Chapter 10: The Judiciary

Reading Comprehension Quiz

Multiple Choice Questions

1) Supreme Court justices and federal judges serve for
A) four-year terms.
B) eight-year terms.
C) life.
D) life with good behavior.
E) twelve-year terms.

2) In ________, the U.S. Supreme Court held that it had the power to review the constitutionality of acts of Congress.
A) Marbury v. Madison
B) Martin v. Hunter's Lessee
C) McCulloch v. Maryland
D) Gibbons v. Ogden
E) Hamilton v. Jefferson

3) State courts of original jurisdiction where cases begin are called
A) first courts.
B) appellate courts.
C) trial courts.
D) select courts.
E) district courts.

4) The main role of the jury is to
A) arbitrate judicial proceedings.
B) be the ultimate finder of fact.
C) listen to the judge to see if he or she appears to lean toward one side or the other.
D) make interpretations of law.
E) directly interrogate witnesses when so ordered by the judge or attorneys.

5) There are ________ federal district courts.
A) forty-seven
B) fifty-six
C) eighty-seven
D) ninety-four
E) 104
6) The number of judges of the various U.S. Court of Appeals
   A) is thirty per circuit.
   B) varies at the president’s discretion.
   C) varies from circuit to circuit.
   D) is set after recommendations by the U.S. attorneys in each circuit.
   E) is approximately sixty per circuit.

7) Since 1869, the Supreme Court has consisted of ________ associate justices.
   A) six
   B) seven
   C) eight
   D) nine
   E) ten

8) The justices of the Supreme Court are
   A) elected in a nonpartisan election.
   B) confirmed by the president.
   C) nominated by the Senate.
   D) nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate.
   E) nominated by the president and confirmed by both the House and Senate.

9) As of 2010, the Supreme Court has had ________ African American members.
   A) one
   B) two
   C) five
   D) nine
   E) fifteen

10) The greatest number of interest groups submitting formal testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee occurred during the nomination of ________ to the U.S. Supreme Court.
    A) Robert H. Bork
    B) Clarence Thomas
    C) Louis Brandeis
    D) John G. Roberts Jr.
    E) Sonia Sotomayor

11) The Senate Judiciary Committee held its first public hearings regarding a potential Supreme Court justice while considering the nomination of
    B) Roger Taney.
    C) Louis Brandeis.
    D) Abe Fortas.
    E) Earl Warren.
12) The proceedings of the U.S. Supreme Court are
A) not open to the public.
B) open to journalists and television cameras.
C) not televised because the justices refuse to allow cameras in the Court.
D) televised on C-SPAN only.
E) regularly televised on both network and cable channels.

13) The Supreme Court will hear a case if _______ justices vote to do so.
A) three
B) four
C) five
D) six
E) seven

14) The strategic model of judicial behavior
A) accurately predicts Supreme Court votes.
B) accounts for a range of factors that affect judicial behavior.
C) has been replaced by the legal model of judicial behavior.
D) only explains justices’ votes in constitutional cases.
E) ignores interbranch relations.

15) Among the _______ examined by political scientists trying to explain Supreme Court decision making are childhood experiences, religious values, and political party.
A) cultural experiences
B) attitudes
C) policy-making characteristics
D) strategic strategies
E) behavioral characteristics

16) When Andrew Jackson opined, "John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it," he was referring to
A) the inability of the Supreme Court to enforce or implement its decisions.
B) the constitutional requirement that only Congress can implement Court decisions.
C) the president's constitutional right to refuse to implement decisions of the Supreme Court.
D) the long-standing feud between himself and Marshall.
E) Marshall's powerful allies in both the executive and legislative branches.
True/False Questions

1) Congress may not reduce the salaries of federal judges to penalize them for decisions that Congress does not like.

2) The Judiciary Act of 1789 gives form and substance to the federal courts.

3) The bulk of the judicial work in the federal system takes place in the Supreme Court.

4) Both legislative and constitutional courts are staffed by judges with life tenure.

5) The U.S. courts of appeals have no original jurisdiction.

6) Justice Elena Kagan served as solicitor general before she became an associate justice.

7) An unprecedented number of interest groups submitted testimony in support of the confirmation of Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

8) The U.S. solicitor general's petitions to the Supreme Court are accepted more frequently than those of any other party.

9) Interest groups often submit amicus curiae briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court.

10) Judicial restraint was evident in Roe v. Wade.

11) The justices’ behavioral characteristics are unlikely to influence how they evaluate the facts and legal issues in a debate.

12) The Supreme Court has had little difficulty getting the executive branch to implement the decisions it hands down.
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1) Supreme Court justices and federal judges serve for
   A) four-year terms.
   B) eight-year terms.
   C) life.
   D) life with good behavior.
   E) twelve-year terms.
   Answer: D
   Reference: LO 10.1, pgs. 325-331
   Skill: Understanding

2) In __________, the U.S. Supreme Court held that it had the power to review the
   constitutionality of acts of Congress.
   A) Marbury v. Madison
   B) Martin v. Hunter's Lessee
   C) McCulloch v. Maryland
   D) Gibbons v. Ogden
   E) Hamilton v. Jefferson
   Answer: A
   Reference: LO 10.1, pgs. 325-331
   Skill: Understanding

3) State courts of original jurisdiction where cases begin are called
   A) first courts.
   B) appellate courts.
   C) trial courts.
   D) select courts.
   E) district courts.
   Answer: C
   Reference: LO 10.2, pgs. 331-333
   Skill: Understanding

4) The main role of the jury is to
A) arbitrate judicial proceedings.
B) be the ultimate finder of fact.
C) listen to the judge to see if he or she appears to lean toward one side or the other.
D) make interpretations of law.
E) directly interrogate witnesses when so ordered by the judge or attorneys.
Answer: B
Reference: LO 10.2, pgs. 331-333
Skill: Understanding

