Test Bank for American Government and Politics in the Information Age 4 1 4th Paletz

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Chapter 2
The Constitution and the Structure of Government Power

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump won_____ "popular" votes in November 2016 than (as opposed to/as) the Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton did.
   a. more
   b. less
   c. the same number of
   d. very few
   e. a huge number
   b; Moderate

2. The U.S. Constitution directly replaced which document?
   a. Magna Charta
   b. Articles of Confederation
   c. Declaration of Independence
   d. Mayflower Compact
   e. Northwest Ordinance
   b; Easy

3. Why were the colonies so upset with taxes imposed on them by the British, such as the Stamp Act?
   a. The colonists' interests were not represented.
   b. Such taxes favored well-off traders in the northern colonies.
   c. Colonial printers profited at the expense of others.
   d. Southern plantation owners gained too much power.
   e. Business monopolies were disallowed.
   a; Moderate

4. "No taxation without_____," shows a dual concern with political ideals and material self-interest that persisted through the adoption of the Constitution.
   a. regulation
   b. freedom
   c. representation
   d. compensation
   e. approval
   c; Easy

5. In 1773, the British government awarded the East India Company a monopoly on importing and selling tea to the American colonies, which led to a "tea party" in which city?
   a. Philadelphia
   b. New York
   c. Concord
   d. Trenton
   e. Boston
   e; Easy

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6. What is the significance of the Articles of Confederation in the history of the United States?
   a. the first political constitution for the government of the United States
   b. established the United States of America as a national, unitary state
   c. declared the independence of the country
   d. represent the major legal document currently applicable in the United States
   e. had no particular importance
   a; Hard

7. Which of these was *not* a power granted to the Continental Congress by the Articles of Confederation?
   a. start/end wars
   b. enter into treaties and alliances
   c. coining money
   d. raise taxes
   e. regulate Indian affairs
   d; Moderate

8. How many states were needed to enact legislation in the Continental Congress under the original Articles of Confederation?
   a. 3
   b. 5
   c. 7
   d. 9
   e. 11
   d; Moderate

9. The Articles of Confederation reflected a distrust of _____ governments.
   a. state
   b. central
   c. global
   d. city
   e. international
   b; Easy

10. Shays's Rebellion was an armed insurrection consisting of _____ seeking to prevent collection of their debts by county courts.
   a. blacksmiths
   b. postal workers
   c. farmers
   d. judges
   e. fishermen
   c; Moderate

11. Which state did *not* attend the Constitutional Convention of 1787?
   a. Vermont
   b. Georgia
   c. Delaware
   d. Rhode Island
   e. Virginia
   d; Moderate

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12. Which famous American statesman was known for being a printer, scientist, inventor, postmaster, philosopher, and diplomat?
    a. Benjamin Franklin
    b. James Madison
    c. Paul Revere
    d. George Washington
    e. Alexander Hamilton
    a; Moderate

13. James Madison helped write a series of articles in a New York newspaper, called the _____ papers, which defended the political system created during the Constitutional Convention.
    a. Freedom
    b. National
    c. Revolutionary
    d. Liberty
    e. Federalist
    e; Easy

14. The historian Charles Beard asserted that the Constitution was a/an "_____ document" favored by investors and industrialists.
    a. economic
    b. political
    c. militaristic
    d. well-rounded
    e. scientific
    a; Moderate

15. Delegates at the Constitutional Convention doubted that the people could wisely rule and wanted to replace democracy with a _____, in which officials would be chosen to act on the people's behalf.
    a. state
    b. federation
    c. republic
    d. committee
    e. plutocracy
    c; Easy

16. Delegates to the Constitutional Convention gathered in 1787 in _____.
    a. New York
    b. Philadelphia
    c. Salem
    d. Concord
    e. Savannah
    b; Easy

17. Which statement is true about the Constitutional Convention?
    a. The delegates' goal was to create the idea of manifest destiny.
    b. James Madison presided over the convention.
    c. Activities took place in secret.
    d. Delegates worked in cooperation with committees.
    e. The press had much access to the proceedings.

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c; Moderate

18. Regarding slavery, the delegates at the Constitutional Convention settled on a clause in which ___ percent of the enslaved population would be counted for purposes of representation.
    a. 10
    b. 25
    c. 60
    d. 75
    e. 90
    c; Hard

19. The Constitutional Convention's final sticking point was the nature of the executive, which was solved by:
    a. the creation of the Electoral College.
    b. limiting number of terms to four.
    c. setting a single term at 2 years.
    d. having the president be elected directly by a popular vote.
    e. allowing the office of president to be held by multiple persons at once.
    a; Easy

20. After the Constitution was signed, it did not go into effect until what occurred in at least 9 states?
    a. moderation
    b. an appeals process
    c. ratification
    d. diversification
    e. bargaining agreements
    c; Moderate

21. Breaking with the Articles of Confederation's equal representation of states, the _____Plan allotted seats to both chambers of the legislature by population size alone.
    a. Virginia
    b. Connecticut
    c. Strategic
    d. New York
    e. Master
    a; Moderate

