

Political Science 101
Practice Midterm #2

1. The technological change that began the decline of the partisan press was
 - a. the invention of television.
 - b. the invention of the high speed rotary press.
 - c. the invention of radio.
 - d. the development of chain newspapers.
 - e. the invention of computers.

2. Broadcasting revolutionized the American media because it
 - a. was the first truly national mass medium.
 - b. opened a direct, instantaneous channel between a leader and the people.
 - c. reached millions of people simultaneously.
 - d. all of the above.
 - e. none of the above.

3. Freedom of the press is substantial in the United States because
 - a. the libel laws favor the press over a public figure.
 - b. of the country's tradition of free expression.
 - c. of the judiciary's position that prior restraint of the press by government is rarely permissible.
 - d. it is a First Amendment liberty.
 - e. all of the above.

4. Major news organizations differ mainly in
 - a. which news stories they choose to report.
 - b. the varying interpretations they place on stories about the same topic.
 - c. the way in which they present stories about the same topics.
 - d. which side they support in the partisan debate.
 - e. which side they support in an ideological debate.

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 Watergate scandal illustrates the
 - a. futility of media attempts to forecast political events.
 - b. inadequacy of the media as a common-carrier to the public.
 - c. power of the media to serve as watchdog to safeguard against abuse of power.
 - d. ability of the press to serve as the public's representative in political disputes.
 - e. abuse of power by journalists in the United States.

7. The American press serves most importantly as a key link between
 - a. parties and interest groups.
 - b. the three branches of government.
 - c. the public and its leaders.
 - d. the United States and other nations.
 - e. the national and the state governments.

8. Yellow journalism contributed to public support for the
 - a. Spanish-American War.
 - b. Civil War.
 - c. War of 1812.
 - d. Mexican War of 1848.
 - e. American Revolution.

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. Historically, the American press has shifted from
 - a. a partisan orientation to a journalistic orientation.
 - b. objectivity to accuracy.
 - c. a journalistic orientation to a partisan orientation.
 - d. partisan to very partisan.
 - e. negative to positive.

11. The news media's favored position in the law means that the media
 - a. have unchecked authority to print anything at all, whether it is true or not.
 - b. are the only private institution to enjoy special constitutional protection.
 - c. are acknowledged as a better representative of the public than are the officials elected by the public.
 - d. have a very positive relationship with the president and Congress.
 - e. all of the above.

12. 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.
 - f. working with the president to get things done.

13. 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.

14. A standing committee in the House or Senate
 - a. is a permanent committee.
 - b. has jurisdiction over a particular policy area.
 - c. has authority to draft, amend, and recommend legislation.
 - d. is usually organized according to the seniority principle.
 - e. all of the above.

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 author states that successful candidates now run two campaigns—
 - a. one campaign for newspaper endorsements and a second for neighborhood and ethnic support.
 - b. one campaign in the free television news and a second campaign in paid television advertising.
 - c. one campaign in Washington raising campaign funds and a second back home appealing for votes.
 - d. one campaign for votes and another for media support.
 - e. none of the above.

17. Campaign spending tends to be greatly 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.
 - f. for men rather than women.

18. Most of the legislative work of Congress is performed by
 - a. the standing committees and subcommittees with jurisdiction over particular policy areas.
 - b. the joint committees chosen to coordinate actions between the two chambers of Congress.
 - c. the select committees chosen to study special problems on a temporary basis.
 - d. the steering committees that decide party stands on particular bills.
 - e. party leaders in both chambers.

19. On broad issues of national significance, Congress is ordinarily most responsive to the initiatives of
 - a. the president.
 - b. special interest groups.
 - c. the national and state party organizations.
 - d. the committee leadership in Congress.
 - e. bureaucratic agencies.

20. By and large, partisanship is
 - a. irrelevant to the work of Congress.
 - b. the main source of cohesion and division within Congress.
 - c. relevant only in the context of local representation.
 - d. important in lawmaking and representation but not in oversight.
 - e. more important in foreign policy than domestic policy.

21. Bills are formally introduced in Congress by _____.
 - a. members of Congress only.
 - b. executive agencies.
 - c. interest groups.
 - d. the Supreme Court.
 - e. a, b, and c

22. There are currently _____ voting members of the U.S. House of Representatives and _____ voting members of the U.S. Senate.
 - a. 300; 50
 - b. 435; 100
 - c. 150; 50
 - d. 300; 100
 - e. 600; 300

23. For a bill to pass in either chamber of Congress,
- it must receive the support of a third of its members.
 - it must receive the support of a simple majority of its members.
 - it must receive the support of two-thirds of its members.
 - it must be passed within two weeks of its passage by the other chamber.
 - it must be passed within a month of its passage by the other chamber.
24. The trading of votes between members of Congress so that each gets the legislation he or she wants is
- gerrymandering.
 - pandering.
 - logrolling.
 - pork-barreling.
 - cloturing.
25. 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.
26. 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
27. _____ has the most votes in the Electoral College in presidential elections.
- Texas
 - California
 - New York
 - Pennsylvania
 - Florida

28. Which of the following is part of the Executive Office of the President?
- Office of Science and Technology Policy
 - Council of Economic Advisers
 - National Security Council
 - Office of the Vice President
 - All of the above
29. The presidency has been a consistently activist office since the administration of
- Andrew Jackson.
 - Abraham Lincoln.
 - U.S. Grant.
 - Franklin Roosevelt.
 - Richard Nixon.
30. 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.
31. Presidents' accomplishments have largely depended on
- their margin of victory in the presidential campaign.
 - whether circumstances favor strong presidential leadership.
 - their ability to come up with good ideas.
 - their skill at balancing the demands of competing groups.
 - mid-term elections.
32. The two presidencies thesis holds that a president is likely to be most successful with Congress on policy initiatives involving
- social welfare policy.
 - foreign policy.
 - tax policy.
 - economic policy.
 - environmental policy.
33. A president's policy initiatives are significantly more successful when the president
- has the strong support of the American people.
 - is a former member of Congress.
 - is on good terms with other world leaders.
 - is in office when the economy goes bad, which creates a demand for stronger leadership.
 - none of the above.

