

## Introduction to American Politics

### Political Science 101

Examination No. 1

October 17, 2005

**Instructions:** The exam consists of 60 questions. Select the most appropriate answer for each and record it under the corresponding letter on the scan form. You must use a pencil. All questions are of equal value. This is a closed book, closed note exam. You may *not* listen to electronic devices. You will have 78 minutes to complete the exam.

1. The American political culture includes all of the following ideals except
  - a. liberty.
  - b. equality.
  - c. self-government.
  - d. individualism.
  - e. economic equality.
  
2. Until 1965, immigration laws were biased in favor of \_\_\_\_\_ immigrants.
  - a. Asian
  - b. Latin American
  - c. European
  - d. African
  - e. South American
  
3. The play of politics takes place according to rules that the participants agree to accept. In the American case, the rules of the game include all of the following, except
  - a. autocracy.
  - b. democracy.
  - c. constitutionalism.
  - d. capitalism.
  - e. none of the above.
  
4. In *Leviathan*, Thomas Hobbes argued that life in the state of nature is
  - a. heavenly.
  - b. worth protecting so that future generations can enjoy nature's beauty.
  - c. peaceful but boring.
  - d. truly equal for all.
  - e. dangerous and warlike.
  
5. The method of operation of the Federal Reserve Board would best support the theory of
  - a. majoritarianism.
  - b. pluralism.
  - c. elitism.
  - d. bureaucratic rule.
  - e. none of the above.
  
6. According to the sociologist C. Wright Mills, the U.S. governing process is most accurately explained by:
  - a. pluralist theory.
  - b. elite theory.
  - c. majoritarianism.

- d. bureaucratic rule.
  - e. none of the above.
7. A major criticism of the theory of pluralism is that
- a. there are no organized interest groups.
  - b. majorities always win.
  - c. only a small number of powerful groups are well organized and highly influential on policy makers.
  - d. minority groups always win.
  - e. none of the above.
8. Politics is described as the process that
- a. inculcates deep beliefs in idealized form.
  - b. gives people economic equality.
  - c. applies power fairly.
  - d. determines whose values will prevail in society.
  - e. provides for respect of individual differences.
9. A major characteristic of American politics is pluralism, which is
- a. the power to make authoritative and binding decisions.
  - b. belief in equal distribution of economic resources.
  - c. competition for power among a great many interests of all kinds.
  - d. limiting access to power in society to a select few citizens.
  - e. multiple levels of governments all doing the same thing.
10. A collective benefit is one that
- a. is available to all once it is provided, regardless of whether one contributed to its provision.
  - b. is available only to those who collectively worked to provide it.
  - c. results from the collective efforts of everyone, making all better off.
  - d. can be purchased by anyone, not just those who produced it.
11. In *Federalist* No.10, Madison warns against the dangers of
- a. judicial review
  - b. factions
  - c. allowing *habeas corpus*
  - d. an independent executive
  - e. a one-chamber Congress
12. The effectiveness of separation of powers in the United States government is best illustrated by
- a. the ability to keep the government from expanding its powers.
  - b. the Watergate affair in the Nixon administration.
  - c. America's inability to respond to external aggression quickly.
  - d. the evolution of judicial review.
  - e. different sales tax rates in each state.
13. A political system in which the chief executive is elected directly by the legislative branch is known as
- a. a presidential system.
  - b. a fusion system.
  - c. a modified presidential system.
  - d. an autocracy.