22. What was called the solution worked out by delegates to create a bicameral legislature, with one chamber (the Senate) representing states, and the other (the House of Representatives) representing the people in districts of equal population size.
    a. The Electoral College
    b. The Connecticut Compromise
    c. The Sting
    d. The Large and Small States Plan
    e. The New Jersey Plan
    b; Moderate

23. A _____is a system of fundamental laws and principles that prescribe the structure and functions of the government.

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a. constitution
b. contract
c. code
d. statutory law
e. bill
a; Easy

24. Which concept involves the allocation of three domains of governmental action into three distinct branches of government?
a. checks and balances
b. republicanism
c. bicameralism
d. enumeration
e. separation of powers
e; Moderate

25. Most governmental powers are shared among the various branches in a system of _____ and balances, in which each branch has ways to respond to, and if necessary, block the actions of the others.
a. dollars
b. checks
c. protests
d. stipulations
e. privileges
b; Moderate

26. Which are the three governmental branches in the United States of America, indicating the separation of powers?
a. Legislative, Executive, and Judicial
b. Legislative, Executive, and Military
c. White House, FBI, and CIA
d. Executive, Judicial, and Foreign Affairs
e. Judicial, Legislative, and PACs
a; Easy

27. The first ten amendments to the Constitution guaranteeing specific liberties from infringement by the government are also known as the _____.
a. Declaration of Independence
b. Separate but Equal Doctrine
c. Freedom Act
d. Bill of Rights
e. Whistle Blower Act
d; Easy

28. Which constitutional amendment provided the basis for civil rights and said "No State shall…deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."
a. Fourteenth
b. Fifteenth
c. Nineteenth
d. Twenty-Fourth
e. Twenty-Sixth

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a; Hard

29. What is called the practice of having two separate chambers within the legislature; in the Constitution, this means that Congress is made up of a House of Representatives and a Senate?
    a. Bicameralism
    b. Dualism
    c. Federalism
    d. Legalism
    e. Modernism
    a; Easy

30. The news media declared a "constitutional crisis" during the aftermath of the 2000 presidential election because of the vote recount in which state?
    a. California
    b. Texas
    c. Montana
    d. Florida
    e. New York
    d; Moderate

31. How is the Constitution portrayed in mass media, according to the textbook?
    a. In negative terms
    b. In neutral terms
    c. As an obsolete document
    d. In positive terms
    e. As a document that needs multiple amendments
    d; Moderate

32. The Constitutional Convention decided on the Electoral College system of electing the president in order to accommodate the different interests of
    a. parties.
    b. voters.
    c. states.
    d. donors.
    e. slave-states.
    c; Moderate

33. Why did Northern states finally agree to the three-fifths compromise?
    a. They relied heavily on Southern slaves for farm labor.
    b. They thought three-fifths of a vote for black men was a good first step.
    c. They did not think that slave-holding states would ever acquire a Senate majority.
    d. They were certain that Southern states would eventually see the immorality of the clause.
    e. They agreed that only a three-fifths majority should be able to legislate in the Senate.
    c; Difficult

34. Under which pseudonym did Alexander Hamilton publish his contributions to the Federalist Papers?
    a. Madison
    b. John Jay
    c. Publius
    d. Agrippa

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e. a Pennsylvania Farmer
c; Easy

35. In which year did early historians catch the first glimpse of James Madison's personal notes on the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention?
a. 1789
b. 1799
c. 1812
d. 1824
e. 1836
e; Difficult

36. What did the founding generation consider the most important constitutional protection against the concentration of power in the federal government?
a. the right to free speech
b. the second amendment
c. the power of states
d. the department of justice
e. the separation of powers
e; Difficult

Short Answer Questions

1. Do you think the Declaration of Independence was a "democratic" document? Explain your answer as far as what it did, its *actions*, and in what it said its *words*.
Actions: The Declaration is democratic in what it did because it asserted the right of the colonists to separate from Britain.
Words: The Declaration is democratic in what it said: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," and have inviolable rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." It also said that the people are free to "alter or abolish" repressive forms of government.
Moderate

2. Do you think the Articles of Confederation was a *weak* or *strong* political constitution for the government of the United States? Explain your answer.
Weak: Under it, the United States was a confederation of states. Although the confederation was superior to the individual states, it had no powers without their consent. The confederation could not raise taxes and relied on revenues from each of the states. There was no president to enforce the laws and no judiciary to hear disputes between and among the states. There was widespread distrust of central authority.
Strong: Yes, the Articles gave the government many powers. The Continental Congress took over the king's powers to make war and peace, send and receive ambassadors, enter into treaties and alliances, coin money, regulate Indian affairs, and to run a post office.
Easy

3. The Constitution was a reaction against the limitations of the Articles of Confederation. Were the Articles' failings more widespread on the domestic front, or were foreign matters more pressing? Explain your answer.
Domestic: Millions of dollars in paper money issued by state governments to fund the Revolutionary War lost their value after the war. Financial interests were unable to collect on

