1. The most essential feature of democratic government is

   (1) a bicameral legislature
   (2) a free and open election process
   (3) a written constitution
   (4) separate branches of government

2. Four statements dealing with the formation of a new government are given below. Base your answer(s) to the following question(s) on these statements and your knowledge of social studies.

   Statement A: Each person must be able to voice his or her concerns on all issues that involve this new nation and bear the responsibility for the decisions made.
   Statement B: The power of this new nation must rest in a strong, stable group that makes important decisions with the approval, but not the participation, of all.
   Statement C: There must be several governments within one nation to ensure adequate voice and responsibility to all.
   Statement D: Individuals must not allow their freedoms to be swallowed by an all-powerful government.

Which statement best shows the desire for safeguards such as those in the Bill of Rights?

(1) A  (2) B  (3) C  (4) D

3. Which principle was most fundamental to the authors of the United States Constitution?

   (1) executive control over the power of the purse
   (2) direct election of the President
   (3) a government of limited powers
   (4) universal suffrage for adults

4. The basic principle underlying the United States Constitution is that

   (1) the executive branch should be free to determine the type of government the administration will have
   (2) the interests of the state take precedence over those of the citizens
   (3) government has the duty to maintain law and order by whatever means necessary
   (4) the people are the ultimate source of power

5. Antifederalist objections to the ratification of the Constitution led to the

   (1) addition of a Bill of Rights
   (2) seven-year delay in the ratification of the Constitution
   (3) rewriting of major parts of the Constitution
   (4) elimination of states’ rights

6. One similarity between the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights is that both documents

   (1) provide for a government with three separate branches
   (2) discuss colonial grievances against the monarchy
   (3) stress the importance of individual liberty
   (4) criticize the practice of slavery
7. Which constitutional provision indicates that the authors of the original Constitution did not completely trust the common voter to make decisions?

(1) the electoral college
(2) the veto power of the President
(3) direct election of Senators
(4) election to the House of Representatives

8. The Constitutional Convention of 1787 was called primarily because

(1) the issue of settlement of western land needed solution
(2) no procedure existed for admitting new states
(3) the central government needed additional power
(4) mounting urban problems required Federal help

9. The authors of the United States Constitution believed that the voice of the people should be heard frequently. Which part of the Government was instituted to respond most directly to the will of the people?

(1) Senate
(2) House of Representatives
(3) Supreme Court
(4) Presidency

10. Why did the framers of the United States Constitution propose that members of the Supreme Court be appointed for life?

(1) Presidents would be allowed to reward supporters with permanent jobs.
(2) The Justices’ rulings would be protected from political influence.
(3) The appointment of older people to the Court would be discouraged.
(4) Justices would have time to gain experience.

11. The unwritten constitution is best defined as the

(1) amendments to the United States Constitution
(2) powers that the Constitution reserves for the states
(3) powers that the Constitution denies to Congress and to the states
(4) practices of the government that are based on custom and tradition

12. There has been disagreement concerning whether or not a newspaper should print material about the confession of a person accused of a crime, before a jury is selected to try the case. This situation represents a conflict between

(1) the powers of state and federal governments
(2) two branches of the Federal Government
(3) judges and lawyers
(4) two rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights
13. In the United States, which action would represent a “clear and present danger” in regard to the first amendment right of freedom of speech?

(1) using the Postal Service to request donations for a new political party advocating socialism
(2) printing of facts by a newspaper that indicate a state governor may have committed a crime
(3) publishing newspaper ads that call for the impeachment of the President
(4) using the mass media to urge citizens to assassinate public officials

14. Under the United States Constitution, those powers not delegated to the Federal Government are

(1) exercised only by state governors
(2) concerned only with issues of taxation
(3) reserved to the States or to the people
(4) divided equally between the States and the National Government

15. The requirement to conduct a census was included in the United States Constitution to

(1) control the numbers of immigrants
(2) determine income tax rates
(3) determine the number of members from each state in the House of Representatives
(4) record the birth and death rates of the population

16. The United States Constitution grants the Senate the power to

(1) impeach governors
(2) issue pardons
(3) appoint ambassadors
(4) approve treaties

17. Which action could eliminate the electoral college?

(1) a Supreme Court ruling
(2) a Presidential order
(3) passage of legislation by Congress
(4) ratification of a constitutional amendment

18. A decision of the United States Supreme Court can be overturned by

(1) an amendment to the Constitution
(2) the appointment of a new Chief Justice
(3) a national referendum
(4) a Presidential veto
19. In 1944, Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to a fourth term as President. Which action was taken to prevent future Presidents from breaking the two-term tradition?

(1) Both major political parties agreed to nominate a new candidate for President after an incumbent’s second term.

