

Political Science 101
Practice Midterm

1. The foundation for U.S. policy toward the Soviet Union after World War II was
 - a. détente.
 - b. unilateralism.
 - c. containment.
 - d. internationalism.
 - e. isolationism.

2. _____ declared that an iron curtain had fallen across Europe.
 - a. Winston Churchill
 - b. Harry Truman
 - c. Joseph Stalin
 - d. Neville Chamberlain
 - e. Dwight Eisenhower

3. The communists took over China in _____.
 - a. 1917
 - b. 1929
 - c. 1935
 - d. 1949
 - e. 1962

4. The use of the military to restrict illegal immigration and drug trafficking is an example of
 - a. police-type action.
 - b. counterinsurgency.
 - c. limited conventional war.
 - d. insurgency.
 - e. unlimited conventional war.

5. About the position of the United States in world trade, it can be said that
 - a. the United States has never had a trade surplus.
 - b. in recent years, the United States has had trade surpluses more often than it has had deficits.
 - c. the United States has the most favorable balance of trade in the world.
 - d. the United States is a larger market than the European Union is.
 - e. none of the above.

6. The phrase that best describes the shift in America's world position from the pre- to the post- World War II eras is
 - a. internationalism to isolationism.
 - b. isolationism to internationalism.
 - c. containment to isolationism.
 - d. interventionism to isolationism.

- e. none of the above.
7. Which of the following is a true statement regarding the Cold War?
- a. It never became an actual shooting war between the United States and the Soviet Union.
 - b. It included a policy of containment.
 - c. It included U.S. support for governments threatened by communism.
 - d. The global power structure was bipolar.
 - e. All of the above.
8. One reason why the Soviet Union eventually collapsed was its
- a. heavy defense expenditures.
 - b. isolation from western technology and markets.
 - c. inefficient centralized command economy.
 - d. *perestroika* initiative.
 - e. all of the above.
9. After Soviet takeovers in Eastern Europe following World War II, President Harry Truman believed that the Soviet Union was
- a. a global threat.
 - b. a regional threat only.
 - c. not a threat to Western Europe.
 - d. likely to evolve into a true democracy within a decade.
 - e. on the verge of a civil war.
10. The European Recovery Plan is better known as the _____.
- a. Truman Doctrine
 - b. Marshall Plan
 - c. Carter Doctrine
 - d. Clinton Manifesto
 - e. Reagan Decree
11. Which one of the following is not widely regarded as a political ideal in America?
- a. liberty
 - b. equality
 - c. self-government
 - d. freedom
 - e. collectivism
12. Overt discrimination against the Chinese and other Asian groups was eliminated from U.S. immigration laws in _____.
- a. 1882
 - b. 1923
 - c. 1965
 - d. 1987
 - e. 1998

13. The statement, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,” can be found in
- the Declaration of Independence.
 - the U.S. Constitution.
 - the Federalist Papers.
 - the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
 - the Emancipation Proclamation.
14. The process that determines how a society will be governed refers to
- politics.
 - government.
 - elitism.
 - socialism
 - communism.
15. Americans’ emphasis on self-sufficiency and material accumulation reflects their belief in
- liberty.
 - self-government.
 - individualism.
 - diversity.
 - collectivism.
16. In the *Second Treatise on Civil Government*, _____ argued that all individuals have certain natural rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- Thomas Hobbes
 - John Locke
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - Jean Jacques Rousseau
 - James Madison
17. Which of the following is true about the United States?
- The candidate with the most popular votes always becomes president.
 - There are forms of direct democracy at the national level.
 - To protect against abuses of power, the Framers of the Constitution devised a system of checks and balances.
 - Majority rule is more direct in the United States than in other European democracies.
 - Senators, representatives, and presidents all have the same terms of office.
18. A major criticism of the theory of pluralism is that
- there are no organized interest groups.
 - majorities always win.
 - only a small number of powerful groups are well organized and highly influential on policy makers.