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debts they were owed. They appealed to state governments, where they faced resistance and even brief armed rebellions, such as Shays's Rebellion.
Foreign: The Articles could not address serious foreign threats. In the late 1780s, Britain denied American ships access to British ports in a trade war. Spain threatened to close the Mississippi River to American vessels. Pirates in the Mediterranean claimed captured American ships and sailors and demanded ransom. The national government had few tools to carry out its assigned task of foreign policy.
Hard

4. Do you think the delegates at the Constitutional Convention were representative of the American people? Explain your answer.
The delegates were not representative of the American people. They were well-educated property owners, many of them wealthy, who came mainly from prosperous seaboard cities, including Boston and New York. Most had served in the Continental Congress and were sensitive to the problems faced by the United States. Few delegates had political careers in the states, and so they were free to break with existing presumptions about how government should be organized in America
Hard

5. Based on Federalist No. 10, the most famous of Madison's Federalist papers, do you think he supported democracy? Explain your answer.
In a way no, Madison did not favor democracy and he wanted people to be aware of its dangers. In the Federalist No.10, he mentioned "a rage for paper money", "an abolition of debts," and the problem of "an equal division of property," all of which he called an "improper or wicked project." Madison paid attention to the right to acquire and maintain property and claimed that political systems were created to maintain liberty—including the liberty to accumulate wealth. He favored a large republic, which, he believed, would discourage a faction's rise to power as he was concerned with the rise of factions, seen as groups that pursue their self-interest or individual preferences above the public good.
Hard

6. Do you think the gag rule in effect at the Constitutional Convention was needed? Explain your answer.
Yes: Delegates feared that exposure through newspapers would complicate their work, so it was decided that "nothing spoken in the House be printed, or otherwise published or communicated." George Washington was concerned that news about the political process might produce rumors, confusion, worry, and public opposition to worthwhile policies.
No: The founding fathers were not unanimous about the threat posed by the press. Thomas Jefferson, who was in Paris as ambassador, wrote to his counterpart in London, John Adams, that there was no news from the convention: "I am sorry they began their deliberations by so abominable a precedent as that of tying up the tongues of their members. Nothing can justify this example but the innocence of their intentions, & ignorance of the value of public discussions." Jefferson recognized that the news can lead to productive public debate, dialogue, and deliberation. So a gag rule was not useful.
Moderate

7. Which states benefited the most from the Virginia Plan at the Constitutional Convention? Explain your answer.
Large states were favored by the plan. The plan allotted seats to both chambers of the legislature by population size alone, which meant they could overpower the smaller states.
Moderate

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8. Was a Bill of Rights a necessary part of the Constitution? Explain your answer.
Yes, because the Constitution created a complex system of government, with lengthy terms of office and indirect elections that distanced government from the people to a great extent. The new government threatened individual freedoms and a Bill of Rights was needed to guarantee that specific liberties could not be infringed by the new government.
Moderate

9. Based on the table entitled "The Separation of Powers and Bicameralism as Originally Established in the Constitution", do you agree that the *judicial* branch of federal government has the most power? Explain your answer.
Yes: Members of the Supreme Court have the longest possible terms and can serve for life. They affect the implementation of laws and constitutional matters through judicial review.
No: The Executive has more powers than the judicial branch. For instance, the President is the Commander-in-chief and can nominate executive officers and Supreme Court justices, veto Congressional bills, convene both houses of Congress and issue reprieves and pardons. (See Table 2.1 for more information.)
Hard

10. Do you think the Constitution should have more specifically regulated the intermediary institutions, such as political parties, interest groups, and the media? Explain your answer.
No, because these institutions link government with the people and bridge gaps caused by the separation-of-powers system. For example, the party system helps to organize presidential elections and Congress. Interest groups represent different people and are involved in the policy process. The media help to convey information to the public about government policies and inform government officials as to what the public is thinking.
Hard

Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ Congress launched a boycott of British products, initiated the Revolutionary War, and passed the Declaration of Independence.
Continental**; Easy**

2. By restricting the national government in the Articles of Confederation, Americans could rule themselves in towns and states in small, face-to-face communities. This was an idea shared by many political thinkers dating back to ancient _____.
Athens**; Moderate**

3. A political system in which a government acts as a unit superior to the states but is dependent on their consent is known as a/an _____.
confederation**; Moderate**

4. _____ was the commanding officer of the victorious American revolutionaries.
George Washington**; Easy**

5. Madison was concerned with threats to order and stability from what he called _____, groups pursuing their self-interest above the public good.
factions**; Hard**

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6. The _____ Plan was proposed by small states and preserved the core of the Articles of Confederation—equal representation of states in a unicameral (single-chamber) legislature.
New Jersey; Moderate

7. The elections in the ratifying conventions revealed that opponents of the Constitution tended to come from _____ inland areas.
rural**; Moderate**

8. Opponents to the Constitution were called _____.
Anti-Federalists**; Moderate**

9. The initial text of the Constitution consists of a preamble and seven sections known as _____.
articles**; Moderate**

10. Reporters and the mass media often criticize American politicians for "squabbling" and "bickering." But the _____ of powers, as the founders designed it, is supposed to encourage conflict within the legislature and between the three branches.
separation**; Easy**

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