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Elections and Voting and The Campaign Process

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. A command, indicated by an electorate’s votes, for the elected officials to carry out a party platform or policy agenda is known as a(n) __________.
   a. dictate
   b. consensus
   c. initiative
   d. mandate
   e. proposition

2. What is the name of the process by which citizens propose legislation or constitutional amendments, through petition followed by popular vote?
   a. gerrymandering
   b. initiative
   c. mandate
   d. proposition
   e. referendum

3. What institution is responsible for electing the president of the United States?
   a. Electoral Choice
   b. Electoral College
   c. Electoral Mandate
   d. Electoral Symposium
   e. Electoral University
4. The ability of an office holder to fend off challenges from quality challengers is known as the __________.
   a. detain-off effect
   b. max-out effect
   c. run-out effect
   d. scare-off effect
   e. take-off effect

5. If you are attempting to influence the political process through extreme measures, such as boycotts and picketing, you are engaging in __________.
   a. abnormal political participation
   b. condescending political participation
   c. conventional political participation
   d. radical political participation
   e. unconventional political participation

6. When a citizen votes for candidates from different parties in the same election he or she is __________.
   a. consensus voting
   b. ideological voting
   c. issue-splitting
   d. partisan voting
   e. ticket-splitting

7. Voting for a candidate based on the candidate’s policy promises is called __________.
   a. allocated voting
   b. early voting
   c. future voting
   d. prospective voting
   e. retrospective voting

8. How many electoral votes are needed to be elected president?
   a. 207
   b. 230
   c. 270
   d. 337
   e. 370
9. What is front-loading?
   a. the tendency to donate money to the first candidates who enter a presidential race
   b. the tendency of major media outlets to call states early in presidential elections
   c. the tendency of political parties to nominate a presidential candidate before caucus
   d. the tendency of states to choose an early date on the nomination calendar
   e. the tendency of voters to use early or absentee voting

10. If you, as a Republican, want to crossover vote for one of the Democratic presidential nominees in the Democratic Party primary, that primary must be a(n) __________.
    a. absentee primary
    b. closed primary
    c. crossover primary
    d. open primary
    e. runoff primary

11. The incumbency advantage includes which of the following?
    a. redistricting
    b. scandals
    c. greater visibility
    d. presidential coattails
    e. countervailing force of mid-term elections

12. What is said of a successful presidential candidate who helps members of Congress get elected as well?
    a. The president has a mandate.
    b. The president has long coattails.
    c. The president has strong crossover.
    d. The president is a ticket-splitter.
    e. The president is front-loading.

13. Voting is a form of __________.
    a. conventional participation
    b. demonstrative participation
    c. fallacious participation
    d. preemptive participation
    e. reapportioned participation
14. Which of the following is a problem presented by the Electoral College?

a. Career politicians have a natural advantage over outsiders.
b. It favors Republicans over Democrats historically.
c. It is too democratic and violates the intentions of the Framers.
d. Small states are underrepresented.
e. The winner of a popular vote can still fail to be elected.

15. What old practice did the Twelfth Amendment replace?

a. Presidents had no term limit.
b. Presidents were elected by popular vote.
c. Presidents were appointed by a vote of the state legislatures.
d. The president and vice-president were elected by party delegates.
e. The president and vice-president were elected from the same pool of candidates.

16. What is one reason why incumbents have the advantage in elections?

a. Challengers have less time to campaign than incumbents.
b. Each challenger has to petition for inclusion on the ballot, while the incumbent does not.
c. Mainstream media outlets are required by law to provide free airtime to incumbents.
d. Incumbents tend to have greater amounts of money to spend on campaigns.
e. Voters generally fear change and thus rarely want to vote out an incumbent.

