

### **Questions 1 – 11**

The United States Constitution makes no provision for the nomination of candidates for the presidency. As the framers of the Constitution set up the system, the electors would, out of their own knowledge, select the "wisest and best" as President. But the rise of political parties altered that system drastically — and with the change came the need for nominations. The first method that the parties developed to nominate presidential candidates was the congressional caucus, a small group of members of Congress. That method was regularly used in the elections of 1800 to 1824. But its closed character led to its downfall in the mid-1820's. For the election of 1832, both major parties turned to the national convention as their nominating device. It has continued to serve them ever since.

With the convention process, the final selection of the President is, for all practical purposes, narrowed to one of two persons: the Republican or the Democratic party nominee. Yet there is almost no legal control of that vital process. The Constitution is silent on the subject of presidential nominations. There is, as well, almost no statutory law on the matter. The only provisions in federal law have to do with the financing of conventions. And in each state there is only a small body of laws that deal with issues related to the convention, such as the choosing of delegates and the manner in which they may cast their votes. In short, the convention is very largely a creation and a responsibility of the political parties themselves.

In both the Republican and Democratic parties, the national committee is charged with making the plans and arrangements for the national convention. As much as a year before it is held, the committee meets (usually in Washington, D.C.) to set the time and place for the convention. July has been the favored month; but each party has met in convention as early as mid-June and also as late as the latter part of August. Where the convention is held is a matter of prime importance. There must be an adequate convention hall, sufficient hotel accommodations, plentiful entertainment outlets, and efficient transportation facilities.

1. Which of the following motivated a change in the original method of selecting a President of the United States?

- (A) The framers of the Constitution
- (B) The rise of the congressional caucus
- (C) The emergence of the party system
- (D) The establishment of national conventions

2. When was the congressional caucus used?
- (A) In the early 1800's
  - (B) During the election of 1832
  - (C) Throughout the nineteenth century
  - (D) In several recent elections
3. What can be inferred about why the congressional caucus system was terminated?
- (A) It was too expensive.
  - (B) It took too much time.
  - (C) It did not conform to the Constitution.
  - (D) It did not include enough citizens.
4. The word "them" in line 10 refers to
- (A) conventions
  - (B) parties
  - (C) elections
  - (D) candidates
5. The word "Yet" in line 13 indicates that what follows is
- (A) an unexpected fact
  - (B) a personal observation
  - (C) a list
  - (D) an example
6. The word "vital" in line 13 is closest in meaning to
- (A) extremely important
  - (B) always accessible
  - (C) political
  - (D) optional
7. According to the passage, the only aspect of political conventions addressed by federal law involves
- (A) organization
  - (B) choosing delegates
  - (C) voting procedures
  - (D) funding
8. In paragraph 4, the author compares
- (A) nominations and conventions
  - (B) finances and the Constitution
  - (C) delegates and candidates
  - (D) federal and state laws
9. The words "charged with" in lines 20-21 are closest in meaning to

- (A) responsible for
- (B) excited about
- (C) blamed for
- (D) in favor of

10. The passage refers to all of the following as necessary in the city where the convention is held EXCEPT

- (A) an acceptable meeting place
- (B) politically aware citizens
- (C) an easy way of traveling around the city
- (D) sufficient amusement opportunities

11. Where in the passage does the author refer to the original method of selecting a president?

- (A) Lines 2-3
- (B) Lines 11-13
- (C) Lines 18-19
- (D) Lines 20-21

### **Questions 12 – 17**

Several hundred million years ago, plants similar to modern ferns covered vast stretches of the land. Some were as large as trees, with giant fronds bunched at the top of trunks as straight as pillars. Others were the size of bushes and formed thickets of me undergrowth. Still others lived in the shade of giant club mosses and horsetails along the edges of swampy lagoons where giant amphibians swam.

A great number of these plants were true ferns, reproducing themselves without fruits or seeds. Others had only the appearance of ferns. Their leaves had organs of reproduction and produced seeds. Although their "flowers" did not have corollas these false ferns (today completely extinct) ushered in the era of flowering plants. Traces of these flora of the earliest times have been preserved in the form of fossils. Such traces are most commonly found in shale and sandstone rocks wedged between coal beds. Today only tropical forests bear living proof of the ancient greatness of ferns. The species that grow there are no longer those of the Carboniferous period, but their variety and vast numbers, and the great size of some, remind us of the time when ferns ruled the plant kingdom.

12. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) Plant reproduction
- (B) How to locate fossils
- (C) An ancient form of plant life

(D) Tropical plant life

13. The word "others" in line 3 refers to

- (A) plants
- (B) pillars
- (C) trees
- (D) fronds

14. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a characteristic of the plants described in the passage?

