

# Answers and Explanations

1. **The correct answer is (D).** There is no committee for investigations, although Congress may create committees to conduct investigations if the need arises. All of the other answer choices are standing (permanent) committees of both the House and Senate.
2. **The correct answer is (A).** Judges of the Federal Court system—Supreme Court justices, court of appeals judges, and district court judges—are nominated by the president and confirmed by the United States Senate. This process is outlined in the Constitution and neither the public nor the judiciary itself can be formally involved in the process.
3. **The correct answer is (A).** The Secretary of State is appointed by the Governor to supervise the election process. For example, in the controversial 2000 presidential election, it was Florida’s Secretary of State Katherine Harris (appointed by Governor Jeb Bush) who was responsible for making sure that Florida’s election was free, fair, and impartial.
4. **The correct answer is (B).** The Declaration of Independence states that all men should have the rights of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” Today, most Americans take these words to mean that every American should enjoy equal opportunities for personal and material success.
5. **The correct answer is (E).** The right to bear arms is the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights; it was not a founding principle of the U.S. Constitution. All of the other answers deal with general principles of American governmental philosophy and structure rather than particular rights.
6. **The correct answer is (B).** The Department of Commerce is primarily concerned with ensuring the competitiveness of the U.S. economy. The Department provides businesses with information, administers programs to protect U.S. firms from unfair international competition, and provides standards of measure for U.S. industry.
7. **The correct answer is (D).** The 1954 case of *Brown v. Board of Education* overturned the 1896 ruling of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which had approved the standard of “separate but equal.” In *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court decided that separate schooling could never be equal and ordered that all schools be desegregated.
8. **The correct answer is (C).** The table clearly shows a general trend of lower voter participation in presidential elections over time. Choice (E) might appear correct, but remember that there are at least two candidates in any given presidential election. Therefore, a president could only be elected by a majority of the voting-age public in the event of a landslide in an election that had more than 50% turnout.
9. **The correct answer is (E).** Liberals tend to see a larger role for the government than do traditional conservatives, particularly in the regulation of business and industry. All of the other answer choices form core beliefs of the American political left.
10. **The correct answer is (A).** The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment—prohibiting the production, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages—was repealed with the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. It was the only Amendment to the Constitution to be repealed.
11. **The correct answer is (E).** The Department of State was created in 1789. The Departments of Commerce, Labor, and Transportation were all created in the twentieth century. In 1947, the Department of Defense was made by combining the Departments of War, Navy, and Air Force.

12. **The correct answer is (E).** There is no “right to work” included in the Constitution; it is not a civil liberty.
13. **The correct answer is (B).** Political parties do not lobby Congress. Most interest group lobbies are created specifically to petition Congress to change or maintain specific government policies or laws.
14. **The correct answer is (A).** The family environment is the dominant factor in the political socialization of an individual. Children tend to adopt the same political perspectives as their parents as well as the same party affiliation.
15. **The correct answer is (B).** At the Constitutional Convention, delegates from the heavily populated states wanted proportional representation while delegates from the less populated states feared that their voices would not be heard. The Constitution created a House of Representatives based on proportional representation and a Senate in which each state had equal representation. The bicameral system also strengthened the system of checks and balances because passage of legislation required cooperation between the two legislatures. Although Senate ratification of treaties and the House initiation of tax legislation seem to imply international and domestic focuses respectively, these considerations were not part of the Constitution.
16. **The correct answer is (D).** Overriding a presidential veto is a power of Congress but not a power of oversight. Congressional oversight allows the legislature to keep tabs on executive performance, prevent waste and fraud, safeguard civil rights, and collect information crucial to the law-making process.
17. **The correct answer is (A).** Jim Crow laws were designed to prevent people of color in the south from threatening the traditional political and economic dominance of southern whites. These laws enforced segregation in practically every aspect of daily life including the workplace, education, and public facilities.
18. **The correct answer is (D).** More than 35 million U.S. senior citizens are members of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), making it the nation’s largest interest group.
19. **The correct answer is (D).** Conservatives tend to favor less government involvement in the economy, strong support for the military, and government support for traditional moral values.
20. **The correct answer is (E).** The methods for proposal and ratification of Constitutional amendments differ. While support from three-fourths of the state legislatures can ratify amendments to the Constitution, this method cannot be used to propose Constitutional amendments. Amendments can only be proposed through the steps outlined in statements I and III.
21. **The correct answer is (A).** The Department of the Interior is responsible for most federally owned lands including those of the National Parks Service. It is also responsible for protecting wildlife through the Fish and Wildlife Service. Although the Environmental Protection Agency plays an important role in protecting the environment, it does not have the broad powers and responsibilities of the Department of the Interior.
22. **The correct answer is (E).** The figure shows a dramatic increase in payments to individuals from 1990 to 2000. Payments in 1990 were a little over 425 billion dollars; by the year 2000, they had reached over 950 billion dollars.
23. **The correct answer is (A).** The Fifth Amendment of the Bill of Rights protects citizens from being tried twice on the same charge.
24. **The correct answer is (E).** Lobbyists for special interest groups have found campaign contributions to be the most direct and effective method to secure their objectives in Congress.
25. **The correct answer is (A).** The President of the United States must be at least 35 years old, according to the Constitution. Other requirements are that the person must be a native-born American citizen and at least 14 years a resident of the United States.