17. If, as a member of a state legislature, you wanted to avoid political accountability for a controversial proposal, you might suggest holding a(n) __________.

a. initiative
b. plurality
c. mandate
d. recall
e. referendum

18. If you are competing for your party’s nomination for office, you must first participate in a(n) __________.

a. initiative election
b. caucus election
c. leadership election
d. primary election
e. referendum election
19. If a state wanted to increase its influence in the presidential nomination, what could the state do?

a. control media access to campaign events  
b. frontload the primaries  
c. mandate candidate debates in the state  
d. switch to a caucus system  
e. use a winner-take-all system

20. Which presents the greatest threat to incumbents of the president’s party?

a. a caucus election  
b. a general election  
c. a midterm election  
d. a primary election  
e. a runoff election

21. According to your text, what is the general purpose of elections?

a. to advance special interest agendas  
b. to check the influence of the federal and state judiciaries on the policy process  
c. to confer legitimacy on government  
d. to ensure social accountability on the part of government  
e. to ensure that everyone is treated equally by the law

22. How can redistricting threaten incumbent members of Congress?

a. It can alter district-based funds from special interest groups.  
b. It can force members of Congress to relocate their families.  
c. It can shift incumbents into a caucus district.  
d. It can pit incumbents against one another.  
e. It increases the probability of a strong minority challenger.

23. Which of the following is a criticism of early voting?

a. It allows for more special interest influence.  
b. It decreases the importance of campaigns.  
c. It increases the potential for voter fraud.  
d. It leads to front-loading.  
e. It requires more volunteers to staff polling places.
24. Most candidates running in a general election tend to move their campaigns toward the
__________.
   a. far right of the party line
   b. far left of the party line
   c. current domestic issues
   d. ideological center
   e. current international issues

25. The person closest to the candidate who makes the essential day-to-day decisions is the
__________.
   a. campaign manager
   b. finance chair
   c. communications director
   d. press secretary
   e. chief campaign consultant

26. The __________ is the bureaucratic agency in charge of monitoring campaign activity.
   a. Federal Election Board
   b. Election Finance Commission
   c. Federal Voting Committee
   d. Voter Regulation Board
   e. Federal Election Commission

27. What 1907 legislation prohibited corporations from making direct contributions to
   candidates for federal office?
   a. Hatch Act
   b. Taft-Hartley Act
   c. Tillman Act
   d. Federal Election Campaign Act
   e. Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act

28. What Supreme Court decision determined that no limits could be placed on the amount of
   his or her own money a candidate spends in an election?
   a. *Citizens United v. FEC*
   b. *Buckley v. Valeo*
   c. *McCain v. NRA*
   d. *BCRA v. United States*
   e. *Citizens United v. Valeo*
29. The brief, clever quotes that candidates hope will be replayed after media events are known as __________.
   a. sound bites  
   b. bon mots  
   c. adages  
   d. pearls of wisdom  
   e. spin text

30. Candidate debates became a regular part of presidential campaigns in which decade?
   a. the 1950s  
   b. the 1960s  
   c. the 1970s  
   d. the 1980s  
   e. the 1990s

31. Which candidate, running in 1796, was portrayed as an atheist and a coward?
   a. Thomas Jefferson  
   b. John Adams  
   c. John Quincy Adams  
   d. James Monroe  
   e. James Madison

32. Most elections follow the same structure, consisting of a(n) __________.
   a. nomination campaign and secondary campaign  
   b. caucus and primary  
   c. nomination campaign and general election campaign  
   d. party convention and candidate debate  
   e. fund-raising component and name-recognition component

33. One of the primary dangers of the nomination campaign is that __________.
   a. candidates can become overly cautious and not talk about issues  
   b. many candidates ignore their party’s base  
   c. candidates raise too much money  
   d. candidates get too much media attention  
   e. candidates can become too ideologically extreme

34. Nomination campaigns __________.
   a. involve candidates of the same political party  
   b. end one week before Election Day  
   c. last for a period of time established by law  
   d. are usually a toss-up until the very end  
   e. determine the final outcome of the election
35. As the cost of campaigns has risen and fund-raising has become more important, the staff position of __________ has also grown in prestige and significance.

a. campaign manager  
b. press secretary  
c. communications director  
d. finance chair  
e. campaign consultant

36. Which campaign consultant might be asked by a candidate to conduct a public opinion survey?

a. campaign manager  
b. pollster  
c. Internet expert  
d. press secretary  
e. vote canvasser

37. One of the most basic methods of canvassing is __________.

a. going door to door to solicit votes  
b. speaking at campaign events  
c. creating television and print ads  
d. conducting public opinion polls  
e. setting up meet-and-greet events for candidates