14. Which U.S. president said, "Others may hate you. Those who hate you don't win unless you hate them, and then you destroy yourself."
- Thomas Jefferson
  - Franklin Roosevelt
  - Richard Nixon
  - William Clinton
15. *Marbury v. Madison* is a landmark Supreme Court decision because it
- established national supremacy.
  - set the precedent for judicial review.
  - defined the scope of state powers under the Tenth Amendment.
  - affirmed the necessary and proper clause.
16. A contemporary legislator who voted for a bill even though his constituents back home overwhelmingly opposed the bill would be performing the Edmund Burke role of
- trustee.
  - delegate.
  - statesperson.
  - politician.
  - oversight.
17. Judicial review is the power of the American courts to
- declare a law unconstitutional.
  - suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*.
  - impeach the president.
  - give advisory opinions to Congress.
  - give advice and counsel to the president.
18. The writers of the Constitution devised the Electoral College as the method of choosing presidents because
- direct election was impractical due to the poor systems of communication and transportation that existed in the late 1900s.
  - the method would shield executive power from popular majorities and Congress.
  - the method guaranteed a majority winner.
  - the method would give weight to the preferences of ordinary people.
  - the Framers had a great deal of faith in the wisdom of the masses.
19. Which of the following was *not* provided for in the Articles of Confederation?
- a national Congress.
  - each state having one vote in Congress.
  - unanimous approval by the states to amend the Articles.
  - a supermajority of states to pass legislation
  - power of the national government to levy taxes
20. The writers of the Constitution justified different methods of selection and varying terms of office for the president, Senate, and House as a means of
- increasing popular influence.
  - protection against passionate and unreasoned majorities.
  - preventing elite control of government.

- d. maintaining experienced leadership.
  - e. increasing voter turnout.
21. The “three-fifths compromise” was a response to
- a. the institution of slavery.
  - b. the concerns of small states.
  - c. apportionment in the U.S. Senate.
  - d. the Electoral College.
  - e. concerns of large states
22. Sovereignty refers to
- a. a government headed by a king.
  - b. a division of authority between the national government and the states.
  - c. ultimate governing authority.
  - d. subnational (state) governments.
  - e. none of the above.
23. Specific powers assigned to Congress by the Constitution are called
- a. implied powers.
  - b. derived powers.
  - c. inherent powers.
  - d. enumerated powers.
  - e. reserved powers.
24. The purpose of the Tenth Amendment was to
- a. make sure that the doctrine of national supremacy was absolute.
  - b. end slavery by the year 1808.
  - c. protect the states against national encroachment.
  - d. assign specific delegated powers to the states.
  - e. be consistent with the Ten Commandments.
25. *McCulloch v. Maryland* was decisive because it
- a. ruled in favor of state-centered federalism.
  - b. asserted that the necessary and proper clause was a restriction on the power of the national government.
  - c. affirmed that national law is supreme to conflicting state law.
  - d. established the Supreme Court’s power to judge constitutional issues.
  - e. allowed for a narrow reading of the Constitution.
26. National authority has greatly expanded in the twentieth century primarily because
- a. the states and their citizens have become increasingly interdependent.
  - b. constitutional amendments have opened the way for wider application of national authority.
  - c. the state governments have shown themselves to be an ineffective level of government.
  - d. the Democrats have been in control of Congress for most of the century.
  - e. Americans like the idea of “big government.”
27. Federal grants-in-aid used only for specific projects are called
- a. categorical grants.
  - b. block grants.

- c. revenue-sharing grants.
  - d. streamlined grants.
28. Devolution is
- a. the passing of authority from the national government to the state and local levels.
  - b. the expansion of national authority that began in the 1930s.
  - c. the contraction of state authority and the expansion of local government authority.
  - d. the expansion of national authority that began in the 1960s.
29. A blending of state and national authority is associated with \_\_\_\_\_ federalism, while a separation of national and state authority is associated with \_\_\_\_\_ federalism.
- a. dual, fiscal
  - b. dual, cooperative
  - c. cooperative, dual
  - d. picket-fence, cooperative
  - e. cooperative, pyramid
30. Which Supreme Court decision is indicative of the Court's rulings regarding the Fourteenth Amendment and state discretion in the decades after the Civil War?
- a. *Mapp v. Ohio*
  - b. The *Dred Scott* decision
  - c. *Plessy v. Ferguson*
  - d. *McCulloch v. Maryland*
  - e. *Gibbons v. Ogden*
31. \_\_\_\_\_ is an illustration of cooperative federalism.
- a. The Postal Service
  - b. Medicaid
  - c. A marriage license
  - d. A driver's license
32. Government can lawfully prevent a political rally from taking place
- a. under no circumstances; people have an unconditional right to express their views.
  - b. when the rally would cost money because of the need for police protection.
  - c. when the views of those holding the rally are unpopular.
  - d. when it can demonstrate clearly that a non-preventable evil will result if the rally is held.
  - e. none of the above.
33. The Supreme Court case that established the national government's right to regulate interstate commerce was
- a. *Marbury v Madison*
  - b. *McCulloch v Maryland*
  - c. *Gibbons v Ogden*
  - d. *Plessy v Ferguson*
  - e. *Brown v Board of Education of Topeka*
34. The doctrine of "prior restraint" is most closely associated with issues of
- a. religious tolerance.
  - b. freedom of press.
  - c. artistic expression.