- 26. The correct answer is (B).** The Constitution satisfied the smaller northern states by promising them equal participation in the Senate and the southern states by giving them greater power in the House of Representatives. Royalists supported the crown's right to control America and would oppose any American Constitution.
- 27. The correct answer is (D).** The Constitution prohibits Congress from treating one state differently than the others. Taxing the exports of one state but not the others would be unfair and unconstitutional.
- 28. The correct answer is (E).** The General Accounting Office is the audit, evaluation, and investigative arm of Congress. It exists to evaluate the effectiveness of public policies for Congress.
- 29. The correct answer is (D).** The federal and state court systems work in a parallel fashion. The federal courts tend to deal with disputes between the federal government and the states; state courts tend to deal with subjects of state or local importance. State court decisions can be appealed to the federal system.
- 30. The correct answer is (A).** Although organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union lobby for prisoners rights, litigation remains the most viable tactic for the majority of inmates.
- 31. The correct answer is (A).** The table shows declines in confidence in all categories during the 1960s except the judiciary.
- 32. The correct answer is (B).** The Articles of Confederation provided for a weak national government without powers of taxation or the ability to force reluctant states to live up to their obligations. However, it did provide for a unified foreign policy and the negotiation of the Treaty of Paris in 1783.
- 33. The correct answer is (B).** The Congress fixes the size of the House of Representatives and the procedure to apportion House seats among the states. State legislatures are then responsible for defining the voting districts that will elect congressional representatives. The Supreme Court and Congress try to limit redistricting and reapportionment that appears to be enacted for purely political ends. Although Congress uses data from the Department of Commerce's census, the Department itself plays no role in the process.
- 34. The correct answer is (C).** The only statement that can be reasonably inferred is the one that puts net interest payments (13%) higher than Medicaid spending (9%).
- 35. The correct answer is (D).** The Miranda decision required that arresting officers read a statement describing the defendant's due process rights. These rights include the right to an attorney and the right to remain silent.
- 36. The correct answer is (D).** Representatives often lose support if their party is in control of their home state's legislature when redistricting occurs.
- 37. The correct answer is (E).** The president is responsible for appointing ambassadors to other nations across the world, including an ambassador to the United Nations.
- 38. The correct answer is (A).** Montesquieu argued for the specialization and balancing of governmental powers. Like Locke, Montesquieu's thinking greatly influenced America's emerging democracy.
- 39. The correct answer is (A).** The Constitution gives only the House of Representatives the right to introduce legislation to raise government revenues. Departments and agencies may provide input on legislation under consideration, but they cannot introduce legislation. The Senate cannot introduce bills to raise government revenue.
- 40. The correct answer is (D).** Much of the legislation enacted by Congress is proposed by the executive. The other answer choices are constitutional checks that limit the powers of the executive and protect the nation from tyranny.

