

Introduction to American Politics
Political Science 101

Examination No. 2
November 7, 2005

Instructions: The exam consists of 60 questions. Select the most appropriate answer for each and record it under the corresponding letter on the computer 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 during the exam. You will have 78 minutes to complete the exam.

1. In comparison with today's newspapers, early American newspapers were
 - a. written by hand.
 - b. so inexpensive that nearly everyone read a daily paper.
 - c. supported by the political parties.
 - d. more widely read.
 - e. all of the above.

2. Which of the following is not an implication of corporate ownership of the media and the selling of news?
 - a. profits affect news content
 - b. ideological content of the news is moderate
 - c. large companies are allowed to own only one television station
 - d. media are sometimes beholden to government

3. Which of the following was a major point of the documentary *Control Room*?
 - a. Al-Jazeera TV is a mouthpiece for Osama Bin Laden
 - b. Al-Jazeera TV has been instrumental in turning U.S. opinion against the war in Iraq
 - c. Al-Jazeera coverage of the war is biased, but U.S. media coverage is entirely objective
 - d. Al-Jazeera TV is biased toward the Arab point of view, but, nevertheless, is an independent and professional news organization

4. The yellow journalism of 1900 was characterized by
 - a. the use of the telegraph.
 - b. the emphasis on sensationalism as a way of selling newspapers.
 - c. the use of yellow printers ink to give headlines a bold color..
 - d. an unwillingness to take editorial positions because of a fear of losing circulation.
 - e. the desire to present the news in an objective manner.

5. The media perform the signaler role by
 - a. informing the public of important news developments as quickly as possible.
 - b. serving as an open channel for leaders to express their opinions.
 - c. exposing officials who violate accepted performance and moral standards.
 - d. acting as the public's representative.
 - e. all of the above.

6. The news media's common-carrier role is based on the idea that
 - a. the news will be available to all citizens.
 - b. various news organizations should interpret the news in nearly the same way.
 - c. the press should not charge for public service announcements.
 - d. the press should provide a channel through which political leaders can communicate their views to the public.
 - e. the press should be patriotic in the reporting of the news.

7. Which institution receives the most news coverage from the national press?
 - a. the presidency
 - b. Congress
 - c. state governments

- d. U.S. Supreme Court
 - e. the federal bureaucracy
8. Of the roles that the press plays in the American political system, which is it least equipped to carry out properly?
- a. common-carrier
 - b. signaler
 - c. watchdog
 - d. public representative
 - e. news interpreter
9. Which statement has been shown by scholarly research to be most true of the U.S. news journalists?
- a. Journalists have a very substantial liberal bias.
 - b. Journalists have a very substantial conservative bias.
 - c. Journalists have a clear Republican bias.
 - d. Journalists have a clear Democratic bias.
 - e. Journalists tend to be negative.
10. Objective reporting is based on the idea that a reporter's job is to
- a. report the facts in order to cover both sides of partisan debates
 - b. report what political leaders want them to report
 - c. discover what other reporters are saying and provide a uniform interpretation of events
 - d. scrutinize partisan debates and tell the news audience which party has the better argument
 - e. sensationalize the information in order to boost advertising revenue.
11. The purpose of the FCC's cross-ownership rules is to
- a. regulate corporate ownership of both television stations and newspapers in the same market
 - b. regulate corporate ownership of both television stations and sports teams
 - c. regulate corporate ownership of both television stations and motion picture companies
 - d. regulate election ads in internet blogs
12. "Horse race journalism" refers primarily to media coverage of
- a. the stock market
 - b. the sports world
 - c. election campaigns
 - d. legislative debates
 - e. embedded reporters in war zones.
13. During the early part of the Iraq War, Al-Jazeera TV aired pictures of dead U.S. soldiers.
- a. true
 - b. false
14. Legislation whose tangible benefits are targeted solely at a particular legislator's constituency is
- a. pork-barrel legislation.
 - b. logrolling.
 - c. gerrymandering.
 - d. private legislation.
 - e. public interest legislation
15. When the House and Senate pass different versions of a bill, the differences are resolved by a
- a. conference committee.
 - b. standing committee.
 - c. select committee.
 - d. rules committee.
 - e. joint committee.

