Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Each state has __________ senators elected every __________ years.
   a. two, two
   b. two, four
   c. two, six
   d. four, two
   e. four, four

2. __________ is the process of allotting congressional seats to each state according to its proportion of the population.
   a. Apportionment
   b. Appropriations
   c. Delegation
   d. Gerrymandering
   e. Redistricting

3. The Constitutional Convention resulted in what form of legislature?
   a. bicameral
   b. direct
   c. trilateral
   d. unicameral
   e. unified

4. In the House of Representatives, who is second in authority to the Speaker of the House?
   a. majority leader
   b. majority whip
   c. minority leader
   d. minority whip
   e. president pro tempore (or pro tem)
5. A __________ is a special committee created to reconcile differences in bills passed by the House and Senate.
   a. conference committee
   b. joint committee
   c. select committee
   d. special committee
   e. standing committee

6. “Pork” legislation may aid the district of a member of Congress by __________.
   a. diverting unallocated funds to the service sector
   b. increasing jobs and revenue with federally funded projects
   c. increasing revenue through private market investment
   d. taxing corporations less so they provide health insurance for employees
   e. taxing waste producers more to pay for environmental cleanup

7. __________ is the only formal method for ending a filibuster, and requires the approval of __________ senators.
   a. abrogation, fifty-one
   b. abrogation, sixty
   c. censure, sixty
   d. cloture, fifty-one
   e. cloture, sixty

8. During an election, an incumbent representative might point to local allocations of a federal highway bill as a reason to be re-elected. This is an example of __________.
   a. credit claiming
   b. gerrymandering
   c. passing the buck
   d. redistricting
   e. spin control

9. What best explains the overwhelming advantage incumbents possess in seeking reelection over opposition candidates?
   a. additional financial support from constituent taxes
   b. additional financial support from the federal government campaign fund
   c. demonstrated ability to lead and public record of votes
   d. name recognition, access to media, and franking privilege
   e. name recognition and access to district taxes
10. Which statement is true of the House of Representatives?

a. Members are elected every two years and apportioned to states based on geographic size.
b. Members are elected every two years and apportioned to states based on population.
c. Members are elected every four years and apportioned to states based on geographic size.
d. Members are elected every four years and apportioned to states based on population.
e. Members are elected every six years and apportioned to states based on population.

11. A rise in party unity is indicative of __________.

a. cooperation across party lines
b. cooperation between Congress and the executive branch
c. decreasing party polarization
d. high bipartisanship levels
e. low bipartisanship levels

12. How have Americans rated members of Congress in recent years?

a. Americans are increasingly supportive of congressional members.
b. Americans are ambivalent about the performance of Congress.
c. Individual members of Congress and Congress as a whole have received high approval ratings.
d. Individual members of Congress rate slightly higher than Congress as a whole, but approval ratings are at an all-time low.
e. Ratings are low across the board, but individual members of Congress receive the lowest approval ratings.

13. The true leader of the Senate is the __________, elected by the majority party.

a. majority leader
b. president pro tempore
c. Senate Chair
d. Speaker
e. vice president

14. What advantage does a subcommittee offer the legislative process?

a. expedited approval of joint committee floor submissions
b. expedited approval of standing committee floor submissions
c. greater division of labor
d. oversight of joint committees
e. oversight of standing committees
15. The president pro tempore __________.
   a. has the power to nullify legislation with a pocket veto
   b. has the power to select the majority leader
   c. is an honorific office awarded to the senior senator of the majority party
   d. is a role bequeathed to the vice president by the Constitution
   e. personally presides over the Senate floor when it is in session

16. What demonstrates the Founders' desire to insulate the Senate from popular displeasure?
   a. terms of two years, with all seats open for each election
   b. terms of four years, with one-third of seats open for election every two years
   c. terms of four years, with two-thirds of seats open for election every two years
   d. terms of six years, with one-third of seats open for election every two years
   e. terms of six years, with two-thirds of seats open for election every two years

17. What is the purpose of a discharge petition?
   a. to force a vote on a House bill within an opposing committee
   b. to force a vote on a Senate bill within an opposing committee
   c. to force a vote on a Senate or House bill within an opposing committee
   d. to force the end of a filibuster in the House
   e. to force the end of a filibuster in the Senate

18. Which is an example of logrolling in Congress?
   a. awarding a government contract to a campaign supporter
   b. introducing and sponsoring a bill
   c. sponsoring a bill in exchange for federal monies
   d. supporting a bill in exchange for support of one's own bill
   e. working to get federal monies for an interstate highway