- (A) They once spread over large areas of land.
- (B) They varied greatly in size.
- (C) They coexisted with amphibians, mosses, and horsetails.
- (D) They clung to tree trunks and bushes for support

15. The word "true" in line 6 is closest in meaning to which of the following?

- (A) accurate
- (B) genuine
- (C) straight
- (D) dependable

16. The author states that fossils of early plant life are usually found in rocks located between deposits of

- (A) coal
- (B) shale
- (C) sandstone
- (D) corollas

17. The word "bear" in line 13 could best be replaced by which of the following?

- (A) call for
- (B) provide
- (C) tolerate
- (D) suffer

### **Questions 18 – 28**

The economic expansion prompted by the Second World War triggered a spectacular population boom in the West. Of course, the region was no stranger to population booms.

Throughout much of its history, western settlement had been characterized by spurts, rather than by a pattern of gradual and steady population growth, beginning with the gold and silver rushes of the 1850's and 1860's. The decade after the First World War — the

1920's — witnessed another major surge of people pouring into the West, particularly into urban areas. But the economic depression of the 1930's brought this expansion to a halt; some of the more sparsely settled parts of the region actually lost population as migrants sought work in

more heavily industrialized areas. By 1941, when the United States entered the Second World War and began to mobilize, new job opportunities were created in the western part of the nation.

If the expansion of industries, such as shipbuilding and aircraft manufacturing, was most striking on the Pacific coast, it also affected interior cities like Denver, Phoenix, and Salt Lake City. Equally dramatic were the effects of the establishment of aluminum plants in Oregon and Washington and the burgeoning steel industry in Utah and California. The flow of people into these areas provided an enormous impetus to the expansion of the service industries — banks, health care services, and schools. Although strained to the limit by the influx of newcomers, western communities welcomed the vast reservoir of new job opportunities. At the same time, the unprecedented expansion of government installations in the West, such as military bases, created thousands of new civilian openings. As land had served as a magnet for western migrants in the late nineteenth century, so wartime mobilization set in motion another major expansion of population.

Indeed, it could be said that the entire western United States became a giant boomtown during the Second World War. This was especially true of California. Of the more than eight million people who moved into the West in the decade after 1940, almost one-half went to the Pacific coast. In fact, between 1940 and 1950, California's population surged by more than three million people.

18. What is the main point of the passage?

- (A) California dominated the economic growth of the West during the Second World War.
- (B) Industrial growth during the 1940's attracted large numbers of people to the West.
- (C) The military drew people away from civilian jobs during the 1940's.
- (D) The West experienced gradual and steady economic growth from 1900 to 1940.

19. The word "triggered" in line 1 is closest in meaning to

- (A) was connected to
- (B) generated
- (C) interfered with
- (D) illuminated

20. Why does the author mention "the gold and silver rushes of the 1850's and 1860's" in the first paragraph?

- (A) As causes of gradual population growth
- (B) As contrasts to later patterns of population growth
- (C) As illustrations of a market economy
- (D) As examples of western population booms

21. Which of the following occurred in the West during the 1920's?
- (A) Gold and silver deposits were discovered.
  - (B) The population density gradually increased.
  - (C) The population of the cities increased significantly.
  - (D) Many military bases were established.
22. According to the passage, the depression of the 1930's caused which of the following?
- (A) A lack of population growth in the West
  - (B) The building of new suburbs
  - (C) A creation of more job opportunities
  - (D) A growth in immigration from abroad
23. Which of the following statements about the shipbuilding industry is suggested by the passage?
- (A) It came into being during the First World War.
  - (B) Many new shipbuilding yards were established on the Pacific coast during the 1940's.
  - (C) Denver was considered to be a poor location for shipbuilding factories.
  - (D) Shipbuilding was the dominant industry in Oregon and Washington.
24. The word "it" in line 13 refers to
- (A) expansion
  - (B) Denver
  - (C) manufacturing
  - (D) the Pacific coast
25. The word "enormous" in line 16 is closest in meaning to
- (A) unexpected
  - (B) immense
  - (C) adequate
  - (D) important
26. The passage suggests that industrialization in the West led to all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) A reduction in the price of land
  - (B) An increase in school construction
  - (C) Improved access to doctors
  - (D) An increase in the number of banks
27. According to the passage, what was one result of the building of new military bases in the West in the 1940's?
- (A) Military bases in other parts of the United States were closed.
  - (B) Many settlers were forced off their land.
  - (C) Many civilian jobs were created.
  - (D) The cost of living rose sharply in California and other western states.

28. It can be inferred from the passage that the principal cause of California's population surge between 1940 and 1950 was

- (A) the increased availability of land
- (B) people's desire to live in a warm, coastal climate
- (C) the industrial mobilization necessitated by the Second World War
- (D) overcrowding in urban areas in other regions of the United States