16. The congressional lawmaking process is biased toward
 - a. bold new initiatives rather than small adjustments in existing legislative programs.
 - b. blocking legislation rather than passing it.
 - c. national interests at the expense of local ones.
 - d. foreign policy issues at the expense of domestic policy issues.
 - e. the enactment of big social programs.

17. Campaign spending tends to be more important
 - a. for challengers and non-incumbents rather than incumbents.
 - b. for Republican candidates.
 - c. for Democratic candidates.
 - d. for candidates in urban areas than candidates in rural areas.
 - e. for men rather than women.

18. Through a vote for cloture, the Senate
 - a. confirms presidential appointees.
 - b. ends a filibuster.
 - c. overrides a presidential pocket veto.
 - d. accepts the House version of a bill.
 - e. closes its legislative session for the year.

19. Most of the work on legislation in Congress is done
 - a. by committees and their respective subcommittees.
 - b. on the floor of the House and Senate.
 - c. by conference committees.
 - d. by the president.
 - e. by bureaucratic agencies.

20. What is the strategy employed in the Senate to prevent a bill from coming to a vote?
 - a. mark-up
 - b. filibuster
 - c. cloture
 - d. pocket veto
 - e. conference committee

21. When Congress passes a "distributive" piece of legislation, it means
 - a. benefits are taken away from one group and given to another
 - b. benefits are distributed to a particular group while spreading the costs among the general public
 - c. benefits are distributed equally among the population
 - d. costs and benefits are distributed equally among the general public
 - e. costs are distributed to a particular group with the benefits distributed among the general public.

22. The highest priority for most members of Congress is
 - a. ensuring that the constitutional system of checks and balances works properly.
 - b. supporting his or her party's legislative platform.
 - c. getting reelected.
 - d. gaining a reputation among other members of Congress as an effective legislator.
 - e. working with the president to get things done.

23. Gerrymandering refers to the practice of
 - a. creating regular shaped districts with no partisan bias
 - b. creating irregular shaped districts with no partisan bias
 - c. creating irregular shaped districts with a partisan bias
 - d. allowing state legislatures to establish congressional districts

24. The “vicious cycle of congressional elections” maintains that
- challengers can easily raise all of the money they need
 - aside from money, incumbents and challengers are on a level-playing field in terms of their name recognition by voters
 - to raise money, challengers must be perceived as competitive, but to be competitive, challengers must raise money
 - incumbents are able to achieve name recognition by being frank with voters.
25. Tom Delay is
- a Republican senator from Texas, currently under indictment for money laundering
 - a Democratic representative from Texas, currently under indictment for money laundering
 - Senate majority leader, currently under indictment for money laundering
 - House majority leader, currently under indictment for money laundering
26. The president’s role in foreign policy increased largely because
- Congress proved so inept in foreign affairs that the American people demanded a change.
 - America became more of a world power.
 - of the need to coordinate national economic policy and foreign policy, a task to which the presidency was well-suited.
 - of the desire of U.S. business to expand into Latin America and Asia, which required executive action at the highest level.
 - of attitudes by the American public.
27. A reason why the nation did not routinely need a strong president during most of the nineteenth century was
- the small policy making role of the federal government.
 - the sectional nature of the nation’s major issues.
 - the U.S. government’s small role in world affairs.
 - all of the above.
 - none of the above.
28. Candidate strategy in the early presidential nominating contests (such as New Hampshire’s primary) is designed chiefly to gain
- momentum.
 - the support of the party’s organizational leaders.
 - the support of the party’s congressional leaders.
 - the endorsement of the national party committee.
 - the endorsement of rival candidates.
29. According to the U.S. Constitution, if no one candidate receives a majority vote of the Electoral College, who chooses the president?
- the U.S. Senate
 - the U.S. House of Representatives
 - both the Senate and House in joint session
 - the Supreme Court
 - the people in a runoff election
30. The honeymoon period occurs during
- a president’s second term only.
 - the first part of a president’s term.
 - the period of a president’s term immediately following a successful foreign policy initiative.
 - the period of a president’s term immediately following a successful domestic policy initiative.
 - the State of the Union address.

