

Congress Quiz

Name _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- 1) In February 2002, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi became _____
A) the first female member of Congress to be impeached.
B) the first female in Congress.
C) the first female to be elected to Congress from California.
D) the first female to be selected as the Democratic whip in the House of Representatives.
- 2) Congress has experienced _____ in/of its authority. _____
A) growth B) redefinition C) decline D) no change
- 3) The structure of the legislative branch of government is described by _____ of the Constitution. _____
A) Article III B) Article II C) Article I D) Article IV
- 4) Members of Congress who trade votes on bills that are of little interest to legislators are engaging _____
in
A) fire breathing. B) logrolling. C) ice fishing. D) rain dancing.
- 5) The Great Compromise resulted in _____
A) a two-house legislature.
B) an electoral college based on representation.
C) legalized slavery.
D) a weakened executive institution.
- 6) Any two-house legislature is also referred to as _____
A) Congress. B) bifurcated. C) bicameral. D) bimodal.
- 7) The House of Representatives and the Senate combined have _____ members. _____
A) 435 B) 575 C) 535 D) 475
- 8) Under the Constitution, senators serve a _____-year term. _____
A) 4 B) 2 C) 8 D) 6
- 9) Apportionment and redistricting occurs every _____
A) 4 years. B) 2 years. C) 6 years. D) 10 years.
- 10) Under the Constitution, members of the House of Representatives are directly elected for a _____-year term. _____
A) 2 B) 6 C) 4 D) 8
- 11) The process of allotting seats in the House of Representatives is called _____
A) census. B) redistricting.
C) gerrymandering. D) apportionment.

- 12) State legislatures lost their control over the selection of senators through the _____ Amendment in 1913, which provides for the direct election of senators. 12) _____
 A) Seventeenth B) Nineteenth C) Twenty-first D) Fifteenth
- 13) Specific powers of Congress are enumerated in 13) _____
 A) the Preamble. B) Article I, section 8.
 C) Article II, section 4. D) Article I, section 1.
- 14) The most important power that Congress has is the power to 14) _____
 A) make laws. B) regulate commerce.
 C) declare war. D) lay and collect taxes.
- 15) Congress has managed to increase the scope of its enumerated powers through the interpretation of the 15) _____
 A) formal lawmaking powers. B) grant of exclusive powers.
 C) inherent powers doctrine. D) necessary and proper clause.
- 16) The House of Representatives has the sole power to 16) _____
 A) make agreements with the executive. B) initiate revenue bills.
 C) try impeached officials. D) approve treaties.
- 17) The Senate has the sole power to 17) _____
 A) advise and consent on major presidential appointments.
 B) declare war.
 C) regulate the District of Columbia.
 D) issue patents and copyrights.
- 18) A new Congress is seated every _____ years. 18) _____
 A) 4 B) 6 C) 8 D) 2
- 19) In general, the House is/has _____ than the Senate. 19) _____
 A) more personal B) weaker leadership
 C) stricter rules D) emphasized foreign policy more
- 20) The most powerful position in the House of Representatives is called the 20) _____
 A) President Pro Tempore. B) Speaker.
 C) President of the House. D) Majority Leader.
- 21) The only officer of House of Representatives specifically mentioned in the Constitution is the 21) _____
 A) vice president. B) Speaker of the House.
 C) President Pro Tempore. D) Sergeant at Arms.
- 22) The current Speaker of the House is 22) _____
 A) Newt Gingrich. B) Dennis Hastert.
 C) Richard Gephardt. D) Robert Livingston.
- 23) The congressional leaders who take nose counts and try to line up members on partisan issues are called 23) _____
 A) Sergeants at Arms. B) Majority Leaders.
 C) Minority Leaders. D) whips.

