

**Political Science 101**  
**Practice Final Exam**

1. The U.S. social welfare system differs markedly from those of West European democracies, a situation that is attributable primarily to America's
  - a. cultural emphasis on individualism and federal system of government.
  - b. greater wealth and cultural emphasis on charitable acts.
  - c. weak party system and separation of executive and legislative power.
  - d. egalitarian ethos and pluralist group system.
  - e. dependence on foreign oil.
  
2. The largest proportion of Americans living below the poverty line are
  - a. African Americans.
  - b. the elderly.
  - c. Latino Americans.
  - d. divorced, separated, or unmarried mothers and their children.
  - e. white males.
  
3. The term entitlement refers to a program
  - a. which provides indirect payments to individuals, such as funding for public schools.
  - b. benefitting individuals designed specifically to alleviate the hardships of old age.
  - c. which requires the payment of benefits to any individual who meets the eligibility criteria.
  - d. of social welfare for which citizenship is the only criterion of eligibility.
  - e. none of the above.
  
4. Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal represented the concept of \_\_\_\_\_ government.
  - a. positive
  - b. negative
  - c. *laissez-faire*
  - d. subnational
  - e. none of the above
  
5. The defining characteristic of a social insurance program is that it is
  - a. funded by payments from those who are eligible for its benefits.
  - b. administered jointly by the national government and the states.
  - c. targeted at those who are most in need of welfare assistance.
  - d. administered through private insurance companies.
  - e. none of the above.
  
6. Criticism of the food stamp program occurs because it
  - a. is costly to taxpayers.

- b. stigmatizes its users by identifying them publicly as welfare cases.
  - c. is based on need and therefore is not earned.
  - d. has improved the nutrition of poor families.
  - e. a, b, and c.
7. More than 90 percent of the funding for K-12 public education comes from
- a. the federal government.
  - b. the state governments.
  - c. local governments.
  - d. state and local governments combined.
  - e. private sources.
8. Welfare policy in the United States
- a. is often an issue that divides the two political parties.
  - b. is based entirely on the principle of need.
  - c. is entirely a federal issue.
  - d. is entirely a state issue.
  - e. has changed very little during the nation's history.
9. President \_\_\_\_\_ initiated the Great Society programs of the 1960s.
- a. Franklin Roosevelt
  - b. John Kennedy
  - c. Dwight Eisenhower
  - d. Richard Nixon
  - e. Lyndon Johnson
10. Of the following, which is likely the least criticized public assistance program?
- a. Supplemental Security Income
  - b. Aid to Families with Dependent Children
  - c. Food Stamps
  - d. Medicaid
  - e. Housing subsidies
11. Citizen participation in politics is the essential component of the ideal of
- a. liberty.
  - b. equality.
  - c. self-government.
  - d. individualism.
  - f. collectivism.
12. The poll tax was used to
- a. disenfranchise African Americans in the South.
  - b. finance election campaigns.
  - c. ensure that women voted with their husbands, who legally controlled the money in a marriage.
  - d. ensure that the people who voted would take the vote seriously.

- e. help subsidize public education in the North.
13. States and localities often choose to hold key office elections in non-presidential election years to
- a. maximize voter turnout.
  - b. insulate their election races from the possible effects of the presidential campaign.
  - c. keep the public's interest in elections at a high level at all times.
  - d. allow local and state candidates to get more attention from the press.
  - e. all of the above.
14. Which group of Americans has the lowest rate of voter turnout?
- a. older people (60 years-of-age or more)
  - b. younger people (30 years-of-age or less)
  - c. men
  - d. women
  - e. people with college degrees
15. The chief obstacle to Americans' participation in community activities is
- a. the lack of opportunity because there are few groups active at this level.
  - b. the lack of personal motivation to get involved.
  - c. the low potential for success, since key decisions are made at the national level.
  - d. the low potential for success, since key decisions are made at the state level.
  - e. all of the above.
16. Social movements are a way for
- a. those dissatisfied with government to get its attention.
  - b. the politically weak to force government to be more responsive than usual to their interests.
  - c. people to present their views through more dramatic means than conventional political activity.
  - d. people to get news coverage of their issue.
  - e. all of the above.
17. Citizens in \_\_\_\_\_ are most likely to volunteer time and money to promote community causes.
- a. Germany
  - b. France
  - c. Great Britain
  - d. the United States
  - e. There is no difference between the four nations.
18. Compared with U.S. citizens of higher income, those of lower income are
- a. much less likely to vote in elections.