31. The forced removal of a president from office through impeachment and conviction requires action by
 - a. the House of Representatives only.
 - b. the Senate only.
 - c. the House and Senate in a joint session.
 - d. the House and Senate in separate proceedings.
 - e. the Supreme Court in a judicial proceeding.

32. The two presidencies thesis refers to
 - a. Republican versus Democratic presidents.
 - b. foreign policies versus domestic policies.
 - c. the first presidential term versus the second presidential term.
 - d. positive presidents versus negative presidents.

33. The way the president can make diplomatic agreements with other nations yet by-pass formal Senate approval is by using the
 - a. legislative veto
 - b. executive agreement
 - c. sunset laws
 - d. power to make war
 - e. Kyoto protocol.

34. Under the unit rule for allocating electoral votes in a presidential election
 - a. all of a states' electoral votes go to one candidate
 - b. a states' electoral votes are allocated according to the popular vote in the state
 - c. each electoral vote counts as one unit
 - d. a states' electoral votes are allocated according to the popular vote within congressional districts

35. President Clinton was impeached because
 - a. he had sexual relations with a White House intern
 - b. he was indicted in the Whitewater scandal
 - c. he lied to the American people during a live news conference
 - d. he committed perjury

36. Presidential agenda-setting refers to the president's ability to
 - a. establish broad domestic policy agendas
 - b. control what the media reports
 - c. determine the legislative schedule for Congress
 - d. direct the caseload for the Supreme Court
 - e. all of the above

37. The Plame Affair refers to
 - a. an inappropriate romantic relationship between a CIA agent and Vice President Cheney's chief-of-staff.
 - b. revealing the identity of a CIA agent and ruining her career in order to stifle criticism of pre-war intelligence.
 - c. an inappropriate romantic relationship between "Scooter" Libby and President Bush's chief-of-staff, Karl Rove.
 - d. criticism of pre-war intelligence claims by Valerie Plame's husband in retaliation for an inappropriate romantic relationship between Plame and Cheney's chief-of-staff.

38. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are
 - a. agencies within cabinet departments.
 - b. independent agencies.
 - c. regulatory agencies.
 - d. cabinet departments

39. Policy implementation refers to the bureaucratic function of
- executing the authoritative decisions of Congress, the president, and the courts.
 - regulating the distribution of funds to individuals and corporations.
 - delegating legislative authority to smaller operating units of the bureaucracy.
 - all of the above.
 - none of the above.
40. The Postal Service and Amtrak are examples of
- cabinet departments.
 - government corporations.
 - independent agencies.
 - regulatory agencies.
 - presidential commissions.
41. The special interests that benefit directly from a bureaucratic agency's programs are called
- clienteles groups.
 - pressure groups.
 - entitlement groups.
 - programmatic groups.
 - recipient groups.
42. The chief way that administrative agencies exercise real power is through
- rule making, or deciding how a law will operate in practice.
 - judicial interpretation, or mandating the constitutionality or unconstitutionality of a new statute.
 - hiring and firing government personnel in the name of efficiency and effectiveness.
 - testifying before Congress on the merits or demerits of a proposed regulation or law.
 - lobbying the White House for more independence in their decisions.
43. The modern civil service system is based on
- informal standards of personal conduct.
 - codified classifications and prerequisite experience or competitive testing.
 - rewards for partisan activity.
 - presidential appointment on the basis of campaign contributions.
 - a lottery system.
44. Bureaucracy is defined in terms of
- inefficiency, inflexibility, and red tape.
 - hierarchy, specialization, and rules.
 - honesty, efficiency, and patronage.
 - corruption, incompetence, and spoils.
 - waste, red tape, and lack of rules.
45. The final authority to approve or disapprove an agency's budget lies with the
- cabinet secretary
 - Congress
 - president
 - OMB
46. Iron triangles typically involve all except which one of the following
- bureaucratic agencies
 - White House aides
 - clienteles groups
 - congressional subcommittees