34. _____ is the largest threat to the president's ability to control the news media.
- World hunger
 - Scandal
 - Homelessness
 - AIDS
 - Environmental degradation
35. Which is normally the best thing a president can do to ensure political success?
- maintain strong public schools
 - preside over a healthy economy
 - manipulate the mass media
 - visit many foreign nations
 - focus on human rights abroad.
36. The strongest records of most presidents have been established during their
- early years in office.
 - middle years in office.
 - final two years in office.
 - final year in office.
 - final months in office.
37. A principle of bureaucratic organization is
- hierarchical authority.
 - job specialization.
 - formalized rules.
 - all of the above.
 - none of the above.
38. Whenever Congress has a perceived need for ongoing control of an economic activity, it has tended to create a
- regulatory agency.
 - cabinet department.
 - presidential commission.
 - government corporation.
 - blue ribbon panel.
39. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are
- all agencies within cabinet departments.
 - all independent agencies.
 - all regulatory agencies.
 - all cabinet departments
 - respectively, an agency within a cabinet department, an independent agency, and a regulatory agency.

40. 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.
41. The functions of the bureaucratic agencies include all of the following except
- regulation of industries, such as meat and poultry.
 - development of public policy.
 - delivery of services as provided by laws.
 - confirmation of those nominated by the president to head the agencies.
 - implementation of public policy.
42. Career bureaucrats tend to follow
- the wishes of the president.
 - the wishes of Congress.
 - their own agency's point of view.
 - the expectations of the general public.
 - the wishes of federal judges.
43. The special interests that benefit directly from a bureaucratic agency's programs are called
- clienteles groups.
 - pressure groups.
 - entitlement groups.
 - programmatic groups.
 - recipient groups.
44. In terms of holding the bureaucracy accountable, the most important unit within the Executive Office of the President is the
- Office of Policy Development.
 - Office of Management and Budget.
 - Council of Economic Advisors.
 - White House Office.
 - Office of the Vice President.
45. The courts have tended to support administrators so long as their agencies
- choose rules that save money.
 - can apply a reasonable interpretation of a statute.
 - follow what the president demands of them.
 - have adequate funding.
 - don't come into conflict with state governments.

46. 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..
47. The Postal Service and Amtrak are examples of
- cabinet departments.
 - government corporations.
 - independent agencies.
 - regulatory agencies.
 - presidential commissions.
48. Congress oversees the bureaucracy by using
- sunset laws.
 - the Government Accounting Office.
 - the Congressional Budget Office.
 - all of the above.
 - none of the above.
49. _____ is/are most likely to understand the complexities of U.S. trade policy.
- The president
 - Members of the Senate
 - Career bureaucrats in the Department of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission
 - Members of the House
 - Federal mediators
50. A concurring opinion
- explains the chief justice's position on a case.
 - is delivered when a justice agrees with the majority's decision, but for different reasons.
 - is delivered when the Court interprets a constitutional issue.
 - is delivered when at least two justices, but less than a majority, hold the same opinion in a case.
 - explains why the Court accepted the case in the first place.

51. A written Supreme Court opinion that, in the absence of a majority opinion, represents the reasoning of most of the justices who side with the winning party is
- plurality opinion.
 - concurring opinion.
 - leading opinion.
 - prevailing opinion.
 - per curiam*.
52. The appointment of federal judges is influenced most substantially by
- partisanship.
 - logrolling.
 - pork barreling.
 - affirmative action.
 - personal friendships.
53. The United States has federal courts and state courts because of
- the separation of powers.
 - citizenship laws.
 - precedent.
 - judicial review.
 - federalism.
54. The facts of a case
- are largely irrelevant, in that the judiciary has wide freedom with decisions.
 - affect which law or laws will apply to the case.
 - are important only if the case involves a statutory dispute.
 - are important only if the case involves a constitutional dispute.
 - are important about half of the time.
55. 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.
56. The term *stare decisis* refers to
- adherence to precedent.
 - judicial activism.
 - judicial restraint.
 - judicial review.
 - excessive partisanship.

57. The debate about the proper role of judicial authority in a political system based on majority rule is the issue of
- judicial restraint.
 - legitimacy.
 - amicus curiae*.
 - writ of *certiorari*.
 - judicial activism.
58. The debate of whether a court's decision will be respected and obeyed is the issue of
- legitimacy.
 - precedent.
 - judicial review.
 - compliance.
 - credibility.
59. If Congress disagreed with a Supreme Court ruling on a federal statute, it could possibly
- rewrite the statute.
 - express its displeasure with the ruling.
 - modify the scope of the Court's appellate jurisdiction.
 - amend the Constitution.
 - all of the above.
60. The Supreme Court is most likely to grant a hearing when a case involves
- an issue of state law as opposed to an issue of federal law.
 - an issue of private law as opposed to an issue of public law.
 - an issue that is being decided inconsistently by the lower courts.
 - the possibility that an innocent person has been wrongly convicted of a crime.
 - an issue dealing with state constitutional law.