- b. slightly less likely to vote in elections.
  - c. about equally likely to vote in elections.
  - d. slightly more likely to vote in elections.
  - e. much more likely to vote in elections.
19. The “Motor Voter” law
- a. was passed in 1993.
  - b. made it easier for citizens to register to vote.
  - c. linked voter registration to the vehicle registration process.
  - d. all of the above.
  - e. none of the above.
20. Knowledge of candidates’ issue positions and campaign promises would be most valuable for \_\_\_\_\_ voting.
- a. partisan
  - b. retrospective
  - c. split-ticket
  - d. party line
  - e. prospective
21. The first American political parties emerged from the conflict between
- a. slave states and free states.
  - b. the older Eastern states and the newer Western states.
  - c. the interests of small landholders and those favoring commercial and wealthy interests.
  - d. business and labor.
  - e. Protestants and Catholics.
22. Democrats and Republicans have endured as the two major U.S. parties primarily due to
- a. the stability of their ideologies.
  - b. the lack of good third party candidates.
  - c. a high degree of party discipline.
  - d. their ability to adapt to changing circumstances.
  - e. none of the above.
23. If a minor party gains a large following, it is almost certain that
- a. the major parties will join together to attack the minor party.
  - b. Congress will enact legislation to make it difficult for the minor party to get on the ballot.
  - c. party in-fighting will tear it apart.
  - d. one or both of the major parties will try to capture its supporters.
  - e. the media will attack the minor party.
24. The American tendency toward \_\_\_\_\_ encourages the two major parties to build broad coalitions.

- a. big government
  - b. idealism
  - c. political activism
  - d. radicalism
  - f. moderation
25. Minor political parties have problems with
- a. financing their campaigns.
  - b. getting their candidates on all 50 state ballots.
  - c. having a lasting impact on American politics.
  - d. all of the above.
  - e. none of the above.
26. A main reason for the decline of party-centered politics is
- a. public ambivalence toward political parties.
  - b. the irrelevance of parties in a technological age.
  - c. a weakening of state governments relative to the national government.
  - d. the development of public opinion polls as an alternative means of discovering public sentiment.
  - e. a weakening of the national government relative to the state governments.
27. Most states conduct \_\_\_\_\_ primaries.
- a. closed
  - b. open
  - c. blanket
  - d. nonpartisan
  - e. non-binding
28. An important function of a political party in the United States is
- a. public education.
  - b. recruitment of candidates.
  - c. formulation of platforms.
  - d. offering the voters a choice.
  - e. all of the above.
29. Organizationally, the U.S. major parties are
- a. decentralized, although the state and national party organizations play an important role.
  - b. so decentralized that the state and national party organizations are largely insignificant.
  - c. highly centralized with the national party organizations having authority over the state party organizations which in turn dictate to the local organizations.
  - d. state-centered in the sense that the state party organizations are the most powerful entities.
  - e. forced to operate under so many legal restrictions that they are ineffective

at all levels..

30. Candidate-centered politics encourages all of the following except
  - a. greater responsiveness to local interests.
  - b. flexibility in response to problems.
  - c. long-term consistency in policymaking.
  - d. introduction of new blood to politics.
  - f. the use of television advertising in campaigns.
  
31. A primary difference between a political party and a typical interest group is that the party
  - a. promotes public policies.
  - b. addresses a broad range of issues.
  - c. supports candidates for public office.
  - d. tries to influence policymakers.
  - e. addresses a narrow range of issues.
  
32. The most fully organized interests are those that represent
  - a. agriculture.
  - b. business.
  - c. civil liberties.
  - d. labor.
  - f. the environment.
  
33. Public interest groups are distinguished by the fact that
  - a. their leaders are elected by secret ballot of the group's members.
  - b. their members receive no direct economic benefit from attainment of the group's goals.
  - c. they do not lobby government officials directly, but rely instead on public service announcements to get their views across to society.
  - d. they always pursue goals that virtually everyone in society agrees with.
  - f. their leaders do not accept salaries for the work they do.
  
34. Ideological groups are distinct from single issue groups in
  - a. the number of issues with which they are concerned.
  - b. the intensity of their members' opinions.
  - c. their tendency to get involved in election campaigns.
  - d. that members do not seek to influence the political process.
  - g. all of the above.
  
35. Interest group activity is basic to the democratic process because it
  - a. is the only legitimate basis of government action.
  - b. serves to promote the concerns of various interests in society.
  - c. is by far the best means of deciding policy issues.
  - d. is an effective substitute for political party activity.
  - f. is entirely fair to all interests in society.