- d. obscenity
  - e. individual state constitutions.
35. Larry Mumper is
- a. a fictional character in a movie made famous by the expression, “You’ve been Mumpered.”
  - b. a right-wing, talk-radio personality
  - c. President of the American Civil Liberties Union
  - d. member of the Ohio State Senate
36. The individual freedoms in the Bill of Rights were extended by the Fourteenth Amendment to include
- a. actions of the president.
  - b. the right to libel public officials.
  - c. actions of the federal government.
  - d. actions of state and local governments.
  - e. actions of the U.S. military.
37. The establishment clause prohibits government from
- a. establishing exceptions to the Bill of Rights.
  - b. establishing exceptions to the Fourteenth Amendment.
  - c. favoring one religion over another or supporting religion over no religion.
  - d. interfering with freedom of assembly.
  - e. interfering with the right to bear arms.
38. In *Mapp v. Ohio*, the exclusionary rule was extended to include
- a. criminal proceedings in the states.
  - b. civil cases.
  - c. pleas of insanity.
  - d. children (minors) accused of crime.
  - e. indigent litigants.
39. The right to privacy was instrumental in which decision?
- a. *Roe v. Wade*
  - b. *Mapp v. Ohio*
  - c. *Schenck v. United States*
  - d. *Miranda v. Arizona*
  - e. *New York Times Co. v. United States*
40. The Fourth Amendment protects Americans from
- a. all searches.
  - b. all unreasonable searches.
  - c. searches conducted only by federal officers.
  - d. searches conducted only by state officers.
  - e. searches conducted only by local officers.
41. Which country has the highest percentage of its population in prison?
- a. Singapore
  - b. Japan
  - c. United States

- d. Romania
  - e. Russia
42. Which statement about women and politics is accurate?
- a. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was ratified by the necessary 38 states in 1982.
  - b. The women's rights movement began during the Civil War era and within a few years achieved voting rights for women.
  - c. Women have recently made clear gains in obtaining appointive and elective public offices.
  - d. Women tend to cast their votes for Republican candidates.
43. All of the following statements about Latino Americans are true except
- a. they are the fastest-growing minority in the United States.
  - b. they have made major political gains in terms of electing local officials, particularly in the Southwestern states.
  - c. they share the same goals as African-Americans, and the two groups have been fully united in their efforts to achieve political goals.
  - d. Latinos are not monolithic in their political thinking.
44. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was aimed chiefly at eliminating discrimination
- a. by governments in their conduct of elections (e.g., registration, placement of polling booths).
  - b. by private individuals in their social relations—bigoted statements and other acts of prejudice are unlawful under most circumstances.
  - c. by governments in their job practices and provision of services (e.g, schools, roads).
  - d. by private individuals in their employment practices and in their operation of public accommodations (e.g., hotels, restaurants).
45. Before the civil rights movement of the 1960s, the political strategy of black Americans centered on achieving change through
- a. judicial action.
  - b. legislative action.
  - c. presidential action.
  - d. bureaucratic action.
46. Today, the majority of African Americans in the nation
- a. live in segregated neighborhoods.
  - b. send their children to schools that are predominantly white.
  - c. have the same quality of health care as the majority of white Americans
  - d. have the same opportunities for higher education as the majority of white Americans.
  - e. have incomes equal to that of the majority of white Americans.
47. The gender gap refers to the tendency of women to favor
- a. Green party candidates.
  - b. Democrats.
  - c. Independents.
  - d. Republicans.
  - e. libertarians.
48. The central issue in the *Bakke* case was
- a. school desegregation.
  - b. sexual harassment.

