" rights.

64. The Supreme Court's power to declare the meaning of the U.S. Constitution is known as

- a. judicial restraint.
- b. judicial activism.
- c. judicial review.
- d. judicial inquiry.

65. The "exclusionary rule" enforces protections found in the Fourth Amendment in which of the following ways?

- a. It requires the police to read individuals their rights.
- b. It requires the government to show "probable cause" before a warrant is issued.
- c. It prohibits the police from searching or seizing property at a school.
- d. It prohibits the government from using evidence obtained in an illegal search.