- 24) The presiding officer of the Senate who can vote only in the case of a tie is _____
 A) the vice president of the United States. B) Majority Leader.
 C) President Pro Tempore. D) Majority Whip.
- 25) Committees to which proposed bills are referred and that continue from one Congress to the next are called _____ communities. _____
 A) ad hoc B) standing C) joint D) conference
- 26) A committee that is established on a temporary basis is called a(n) _____ committee. _____
 A) *ad valorem* B) *pro tempore* C) select D) standing
- 27) Standing committees can _____
 A) amend bills. B) hurry bills through the process.
 C) kill bills. D) all of the above
- 28) Who appoints members to the House Rules Committee? _____
 A) The president
 B) The majority leader with the advice and consent of the minority leader
 C) The speaker
 D) Constituents
- 29) Senator Robert Byrd is known as the "Prince of _____." _____
 A) Queens B) the Hill C) Beef D) Pork
- 30) Members of Congress often seek committee assignments based upon _____
 A) reelection incentives. B) their interests.
 C) their own interests or expertise. D) all of the above
- 31) Bills can be forced out of a House committee with a _____
 A) motion to convene as the committee of the whole.
 B) discharge petition signed by a majority of House members.
 C) motion to dismiss the committee of original jurisdiction.
 D) whip report filed with the majority leader.
- 32) Which of the following is an advantage of incumbency? _____
 A) access to the media. B) name recognition.
 C) easier fund-raising. D) all of the above
- 33) In the 1980s, incumbent members of Congress won reelection in about _____ percent of all races. _____
 A) 95 B) 80 C) 92 D) 87
- 34) In general, Congress is _____ than the rest of the United States. _____
 A) older and whiter B) better educated
 C) more male and richer D) all of the above
- 35) The Senate has often been referred to as the _____
 A) Millionaires' Club. B) Effete Elite.
 C) Yacht Club. D) Kitchen Cabinet.

- 36) The _____ election saw a record number of minorities elected to Congress. 36) _____
 A) 1996 B) 2000 C) 1992 D) 1994
- 37) The idea that elected representatives should listen to their constituents' opinions and then use their best judgment to make decisions is called behaving as a 37) _____
 A) trustee. B) politico. C) representative. D) delegate.
- 38) During the average congressional session, approximately _____ bills are introduced. 38) _____
 A) 7,000 B) 9,000 C) 4,000 D) 1,500
- 39) Of those bills introduced in Congress, _____ percent are enacted. 39) _____
 A) fewer than 10 B) 55-60 C) 20-25 D) 30-35
- 40) Halting action on a bill by taking advantage of Senate rules allowing for unlimited debate is called 40) _____
 A) rescinding. B) discharging.
 C) invoking cloture. D) filibustering.
- 41) The War Powers Act 41) _____
 A) is an example of a *coup d'etat*.
 B) was an attempt to reassert presidential authority over Congress.
 C) has been of limited effectiveness.
 D) all of the above
- 42) How many U.S. presidents have been impeached, tried, found guilty, and removed from office? 42) _____
 A) two B) one C) zero D) five
- 43) Congress is given the authority to establish 43) _____
 A) federal jurisdictions.
 B) the Supreme Court's appellate jurisdiction.
 C) the size of the Supreme Court.
 D) all of the above
- 44) In 2004, several members of Congress unhappy with Supreme Court decisions began to push for a bill that prevents federal courts from hearing challenges to 44) _____
 A) the Defense of Marriage Act. B) trade agreements.
 C) death penalty cases. D) all of the above

Answer Key

Testname: UNTITLED1

- 1) D
- 2) C
- 3) C
- 4) B
- 5) A
- 6) C
- 7) C
- 8) D
- 9) D
- 10) A
- 11) D
- 12) A
- 13) B
- 14) A
- 15) D
- 16) B
- 17) A
- 18) D
- 19) C
- 20) B
- 21) B
- 22) B
- 23) D
- 24) A
- 25) B
- 26) C
- 27) D
- 28) C
- 29) D
- 30) D
- 31) B
- 32) D
- 33) A
- 34) D
- 35) A
- 36) C
- 37) A
- 38) B
- 39) A
- 40) D
- 41) D
- 42) C
- 43) D
- 44) A