- d. minority groups always win.
 - f. none of the above.
19. _____ Americans are the largest minority in the United States.
- a. African
 - b. Hispanic
 - c. Asian
 - d. Native
 - e. Independent
20. One fear about majority rule in a democracy is that it could lead to
- a. apathy on the part of elites.
 - b. tyranny through suppression of the minority.
 - c. public policies that benefit special-interest groups.
 - d. control of government by career bureaucrats.
 - e. all of the above
21. Early Americans' preference for limited government was strengthened by
- a. Britain's Glorious Revolution.
 - b. Lockean philosophy.
 - c. Britain's treatment of the colonies after the French and Indian War.
 - d. taxation without representation.
 - e. all of the above.
22. *Marbury v. Madison* was an ingenious decision because it
- a. returned a case that involved the issue of states' rights into one that asserted national power.
 - b. redefined the constitutional relationship between the president and Congress.
 - c. asserted the power of the judiciary without bringing it into direct conflict with the president or Congress.
 - d. turned a case that involved the issue of states' rights into one that asserted judicial power over the institutions of society.
 - e. gave more power to the presidency, at the expense of Congress.
23. The writers of the Constitution used the term _____ to describe the form of government in which power resides in the people but is exercised through a system of representative institutions.
- a. democracy
 - b. republic
 - c. federalism
 - d. constitutionalism
 - f. Electoral College
24. Thomas Jefferson proclaimed the Revolution of 1800 the victory of
- a. common people over wealthy interests.

- b. merchants over farmers.
 - c. southern interests over northern interests.
 - d. nationalists over states' rights advocates.
 - e. American interests over foreign interests.
25. Andrew Jackson persuaded the states to choose their presidential electors
- a. on the basis of popular voting.
 - b. by a vote of the state legislature.
 - c. by a vote of Congress.
 - d. by a presidential convention.
 - e. on the basis of one state, one elector.
26. The Articles of Confederation provided for
- a. a national Congress.
 - b. each state having one vote in Congress.
 - c. unanimous approval by the states to amend the Articles.
 - d. all of the above.
 - f. none of the above.
27. The inalienable rights in the Declaration of Independence are
- a. life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
 - b. liberty, equality, and fraternity.
 - c. life, liberty, and property.
 - d. life and property only.
 - b. equality and liberty only.
28. Not among the checks Congress has on the executive is
- a. power to ratify treaties.
 - b. power to approve executive appointments.
 - c. power to hold hearings.
 - d. power to impeach.
 - e. power to administer the laws directly if it chooses to do so.
29. The document explaining the ideas of the Constitution and urging its ratification is the
- a. Mayflower Compact.
 - b. Declaration of Independence.
 - c. Anti-Federalist Papers.
 - d. *Federalist* Papers.
 - e. Declaration of Conscience.
30. Judicial review is the power of the American courts to
- a. declare a law unconstitutional.
 - b. suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*.
 - c. impeach the president.
 - d. give advisory opinions to Congress.

- e. give advice and counsel to the president.
31. *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*).
 - e. none of the above.
32. Compared with the national legislatures of most northern European countries, the United States Congress has _____ proportion of women.
- a. a lower
 - b. a narrowly higher
 - c. a somewhat higher
 - d. a substantially higher
 - g. nearly the same
33. According to Gunnar Myrdal, what is America's curse?
- a. greed
 - b. racial discrimination
 - c. obesity
 - d. street violence
 - c. religious intolerance
34. Women in America obtained the right to vote in national elections in
- a. 1790.
 - b. 1865.
 - c. 1890.
 - d. 1920.
 - g. 1974.
35. 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.
36. The end of Reconstruction in the South was followed soon thereafter by.
- a. a sharp increase in black voter participation in the South.
 - b. a rapid rise in the size of the southern black middle-class.

- c. a lengthy period of racial segregation in the South's public schools and public accommodations.
 - d. a surge of support for the Republican party in the South.
 - e. actions by southern state legislatures to heal the racial divisions that existed as a result of the South's history of slavery.
37. Equality of result policies are primarily directed at _____ discriminatory effects.
- a. *de jure*
 - b. *de facto*
 - c. religious
 - d. gender
 - e. due process
38. Puerto Rican Americans typically support _____ candidates.
- a. Republican
 - b. Libertarian
 - c. Democratic
 - d. Socialist
 - e. Independent
39. In colonial times, women were not permitted to
- a. vote.
 - b. hold office.
 - c. serve on juries.
 - d. own and dispense property without the husband's consent.
 - e. all of the above.
40. _____ was arrested twice and fined in her hometown of Rochester, New York for organized Election Day protests against laws denying women the right to vote.
- a. Loretta Sanchez
 - b. Geraldine Ferraro
 - c. Susan B. Anthony
 - d. Amelia Earhart
 - e. Eleanor Roosevelt
41. Viewed in historical terms, federalism has been a
- a. pragmatic principle, in that the relationship between the nation and the states has adapted to the needs of the time.
 - b. theoretical principle, in that constitutional provisions for federalism have had virtually no impact on the relationship between the nation and the states.
 - c. flawed principle, in that the relationship between the nation and the states has been a constant source of problems without many positive benefits.
 - d. fixed principle, in that the relationship between the nation and states is almost completely defined by provisions of the Constitution.
 - f. poor replacement for the confederal system which existed before the

Constitution.