47. Congressional delegation of authority to the bureaucracy refers to
- granting authority to bureaucratic agencies to write rules for the implementation of policy
 - giving up control over the federal budget to bureaucratic agencies
 - bestowing agenda-setting powers to the federal bureaucracy
 - a bi-partisan congressional delegation that oversees bureaucratic agencies
48. A judicial decision that establishes a rule for settling subsequent cases of a similar nature is a
- writ of *certiorari*.
 - landmark decision.
 - writ of *mandamus*.
 - precedent.
 - writ of error
49. A writ of *certiorari* is
- permission granted by a higher court allowing a losing party to bring its case before the court for a ruling.
 - the statement explaining the reasoning behind a Supreme Court decision.
 - the official transcript of Supreme Court proceedings.
 - a statement from a group not directly involved in a Supreme Court case, indicating the group's opinion on the legal issue at hand.
 - an application for a waiver of court fees due to indigence.
50. Compared with the decision in a Supreme Court case, the opinion is more significant because it
- determines the losing party in a case and the penalty to be imposed on this party.
 - reveals the conflicts between the justices, which the president and Congress can use in determining their position on judicial appointments and new legislation.
 - informs others of the Court's interpretation of the laws and thereby guides their decisions.
 - addresses the constitutional aspects of a case, whereas the decision addresses the statutory aspects.
 - none of the above.
51. The United States has federal courts and state courts because of
- the separation of powers.
 - citizenship laws.
 - precedent.
 - judicial review.
 - federalism.
52. Senatorial courtesy refers to the tradition whereby
- nominees for federal judgeships are treated with respect during Senate confirmation hearings, even by senators who plan to vote against the nominee.
 - senators usually defer to the president's choice of Supreme Court nominees.
 - senators are consulted on the nomination of lower-court federal judgeships in their state.
 - nominations for the federal courts, once committee hearings are concluded, are scheduled for a vote ahead of other Senate business.
 - House members always defer to the Senate on matters dealing with the judiciary.
53. Precedent, while not an absolute constraint on the courts, is needed to
- preserve the courts as a counter majoritarian institution.
 - maintain legal consistency over time, so that confusion and uncertainty about the meaning of the law can be avoided.
 - check the president in the area of public law.
 - balance the policy making authority of Congress.
 - check the president in the area of foreign policy.

54. The term *stare decisis* refers to
- adherence to precedent.
 - judicial activism.
 - judicial restraint.
 - judicial review.
 - excessive partisanship.
55. An *amicus curiae* (“friend of the court”) brief provides a court with the view held by
- an interest which is not a direct party to the case.
 - the Justice Department.
 - the House and Senate judiciary committees.
 - the American Bar Association.
 - the solicitor general
56. According to the doctrine of judicial restraint, the judiciary should
- defer to the decisions of elected officials.
 - deny most appeals for retrials.
 - deny individual rights when they conflict with the majority’s desires.
 - decline to make any decision that requires judges to interpret the words of the Constitution.
 - conform to the will of the people as measured by public opinion polls.
57. In *Bush v. Gore* (2000), the Supreme Court
- halted the manual recount of undervotes in Florida.
 - declined to get involved in the electoral process.
 - cast a unanimous vote.
 - deferred to the Florida Supreme Court in the election dispute between the two major party candidates.
 - decided that there was no federal question in the dispute.
58. The Supreme Court invoked the _____ in *Bush v. Gore* (2000).
- free speech clause
 - establishment clause
 - assembly clause
 - voting clause
 - equal protection clause
59. The lowest level of the federal court system is the
- circuit court of appeal.
 - highest level of the state courts.
 - district court.
 - justice of the peace.
 - supreme judicial tribunal.
60. Opposition to the judiciary’s creative policy making role is a consistent tenet of judicial
- activism.
 - liberalism.
 - restraint.
 - conservatism.
 - relativism.