5) There are ________ federal district courts.
A) forty-seven
B) fifty-six
C) eighty-seven
D) ninety-four
E) 104
Answer: D
Reference: LO 10.3, pgs. 333-336
Skill: Understanding

6) The number of judges of the various U.S. Court of Appeals
A) is thirty per circuit.
B) varies at the president’s discretion.
C) varies from circuit to circuit.
D) is set after recommendations by the U.S. attorneys in each circuit.
E) is approximately sixty per circuit.
Answer: C
Reference: LO 10.3, pgs. 333-336
Skill: Understanding

7) Since 1869, the Supreme Court has consisted of ________ associate justices.
A) six
B) seven
C) eight
D) nine
E) ten
Answer: C
Reference: LO 10.3, pgs. 333-336
Skill: Understanding

8) The justices of the Supreme Court are
A) elected in a nonpartisan election.
B) confirmed by the president.
C) nominated by the Senate.
D) nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate.
E) nominated by the president and confirmed by both the House and Senate.
Answer: D
Reference: LO 10.4, pgs. 336-344
Skill: Understanding

9) As of 2010, the Supreme Court has had ________ African American members.
A) one
B) two
C) five
D) nine
E) fifteen
Answer: B
Reference: LO 10.4, pgs. 336-344
Skill: Understanding

10) The greatest number of interest groups submitting formal testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee occurred during the nomination of ________ to the U.S. Supreme Court.
A) Robert H. Bork
B) Clarence Thomas
C) Louis Brandeis
D) John G. Roberts Jr.
E) Sonia Sotomayor
Answer: E
Reference: LO 10.4, pgs. 336-344
Skill: Understanding

11) The Senate Judiciary Committee held its first public hearings regarding a potential Supreme Court justice while considering the nomination of
B) Roger Taney.
C) Louis Brandeis.
D) Abe Fortas.
E) Earl Warren.
Answer: C
Reference: LO 10.4, pgs. 336-344
Skill: Understanding

12) The proceedings of the U.S. Supreme Court are
A) not open to the public.
B) open to journalists and television cameras.
C) not televised because the justices refuse to allow cameras in the Court.
D) televised on C-SPAN only.
E) regularly televised on both network and cable channels.
Answer: C
Reference: LO 10.5, pgs. 344-353
Skill: Understanding

13) The Supreme Court will hear a case if ________ justices vote to do so.
A) three
B) four
C) five
D) six
E) seven
Answer: B
Reference: LO 10.5, pgs. 344-353
Skill: Understanding

14) The strategic model of judicial behavior
A) accurately predicts Supreme Court votes.
B) accounts for a range of factors that affect judicial behavior.
C) has been replaced by the legal model of judicial behavior.
D) only explains justices’ votes in constitutional cases.
E) ignores interbranch relations.
Answer: B
Reference: LO 10.6, pgs. 353-356
Skill: Understanding

15) Among the ________ examined by political scientists trying to explain Supreme Court decision making are childhood experiences, religious values, and political party.
A) cultural experiences
B) attitudes
C) policy-making characteristics
D) strategic strategies
E) behavioral characteristics
Answer: E
Reference: LO 10.6, pgs. 353-356
Skill: Understanding

16) When Andrew Jackson opined, "John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce
"it," he was referring to A) the inability of the Supreme Court to enforce or implement its decisions. B) the constitutional requirement that only Congress can implement Court decisions. C) the president's constitutional right to refuse to implement decisions of the Supreme Court. D) the long-standing feud between himself and Marshall. E) Marshall's powerful allies in both the executive and legislative branches. Answer: A
Reference: LO 10.7, pgs. 356-359
Skill: Understanding

True/False Questions

1) Congress may not reduce the salaries of federal judges to penalize them for decisions that Congress does not like.
Answer: TRUE
Reference: LO 10.1, pgs. 325-331
Skill: Understanding

2) The Judiciary Act of 1789 gives form and substance to the federal courts.
Answer: TRUE
Reference: LO 10.1, pgs. 324-331
Skill: Understanding

3) The bulk of the judicial work in the federal system takes place in the Supreme Court.
Answer: FALSE
Reference: LO 10.2, pgs. 331-333
Skill: Understanding

4) Both legislative and constitutional courts are staffed by judges with life tenure.
Answer: FALSE
Reference: LO 10.2, pgs. 331-333
Skill: Understanding

5) The U.S. courts of appeals have no original jurisdiction.
Answer: TRUE
Reference: LO 10.3, pgs. 333-336
Skill: Understanding

6) Justice Elena Kagan served as solicitor general before she became an associate justice.
7) An unprecedented number of interest groups submitted testimony in support of the confirmation of Justice Sonia Sotomayor.
Answer: TRUE
Reference: LO 10.4, pgs. 336-344
Skill: Understanding

8) The U.S. solicitor general's petitions to the Supreme Court are accepted more frequently than those of any other party.
Answer: TRUE
Reference: LO 10.5, pgs. 344-353
Skill: Understanding

9) Interest groups often submit *amicus curiae* briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court.
Answer: TRUE
Reference: LO 10.5, pgs. 344-353
Skill: Understanding

10) Judicial restraint was evident in *Roe v. Wade*.
Answer: FALSE
Reference: LO 10.6, pgs. 353-356
Skill: Understanding

11) The justices’ behavioral characteristics are unlikely to influence how they evaluate the facts and legal issues in a debate.
Answer: FALSE
Reference: LO 10.6, pgs. 353-356
Skill: Understanding

12) The Supreme Court has had little difficulty getting the executive branch to implement the decisions it hands down.
Answer: FALSE
Reference: LO 10.7, pgs. 356-359
Skill: Understanding