41. **The correct answer is (A).** Judicial activism is the philosophy that judges in the federal court system can and should seek to address important social issues that elected officials have not addressed. This is typically done by carefully choosing to hear cases in which a decision will right a perceived social wrong. The opposite judicial philosophy is known as judicial restraint.
42. **The correct answer is (B).** Non-partisan elections simply remove the party labels from candidates. Candidates can maintain their private party affiliations, but their names will appear on the ballot without a party designation.
43. **The correct answer is (B).** Barring a war or other major event, presidential approval ratings tend to fall gradually over time as groups of voters become less satisfied with the president. After election, most presidents enjoy an approval rating that is actually higher than the support they enjoyed in the presidential election. However, each of a president's actions tends to alienate some supporters and over time his popularity tends to fall.
44. **The correct answer is (B).** Federalism is characterized by a sharing of power between local and national levels. In America, power is divided between the states and the federal government in Washington, DC.
45. **The correct answer is (E).** Each of these factors contributes to the president's ability to influence the legislative process. During the twentieth century, Congress lost much of its traditional power to drive the legislative agenda, giving rise to a "presidential program" determined by the executive.
46. **The correct answer is (D).** Strict constructionists believe that the Constitution should not be "interpreted." Instead, they believe that judges should rule based on the exact text of the Constitution as written by the framers. For example, a strict constructionist would oppose a woman's right to reproductive freedom based on the argument that a "right to privacy" (as defined in *Roe v. Wade*) is not written into the Constitution.
47. **The correct answer is (A).** With the exception of Nebraska, all state legislatures are bicameral.
48. **The correct answer is (D).** Intelligent individuals can be of any race, religion, gender etc. Each of the other groups listed are the basis for formal and informal political organizations that foster like-minded political attitudes and beliefs.
49. **The correct answer is (A).** Members of Congress often support each other based on a simple promise of "I'll vote for 'x' if you vote for 'y.'" This practice of making these informal promises of support is called logrolling. Party leaders and whips keep track of vote debts between party members and use them to gain support when important party-sponsored legislation must be passed.
50. **The correct answer is (D).** Michael Hardwick was a gay man from Georgia charged with committing sodomy in his own home with a consenting adult. The court ruled that the Constitution does not explicitly grant the right for homosexuals to practice their lifestyle and that laws against sodomy were constitutional.
51. **The correct answer is (D).** The table of election results shows that Roosevelt won the presidency as a Republican in 1904. It is reasonable to assume that if Roosevelt had not entered the race as a Progressive in 1912, Taft may have won the popular vote. In fact, most historians agree that Taft would probably have remained President if it were not for Roosevelt's challenge.
52. **The correct answer is (A).** Before the advent of radio and the other mass media, much political news focused on local issues. Larger audiences have caused national issues to be treated in the media. Today, most Americans watch some form of national news. This has caused a convergence of ideas and perspectives and the development of a more national rather than regional identity among the public.
53. **The correct answer is (C).** The Federalist Papers—authored by Hamilton, Madison, and Jay—provided arguments for a stronger federal government.

54. **The correct answer is (C).** Each of the answer choices directly affects the legislative process. There are no mandated hours during which Congress must be open or closed.
55. **The correct answer is (D).** The Bill of Rights does not address sexual freedom. (A) is Amendment 1; (B) is Amendment 2; (C) is Amendment 6; (E) is Amendment 3.
56. **The correct answer is (B).** The total number of Whites who voted was about 68 million. The total number of Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians who voted was about 14 million.
57. **The correct answer is (A).** None of the original states would have accepted that the federal government have the power to change state boundaries. They were wary of excessive federal power.
58. **The correct answer is (B).** The agencies that make up the Executive Office of the President work for the “institution” of the presidency rather than for the sitting President. There is nothing “bipartisan” about them. Agencies within the EOP help the president to follow developments within an increasingly complicated government. Their employees conduct research and inform the president.
59. **The correct answer is (D).** The graph shows that social insurance taxes are the only category of taxes that have generally increased since the 1950s.
60. **The correct answer is (D).** Private property can be taken for public use under eminent domain. However, due process does require that the owners of taken property must be fairly compensated.
61. **The correct answer is (C).** In recent presidential elections, women have tended to vote for Democratic presidential candidates more often than men do.
62. **The correct answer is (B).** The Constitution grants the federal government the exclusive right to negotiate treaties for trade and security. Banning goods from a given country would usurp federal authority and would be unconstitutional.
63. **The correct answer is (A).** When a committee tables a bill, it effectively kills the bill; the bill will not be acted upon.
64. **The correct answer is (A).** A writ of habeas corpus demands that a prison official bring an inmate to the court to determine if he is imprisoned lawfully or if he should be released from custody. The writ of habeas corpus was important enough to be part of the original body of the Constitution and has been an important limit on state abuses of power by the federal court system.
65. **The correct answer is (E).** Education and the Workforce is a standing committee of the House of Representatives. The committee’s jurisdiction includes child labor, labor standards and statistics, and work incentive programs.
66. **The correct answer is (A).** Although based on the principles of democracy, America’s government is republican—the people elect officials to represent them in government.
67. **The correct answer is (B).** In the past, Congress authorized the president to veto specific elements of proposed legislation without vetoing an entire bill. The intent was to help the president limit government waste by removing unnecessary spending attached to essential bills. However, the line item veto gives a great deal of power to the Executive branch and was ruled unconstitutional but the Supreme Court.
68. **The correct answer is (B).** After hearings are concluded and all relevant information is collected, the subcommittee will meet in a “markup” session to determine what recommendation will be forwarded to the full committee, or if the bill should be “tabled” so that no action is taken.
69. **The correct answer is (C).** When there are differing Senate and House versions of legislation, a conference committee will attempt to create a compromise bill. Their final report must be adopted by a majority vote in both bodies before it can be sent to the president to be signed into law or sent back to Congress with a veto.