42. Sovereignty refers to
- a government headed by a king.
 - a division of authority between the national government and the states.
 - ultimate governing authority.
 - subnational (state) governments.
 - none of the above.
43. Which of the following is most closely related to the concept of implied powers?
- necessary and proper clause
 - supremacy clause
 - Tenth Amendment
 - the commerce clause
 - the power to tax
44. According to the Federalists, the states would have political control over all of the following except
- public morals.
 - education.
 - the country's economy.
 - social welfare programs.
 - public health.
45. According to the *Dred Scott* decision, slaves were
- property.
 - beings of an inferior order.
 - not full American citizens.
 - not allowed to litigate in federal courts.
 - all of the above.
46. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the national government
- provided vast sums to business firms to keep them out of bankruptcy.
 - provided health care to Americans on a temporary basis as a means of alleviating economic hardships.
 - asserted the power to regulate the nation's economy.
 - provided vast sums to the states so they could meet their citizens' welfare needs.
 - utilized *laissez-faire* capitalism in its policies.
47. The Constitution allows states to
- raise an army in peacetime.
 - print money.
 - make commercial agreements with other states without the consent of Congress.
 - govern intrastate commerce.

- e. govern interstate commerce.
48. 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.
 - a. none of the above.
49. The federal government's power to tax, regulate commerce among the states, and to declare war are all examples of _____ powers.
- a. reserved
 - b. enumerated
 - c. implied
 - d. concurrent
 - e. none of the above
50. In America today, public education is primarily the responsibility of
- a. the national government.
 - b. state and local governments.
 - c. the National Education Association (NEA).
 - d. the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).
 - e. the U.S. Department of Education.
51. The term, civil liberties, refers to liberties that
- a. apply in civil cases but not in criminal cases.
 - b. apply in civil cases but not in military ones.
 - c. are constitutionally protected from infringement by government.
 - d. are constitutionally protected from infringement by individuals.
 - g. are not covered by the First Amendment.
52. Which of the following is correct with regard to obscenity and the law?
- a. Obscenity is not protected by the First Amendment.
 - b. Obscenity is never unlawful.
 - c. Child pornography is protected by the First Amendment.
 - d. Obscenity has been easy for courts to define with precision.
 - g. Obscenity is protected under the Ninth Amendment.
53. 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.
 - f. interfering with the right to bear arms.

54. The Supreme Court has reasoned that a right of privacy is provided by
- the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
 - the Ninth Amendment, which says that people's rights are not limited to those enumerated in the Constitution.
 - the Tenth Amendment, which reserves to the people and the states those powers not granted to the federal government.
 - a reasonable interpretation of other constitutional protections of individual rights.
55. In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992), the justices
- ruled that states are free to adopt abortion laws of their choosing.
 - reaffirmed the right to an abortion in the early months of pregnancy.
 - invoked the Ninth Amendment for the first time in an abortion decision.
 - invalidated the right to an abortion in the early months of pregnancy.
 - none of the above.
56. The freedoms of speech, press, assembly, and petition are found in
- the First Amendment.
 - the Fourth Amendment.
 - the Sixth Amendment.
 - the Tenth Amendment.
 - the Fourteenth Amendment.
57. "You have the right to remain silent....Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law...You have the right to an attorney." This is called
- the preferred position doctrine.
 - the clear and present danger test.
 - the Miranda warning.
 - the fairness doctrine.
 - none of the above.
58. Which of the following amendments contains a due process clause?
- First
 - Tenth
 - Third
 - Fourteenth
 - Twenty-First
59. Slander applies to defamation of an individual's reputation through the
- written word.
 - spoken word.
 - written and spoken word.
 - written, spoken, and symbolic word.
 - none of the above.

60. In the Constitution, procedural due process is protected by the
- a. Fourth Amendment.
 - b. Fifth Amendment.
 - c. Sixth Amendment.
 - d. Fourteenth Amendment.
 - e. all of the above.