(2) A constitutional amendment was adopted, placing term limits on the Presidency.

(3) The Supreme Court ruled that a President could serve for only eight years.

(4) An unwritten agreement was made by Presidential candidates that they would serve for no more than two years.


—9th Amendment to the United States Constitution

The most likely reason this amendment was included in the Bill of Rights was to

(1) increase federal power over the people

(2) expand state control over individual citizens

(3) protect rights beyond those listed in the Constitution

(4) prevent Congress from granting additional rights to individuals

21. Political parties, judicial review, and lobbying are similar in that all

(1) became part of the government through constitutional amendments

(2) are examples of direct democracy

(3) illustrate the division of powers established in the Constitution

(4) are aspects of the unwritten Constitution

22. The elastic clause was included in the United Constitution to

(1) allow Congress to make laws to reflect changing conditions

(2) govern the District of Columbia

(3) restrict the powers of the Supreme Court

(4) permit the creation of a national army

23. Under the United States Constitution, state governments have the power to

(1) coin money

(2) license teachers

(3) regulate interstate commerce

(4) establish term limits for members of Congress

24. An advantage of a federal system of government is that it

(1) ensures speedy decisions

(2) guarantees the most democratic approach to government

(3) permits both national and local approaches to problems

(4) is the least costly form of government
25. “All communities divide themselves into the few and the many. The first are the rich and well born, the other the mass of the people ... The people are turbulent and changing ... Given therefore to the first class a distinct permanent share in the government. They will check the unsteadiness of the second.”

—Alexander Hamilton

The author of this quotation suggests that

(1) the will of the majority should guide public policy
(2) wealthy people are too preoccupied to rule well
(3) the common people cannot be trusted to run a stable government
(4) poorer people must work harder to gain access to economic and political power

26. Federalism is best described as the

(1) authority to make and enforce decisions based on a written constitution
(2) difference in the function of the public and private sectors of the economy
(3) division of powers between a national government and state governments
(4) use of checks and balances between the three branches of government

27. A sharp decline in United States military spending would most likely indicate that

(1) Congress has failed to check the President's spending power
(2) military lobbies have exerted greater influence than other lobbies
(3) the public and Congress believe that threats to national security have decreased
(4) many domestic social programs have also been eliminated from the budget

28. After World War I, the opposition of some Members of Congress to the Versailles Treaty was based largely on the idea that the Treaty

(1) did not punish the Central Powers harshly enough.
(2) did not give the United States an important role in world affairs.
(3) would require the United States to join the League of Nations and might result in a loss of United States sovereignty.
(4) would require the United States to assume the cost of rebuilding the war-torn European economies.

29. Which action would be necessary to place a legal limit on the number of terms served by members of Congress?

(1) an amendment to the Federal Constitution
(2) a United States Supreme Court ruling
(3) an agreement between political parties
(4) a Presidential order
30. As United States involvement in world affairs has increased, the power of the Presidency has also increased because

(1) congressional leaders have been unwilling to divert their attention from domestic issues
(2) according to custom and tradition, Congress does not discuss foreign policy issues
(3) the Senate has consistently failed to check the President’s power by refusing to ratify treaties
(4) the Constitution gives primary responsibility for foreign relations to the President

31. The legal basis for the United States purchase of the Louisiana Territory was the

(1) power granted to the President to make treaties
(2) President’s power as Commander in Chief
(3) authority of Congress to declare war
(4) Senate’s duty to approve the appointment of ambassadors

32. A president’s interpretation of the United States Constitution may continue to be influential long after the President leaves office because the President has the power to

(1) make State of the Union addresses
(2) ratify amendments to the Constitution
(3) nominate Federal Justices, who serve for life
(4) establish a legislative agenda for Congress

33. In the United States Government, members of the Cabinet are directly responsible to the

(1) Congress (2) Senate
(3) Supreme Court (4) President

34. What were two key precedents established by George Washington during his presidency?

(1) aid to farmers and the end of the slave trade
(2) universal male suffrage and support for political parties
(3) foreign policy of neutrality and the use of presidential advisors
(4) protective tariffs and foreign alliances during peacetime

35. Much of the authority of the United States Supreme Court is based on its power to

(1) propose legislation to Congress
(2) change the distribution of powers as outlined in the Federal Constitution
(3) amend state and federal constitutions
(4) interpret the Federal Constitution

36. In the mid-1930’s, critics viewed Franklin D. Roosevelt’s plan to pack the Supreme Court with additional Justices as

(1) an ineffective response to the problems of the Great Depression
(2) a violation of the principle of checks and balances
(3) a threat to representative government
(4) the beginning of socialism in the judicial system
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