- 70. The correct answer is (A).** The primary power of the Supreme Court is its ability to challenge the constitutionality of state and federal laws. If a law is declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, it cannot be fully enforced until it is revised.
- 71. The correct answer is (A).** Caucuses are informal organizations of individual congressional representatives with like interests or constituencies. Members work together to promote the interests of the groups they represent through legislation, policy, and pressure on government agencies. Caucuses may represent everything from agriculture to tourism and often cross party lines.
- 72. The correct answer is (C).** The Supreme Court has a very heavy caseload. The Justices must prioritize cases; therefore, they tend to hear those cases in which they feel errors have been made.
- 73. The correct answer is (C).** In the Federalist Papers, Madison argues that a bicameral legislature is less susceptible to the violence of factions—particularly when the two bodies are as different as the House and Senate. He believed that the popular nature, shorter terms, and greater turn-over in the House would naturally put it at odds with the more patrician Senate. He felt it would be difficult for a faction to obtain a dangerous two-thirds majority in both houses.
- 74. The correct answer is (B).** Cabinets are often put together for political rather than purely administrative reasons. Bureaucrats who have built their careers within an agency may have different beliefs and expectations than their politically appointed bosses. As a result, it is difficult for even skilled cabinet secretaries to affect radical change in the departments they run.
- 75. The correct answer is (A).** The Justice Department is headed by the Attorney General. The Attorney General is responsible for enforcing the law and defending the interests of the United States.
- 76. The correct answer is (B).** In 1947, the Supreme Court held in *Everson v. Board of Education* that the wording of the First Amendment: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...” should be broadly applied to keep church and state separate. This “wall of separation” prohibits prayer in school and public funding for religious education.
- 77. The correct answer is (C).** Locke argued that the public should have the power to remove a legislature that didn’t act for the public good. Hobbes’ conception of popular sovereignty was much more limited than that which is incorporated in the Constitution.
- 78. The correct answer is (E).** The Treasury Department is responsible for the management of the federal debt and the printing of currency. It is the major fiscal policy agency. The Federal Reserve Board is responsible for monetary policy.
- 79. The correct answer is (A).** The Supreme Court is the only judicial body that may hear disputes between states. A small number of cases are brought directly to the Supreme Court each year without going through lower levels of the federal or state court system. Cases that qualify are known as “original jurisdiction” cases since they are defined in the Constitution.
- 80. The correct answer is (D).** If no candidate wins a majority of the votes in the electoral college, the House of Representatives must decide which of the three candidates with the most electoral votes will become President. A disputed election will result in court cases that will then naturally be decided by the legislative branch.
- 81. The correct answer is (C).** Prior to 1971, only citizens 21 years or older could vote. The 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment extended the right to vote to all Americans of 18 years of age and older.
- 82. The correct answer is (C).** Entitlement programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and Veterans’ benefits have no set spending limits. Total spending on entitlements is determined only

by the number of citizens qualifying for benefits and their needs.