- c. affirmative action.
  - d. Native Americans' civil rights.
  - e. comparable worth.
49. Which Latino group identifies most strongly with the Republican Party?
- a. Puerto Rican Americans
  - b. Mexican Americans
  - c. Cuban Americans
  - d. Dominican Americans
  - e. No Latino group identifies strongly with the Republican party.
50. *De jure* discrimination and *de facto* discrimination are two ways in which some Americans are less equal than others. Examples of public policies designed to address each of these forms of discrimination are
- a. the *Brown* decision (*de jure*), and affirmative action (*de facto*).
  - b. affirmative action (*de jure*), and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (*de facto*).
  - c. the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (*de jure*), and the *Brown* decision (*de facto*).
  - d. the Supreme Court's busing decisions (*de jure*), and affirmative action decisions (*de facto*).
51. "Redlining" refers to:
- a. discrimination by banks in the granting of mortgages and loans.
  - b. the refusal by hotels to supply service to African Americans.
  - c. restrictive covenants prohibiting the resale of property to "undesirable" groups.
  - d. overt discrimination by landlords in their advertisements.
  - e. parking in no parking zones in front of government buildings.
52. The basis for containment policy was the assumption that
- a. the territorial and ideological ambitions of an aggressor nation can only be blocked by determined opposition.
  - b. the spread of nuclear weapons is a danger to the world and must be stopped.
  - c. economic trade should be tailored to benefit the full industrialized nations through the formation of economic communities.
  - d. an arms race will inevitably escalate and therefore must be stopped through negotiations at an early stage.
53. The idea that major nations should act together in response to problems and crises is called
- a. the one-world concept.
  - b. détente.
  - c. multilateralism.
  - d. internationalism.
  - e. containment.
54. The policy of deterrence is based on the idea that
- a. when threatened, a nation should strike first so that its enemy is deprived of the option of a surprise attack.
  - b. economic links with another country will deter it from aggression.
  - c. modern warfare requires a flexible response policy.
  - d. the best protection against attack by an enemy is the capacity to retaliate with a devastating attack of one's own.

55. The Marshall Plan was designed to
- confront the Soviet Union's military and political threat to West Europe.
  - weaken West Europe's economy.
  - increase America's power in Asia.
  - establish the United States as the world's "policeman."
56. \_\_\_\_\_ led the communist takeover of China in 1949.
- Mikhail Gorbachev
  - Ho Chi Minh
  - Chiang Kai-Shek
  - Mao Zedong
57. Which of the following events in American foreign policy occurred before the other four?
- Korean War
  - War in Kosovo
  - Vietnam War
  - Star Wars initiative
58. The term *détente* meant
- that the cold war between the superpowers was becoming hot.
  - that nuclear war was a strong possibility after Vietnam.
  - an era of increased conflict between the superpowers.
  - a relaxing of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.
  - that nuclear war was a strong possibility after Korea.
59. Which of the following is *not* part of the Weinberger Doctrine?
- intervene only for "vital national interests"
  - secure support of the public for any intervention
  - commit sufficient forces for purpose of "winning"
  - always have an exit strategy
  - establish clear political and military objectives
60. According to Jim Brask, which principle of the Weinberger Doctrine was violated in the war against Iraq?
- intervene only for "vital national interests"
  - secure support of the public for any intervention
  - commit sufficient forces for purpose of "winning"
  - establish clear political and military objectives