36. The largest citizens' group with over thirty million members is
- the NAACP.
  - the AFL-CIO.
  - the AARP.
  - MADD.
  - Common Cause.
37. Effective inside lobbying is based upon
- countering the aims of other groups.
  - providing useful and persuasive information to key officials.
  - mobilizing the group's members.
  - bribing or threatening officials.
  - using the media to exert pressure.
38. PACs tend to contribute money to
- incumbents.
  - challengers.
  - Independents.
  - liberal Democrats.
  - liberal Republicans.
39. The influence of interest groups through the courts occurs through
- initiating lawsuits.
  - lobbying for certain judges to be appointed to the bench.
  - outside lobbying only.
  - PACs.
  - both a and b.
40. Grass roots lobbying is based on the assumption that officials will respond to
- well-reasoned policy arguments.
  - the opportunity for extensive media publicity.
  - moral pleas.
  - the efforts of party organizations.
  - pressure from constituents.
41. Which of the following statements best describes the relationship today between government and the economy in the United States?
- The economy is largely self-regulating.
  - The government subsidizes economic interests but otherwise leaves them to operate as they please.
  - The government is the driving force in the U.S. economy; business has a secondary role.
  - The government has an important role in regulating and maintaining the U.S. economy.
  - The government owns most of the means of production in the United

States.

42. Marx argued that a free-market system is exploitive because
- workers' wages are lower than the value they add to production.
  - consumers pay higher prices for goods than it costs to produce them.
  - all private transactions are inherently unjust.
  - monopolies are an inherent part of economic relationships.
  - collective bargaining always works to the advantage of business.
43. The term externality refers to
- regulations imposed on a firm by government.
  - a nation that is a trading partner of another nation.
  - unpaid costs of production which are incurred by society.
  - tariffs imposed on American goods exported to other countries.
  - none of the above.
44. The key issue of regulatory policy is
- the great amount of paperwork (red tape).
  - whether the costs imposed by regulation on business outweigh the potential benefits.
  - whether corporate and consumer interests are equally represented on regulatory commissions.
  - whether it has bipartisan support in Congress.
  - whether regulatory commissioners' agree on a proper course of action.
45. Fiscal policy is a mechanism which the government employs to influence the economy. Fiscal policy is based on
- the idea that a balanced budget is the key to a healthy economy.
  - the money supply.
  - the government's taxing and spending decisions.
  - the importance of maintaining a 12-month (fiscal year) economic cycle.
  - the projections of the Federal Reserve Board.
46. The Federal Reserve controls the money supply through the following action
- buying or selling surplus agricultural goods.
  - lowering or raising interest rates.
  - lowering or raising tax rates.
  - lowering or raising tariffs.
  - a and c
47. Advocates of economic deregulation are primarily concerned with
- efficiency.
  - equity.
  - externalities.
  - public safety.
  - political expediency.

48. Which of the following is correct about environmental policy?
- The national parks are subject to a dual use policy of preservation and recreation and exploitation of the rich natural resources.
  - The Environmental Protection Agency was elevated to cabinet status in 1998 by President Clinton and the Republican Congress.
  - Environmental regulation has done little to improve air and water quality.
  - Policymakers always give more consideration to environmental protection than to economic development when the two conflict.
  - None of the above.
49. Earth Day was the brainchild of Senator \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ted Kennedy
  - Robert Byrd
  - Mike Mansfield
  - Ted Stevens
  - Gaylord Nelson
50. Supply-side economics is based primarily on
- stimulation of the business (supply) component.
  - government stimulation of consumer demands.
  - a repudiation of trickle-down theory.
  - increases in taxation.
  - increases in government regulation.
51. The accuracy of a poll is usually expressed in terms of
- population density.
  - census parameter.
  - population error.
  - sampling error.
  - interview error.
52. The process by which individuals acquire their opinions is called
- popular culture.
  - social communication.
  - socio-economic change.
  - political socialization.
  - political assimilation.
53. A consistent pattern of opinion on particular issues that stems from a basic underlying belief is called
- conservatism.
  - an ideology.
  - socialization.
  - politicization.
  - none of the above.

54. All of the following are ideologies except
- fascism
  - communism
  - socialism
  - conservatism
  - all of the above are ideologies
55. As a concept or force in American politics, public opinion is
- elusive.
  - powerful.
  - inexact.
  - contradictory.
  - all of the above.
56. Which of the following ideological types favor government activism in the economic realm?
- liberals and populists
  - populists and libertarians
  - conservatives and liberals
  - populists and conservatives
  - liberals and libertarians.
57. Which of the following is a means of judging public opinion?
- a citizen's letter to the editor
  - activities of lobbyists
  - crowds demonstrating on the street
  - yard signs
  - all of the above
58. Which region of the nation has the highest concentration of citizens who call themselves liberals?
- the Plains states
  - the South
  - the Northeast
  - the Mountain states
  - the Southwest
59. Libertarians are opposed to governmental intervention in
- both the economic and social spheres.
  - the economic but not the social sphere.
  - the social sphere, but not the economic sphere.
  - neither the social nor the economic spheres.
  - only affirmative action.
60. The most powerful religious force in contemporary American society is

- a. Protestants.
- b. the religious right.
- c. Catholics.
- d. Jews.
- e. Muslims.