83. **The correct answer is (B).** The First Amendment protects all forms of free speech except obscenity. The argument is that obscenity has no redeeming value and is non-political in nature. There is no need for it to be protected by the Constitution.
84. **The correct answer is (D).** Only the president has the authority to pardon citizens who have been convicted of federal crimes.
85. **The correct answer is (E).** At least two-thirds of the previous Senate will remain after each election while all Representatives must defend their seats every two years. While the rules of the Senate have changed over time, this has been done through amendments to existing rules rather than the wholesale adoption of a new set of rules. Over time, House rules have changed a great deal more than those of the Senate.
86. **The correct answer is (B).** The greatest number of Americans career government professionals working abroad work for the Pentagon and the Department of Defense. Many Americans also work within embassy and diplomatic missions abroad for the Department of State. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and National Security Agency (NSA) employ many Americans overseas.
87. **The correct answer is (B).** Political parties in the American system tend to limit the expression of extreme views. Instead, the two parties tend to move toward the political center, causing more extreme views to be underrepresented.
88. **The correct answer is (D).** Although polling can lower support for failing campaigns, “exit polling” is not an example of this. In an exit poll, voters leaving the polls are asked which candidate they chose. There is no proof of this activity having influenced an election. Each of the other answer choices represents a clear political influence of the American media.

89. **The correct answer is (E).** The Constitution establishes that each state should have a number of electors equal to its number of representatives in the House plus two for its two senators. Since the number of House representatives is based on state population, larger states have more electors. There are currently 538 electors, and 270 are needed to win the presidency.
90. **The correct answer is (D).** While some criticism has been made of the major networks for focusing on human interest stories rather than political news, there is little indication that concentration lowers journalistic standards. Rather, concentration threatens the diversity of views presented and may grant a dangerous amount of influence to those who have control over a large sector of the American mass media.
91. **The correct answer is (A).** The president’s party tends not to gain seats in Congress during the mid-term elections. The mid-term elections under President George W. Bush were an exception. The last time that a President’s party gained seats in the Senate was in 1982, and no President had gained backing in the House since the Civil War.
92. **The correct answer is (C).** Economic interest groups were the first to organize and to begin the systematic lobbying of Washington officials. Economic interest groups include industrial lobbies and professional organizations such as the American Medical Association.
93. **The correct answer is (E).** The Federalists never promised greater powers for the states. The Constitution aimed to bind the states closer together for their mutual benefit. Each state would give up some of its sovereignty and independence in order to become part of a much greater whole.
94. **The correct answer is (A).** The Constitution grants Congress the exclusive right to declare war. Over time, the Executive branch has eroded this power by entering combat without a formal declaration of war.

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| <p><b>95. The correct answer is (D).</b> In a number of states, legislation proposed by elected officials or the general public can become law through the referendum process. Typically, a number of signatures are required to place the referendum on the ballot and a simple majority for the referendum to pass. Although a plebiscite is also an appeal for public approval, the term has broader meaning of approval for the government as a whole and is not used in American government.</p> <p><b>96. The correct answer is (A).</b> Modern media technology has made it possible to follow the president's every movement twenty-four hours a day. The president, therefore, has greater access to the public and a greater ability to influence their opinions than at any point in the nation's history.</p> <p><b>97. The correct answer is (B).</b> Under the Articles of Confederation, foreign relations could be controlled by a block of nine or more states voting together. A single state could block legislation, making it very difficult for a stronger confederation to develop. There was no provision for a powerful executive.</p> | <p><b>98. The correct answer is (E).</b> The Constitution grants justices life tenures. However, the Constitution granted Congress a check of judicial power by granting the power to impeach Supreme Court justices.</p> <p><b>99. The correct answer is (B).</b> Unfunded mandates are laws passed by Congress that require the states to act at their own expense. While these measures are very unpopular with state officials, representatives under pressure from constituents benefit politically from this passing-of-the-buck.</p> <p><b>100. The correct answer is (E).</b> Candidates are eligible for federal matching funds after they receive at least \$5,000 in contributions from individuals in twenty different states. There are no restrictions by party.</p> |
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