19. What is the typical trajectory of a bill in the House of Representatives?
   a. introduction, committee referral, subcommittee, full committee report, rules committee, conference committee, send to president, full House vote
   b. introduction, committee referral, subcommittee, full committee report, rules committee, full House vote, conference committee, send to president
   c. introduction, committee referral, subcommittee, rules committee, full committee report, conference committee, full House vote, send to president
   d. introduction, committee referral, rules committee, subcommittee, full committee report, full House vote, conference committee, send to president
   e. introduction, subcommittee, committee referral, full committee report, rules committee, full House vote, conference committee, send to president
20. __________ is a good example of Congressional casework.

a. Analysis of an incumbent's policy positions prior to a debate  
b. Analysis of police force effectiveness  
c. Analysis of water quality within a district  
d. Assistance to a constituent in obtaining a Social Security check  
e. Assistance to a federal agency operating within a member's district

21. What is the typical trajectory of a bill in the Senate?

a. introduction, committee referral, subcommittee, full committee report, rules committee, conference committee, send to president, full Senate vote  
b. introduction, committee referral, subcommittee, full committee report, full Senate debate and vote, conference committee, send to president  
c. introduction, committee referral, subcommittee, rules committee, full committee report, conference committee, full Senate vote, send to president  
d. introduction, committee referral, rules committee, subcommittee, full committee report, full Senate vote, conference committee, send to president  
e. introduction, subcommittee, committee referral, full committee report, rules committee, full Senate vote, conference committee, send to president

22. Packing and cracking both draw district lines to the favor of the majority party, and thus, are two types of __________.

a. gerrymandering  
b. lawmaking  
c. oversight  
d. reapportionment  
e. redistricting

23. This individual keeps close contact with all members of his or her party, counts votes for key legislation, prepares summaries of bills, and acts as a communications link within the party.

a. committee chairperson  
b. majority/minority leader  
c. majority/minority whip  
d. president pro tempore  
e. Speaker of the House

24. Which statement about incumbency is most accurate?

a. Incumbents have a huge advantage in reelection.  
b. Incumbents have a small advantage in reelection.  
c. Incumbents have no advantage in reelection.  
d. Incumbents only leave office when pressured by party leadership.  
e. Incumbents only leave office when they choose.
25. Which example best demonstrates a legislator acting as a trustee of his or her constituency?

a. A legislator considers public opinion, refining it with information and careful thought.
b. A legislator does whatever is best for his or her reelection.
c. A legislator follows the public opinion of his or her constituency.
d. A legislator heeds public opinion in every case, except in matters of personal conscience.
e. A legislator may follow his or her conscience unless public opinion is clear.

26. One example of the Framers' intent to insulate the Senate from the tyranny of the majority was to __________.

a. give members lifetime appointments
b. give the Senate authority to overturn a presidential veto without House ratification
c. give the Senate authority to overturn a Supreme Court decision
d. have members appointed by incumbent senators
e. have members appointed by their respective state legislatures

27. Executive deference to senators in the appointment of judges to federal courts is __________.

a. appointee preeminence
b. committee referral
c. congressional review
d. reconciliation
e. senatorial courtesy

28. Which response best reflects the dilemma of pork in legislation?

a. Programmatic requests are always wasteful expenditures but are useful to politicians.
b. Programmatic requests are beneficial to taxpayers but detrimental to reelection.
c. Programmatic requests are typically beneficial to districts but allow the federal government to collect an undue share of tax revenue.
d. Programmatic requests favor federal employees at the expense of state employees.
e. Programmatic requests favor one district at the expense of all American taxpayers.

29. What best represents the trend of party polarization over the last three decades?

a. Both Republicans and Democrats have become more conservative.
b. Both Republicans and Democrats have become more liberal.
c. Both Republicans and Democrats have become more moderate.
d. Party polarization has decreased as bipartisanship has increased.
e. Party polarization has increased as bipartisanship has decreased.
Although Congress authorized the expenditure of funds for many social problems, President Nixon refused to spend money appropriated for them. Frustrated by Nixon, Congress solidified its role in the budgetary process by __________.

a. opening an inquiry into presidential malfeasance
b. passing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
c. passing the War Powers Resolution in 1973
d. using its power of oversight to censure the president
e. using its power of oversight to impeach the president