38. The federal government has worked to regulate campaign finance __________.

a. since the country’s inception  
b. for more than a century  
c. since the 1950s  
d. since the 1970s  
e. for about five years

39. Until 2002, the primary federal regulation of campaign finance occurred according to the __________.

a. Campaign Contributions Law  
b. Bipartisan Campaign Financing Act  
c. Campaigns and Elections Act  
d. Federal Campaign Limits Law  
e. Federal Election Campaign Act
40. Nonprofit, tax-exempt groups that can expressly advocate for candidates and are not required to disclose the names of contributors are called _________.

   a. political action committees
   b. 527 committees
   c. 501(c) groups
   d. national party committees
   e. member PACs

41. The most dominant feature of traditional media coverage of campaigns is _________.

   a. coverage of the “horse race”
   b. issue analysis
   c. candidates’ personal lives
   d. analysis of debates
   e. fundraising events

42. Which of the following is one strategy that campaigns use to control the media?

   a. making the candidate more available to the press
   b. staging media events
   c. ignoring negative campaign events
   d. appearing on the major networks’ nightly news shows
   e. holding unrehearsed, spontaneous press conferences

43. Suppose you are a candidate and you want to re-craft your campaign message. With which of the following staff members would you MOST likely work closely to create a compelling and effective message?

   a. communications director
   b. press secretary
   c. volunteers
   d. finance chair
   e. Internet team

44. Suppose you are a candidate who has been participating in an illicit marital affair, and you fear that the truth may be revealed. What is the MOST effective way to minimize damage?

   a. Dig out and air questionable activities of your opponents until the threat blows over.
   b. Bow out of the race.
   c. Admit to nothing.
   d. Air an inoculation ad.
   e. Ignore any attack that may be launched against you.
If your campaign has very limited funding, which of the following strategies for reaching voters is likely to be most attractive to you?

a. a professionally produced positive ad
b. a series of campaign stops throughout a state
c. hiring consultants to create and maintain an Internet site
d. robo-calls
e. televising a town-hall meeting with constituents

Considering the large number of candidates for the Republican nomination in 2012 and the many debates among these candidates, what could you have expected of Mitt Romney’s debate performance in the general election?

a. Romney would do very well because he had been debating his points for months.
b. Romney would be tired of debating and would appear bored and disinterested.
c. Romney would be unable to respond to the points of a debater he had not previously faced.
d. Romney would appear uncertain and overmatched on the national debate stage.
e. Romney would change his genial demeanor and become much more aggressive when debating Obama.

Why is a candidate’s moving to the left or the right during the nomination phase both an advantage and a disadvantage?

a. It gives a candidate a more defined ideological position, but most voters pay little attention to ideology.
b. While moving to one end of the spectrum might motivate a party base during nomination, it might actually alienate more moderate or on-the-fence voters of the general election.
c. Such a move decreases divisions within one political party, but it provides banter for the media.
d. Extreme views usually give candidates the edge, but they are forced to hold true to that message throughout the campaign.
e. The general public, who usually view these moves as appealing during nomination, change their minds when these candidates go to the debates after nomination processes.

The role of campaign consultants has become so important in today’s campaigns because

a. candidates are increasingly insecure about their electability
b. candidates need specialists to help them make the most of fund-raising, media relations, and Internet outreach
c. campaign managers are usually too busy to perform all the chores required in today’s complex campaigns
d. volunteers do not have the necessary experience to handle media relations
e. finance chairs need to spend all their time on money issues
49. A candidate with limited funds available would most likely want to build a staff consisting of ________.

a. a campaign manager and a pollster
b. a communications director and a finance chair
c. a campaign manager and a large number of dedicated volunteers
d. a large number of volunteers and a press secretary
e. a campaign manager and a variety of campaign consultants

50. What is the MOST likely reason that candidates use sound bites instead of long explanations of their agendas and positions?

a. People have great interest in political campaigns.
b. It reduces the cost of advertisements.
c. The news media devote little time to campaign coverage.
d. People view long explanations as too academic.
e. They are more likely to appear on The Daily Show.