

The Organization of Congress

Multiple Choice

Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- ___ 1. The United States Congress, which is made up of two houses, is a
 - a. constitutional legislature.
 - b. bi-session legislature.
 - c. extradition laws.
 - d. bicameral legislature.

- ___ 2. This is NOT a qualification for election to the Senate.
 - a. at least 30 years old
 - b. legal resident of state of election
 - c. married for 5 years
 - d. a citizen for 9 years

- ___ 3. In Congress the majority and minority leaders are assisted by
 - a. whips.
 - b. the vice president.
 - c. the Speaker.
 - d. the president.

- ___ 4. The standing committees of each house are controlled by
 - a. the minority party.
 - b. the minority leader.
 - c. the majority leader.
 - d. the majority party.

- ___ 5. This group specializes in a subcategory of its standing committee's responsibility.
 - a. subcommittee
 - b. conference committee
 - c. select committee
 - d. joint committee

- ___ 6. This is NOT a qualification for election to the House of Representatives.
 - a. at least 25 years old
 - b. a degree in law
 - c. a citizen for 7 years
 - d. legal resident of state of election

- ___ 7. The process of setting up new congressional districts after reapportionment is called
 - a. redistricting.
 - b. gerrymandering.
 - c. bicameral legislature.
 - d. censuring.

- ___ 8. People in districts represented in Congress are called
 - a. a census.
 - b. constituents.
 - c. a quorum.
 - d. a caucus.

- ___ 9. The presiding officer of the House of Representatives is the
 - a. vice president.
 - b. majority whip.
 - c. majority leader.
 - d. Speaker.

- ___ 10. The president of the Senate is the
 - a. majority leader.
 - b. minority leader.
 - c. vice president.
 - d. Speaker.

- ___ 11. The power to write the rules in Congress is controlled by the
 - a. vice president.
 - b. minority party.
 - c. majority party.
 - d. Speaker.

- ___ 12. Redistricting power was abused by creating congressional districts of unequal power and by
 - a. census.
 - b. censure.
 - c. bicameral legislature.
 - d. gerrymandering.

- ___ 13. Senators are elected for
 - a. two-year terms.
 - b. six-year terms.
 - c. life.
 - d. four-year terms.

- ___ 14. One reason incumbents are reelected is that they have
- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Republican support. | c. parliamentary procedure. |
| b. support from PACs. | d. Constitutional Convention debates. |
- ___ 15. The main task of each house of Congress is to
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|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| a. legislate the executive branch. | c. get reelected. |
| b. write procedures. | d. make laws. |
- ___ 16. The flow of legislative work in Congress is controlled by the
- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| a. majority party. | c. Democratic Party. |
| b. minority party. | d. Republican Party. |
- ___ 17. This is required for a legislative body to take official action.
- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| a. a censure | c. a quorum |
| b. a calendar | d. a caucus |
- ___ 18. Standing, select, joint, and conference are all types of congressional
- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| a. sessions. | c. hearings. |
| b. agencies. | d. committees. |
- ___ 19. This committee is set up when the House and Senate have passed different versions of the same bill.
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. joint committee | c. select committee |
| b. conference committee | d. standing committee |
- ___ 20. This has guided the selection of committee chairpersons.
- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. presidential appointments | c. seniority system |
| b. majority leader's rule | d. party elections |
- ___ 21. In each house of Congress, the standing committees are controlled by the
- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| a. majority leader. | c. minority party. |
| b. majority party. | d. minority leader. |

Matching

Match each item with the statement below.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| a. Senate | d. sessions |
| b. franking privilege | e. censure |
| c. House of Representatives | |
- ___ 22. Congressional meetings
- ___ 23. largest body of Congress
- ___ 24. two members from each state
- ___ 25. formal disapproval of a senator's actions
- ___ 26. senatorial benefit

Short Answer

Answer FIVE of the following

Critical Thinking

27. **Making Comparisons** Compare the leadership of the House of Representatives with that of the Senate.
28. **Making Inferences** Explain why the House might be considered more representative of the people than is the Senate.

Understanding Concepts

29. **Growth of Democracy** How does the use of a filibuster threaten the principles of unlimited debate and majority rule in the Senate?
30. **Growth of Democracy** Explain how and why the rules for debate in the House are more restrictive than those of the Senate.
31. **Political Processes** How might a political party use gerrymandering to help elect its candidates to Congress?

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Answer Section

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. D
2. C
3. A
4. D
5. A
6. B
7. A
8. B
9. D
10. C
11. C
12. D
13. B
14. B
15. D
16. A
17. C
18. D
19. B
20. C
21. B

MATCHING

22. D
23. C
24. A
25. E
26. B

SHORT ANSWER

27. The leadership of each body includes majority and minority floor leaders and majority and minority whips to enforce party discipline on votes. The House is run by a Speaker elected by the majority party. In contrast, the vice president heads the Senate, with a president pro tem elected by its majority party running the body in the vice-president's absence. In addition, House leaders typically have more power than Senate leaders.
28. Answers will vary but students should recognize that House members each represent fewer constituents than do senators and that House members must seek voter approval two more times during a senator's single term.

29. A filibuster allows one person or a small group to continuously talk in order to delay action on a bill. This action prevents others from debating the bill and allows a minority to block the actions of the majority. In addition, only 40 percent of the senators are necessary to defeat any attempt to end a filibuster.
30. The Senate, with only 100 members, is more able to allow unlimited debate on a measure, subject only to cloture. The House, which is more than four times larger, limits its members to five minutes on an issue. Unlimited debate in the House would slow its speed of action and could drag out debates for many days.
31. The party in control in a state might draw its House district lines so that the opposition party has the minority of voters in each district (called "cracking"). It might also draw district boundaries so that the opposing party's voters are concentrated in only a few districts (called "packing"), making the rest safe for the controlling party's candidates.

B 14.

 D 15.

 D 1.

 A 16.

 C 2.

 C 17.

 A 3.

 D 18.

 D 4.

 B 19.

 A 5.

 C 20.

 B 6.

 B 21.

 A 7.

 B 8.

 D 9.

 C 10.

 D 22.

 C 23.

 A 24.

 C 11.

 E 25.

 B 26.

 D 12.

 B 13.