**CIVICS REVIEW: Political Parties & Participation**

**Part A: Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists.** Our nation’s first major set of political factions came about from the debate over ratifying, or approving, the Constitution. The **Federalists** wanted a strong federal government to govern the nation, and they **supported** approving the Constitution. The **Anti-Federalists** **opposed** the Constitution and worried that a strong central government could take their rights away without a Bill of Rights to protect them.

Read the following statements, and decide if they would reflect a Federalist or Anti-Federalist viewpoint. Write “Federalist” or “Anti-Federalist” next to each statement.

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| **STATEMENT:** | **WHO WOULD SAY IT?** |
| 1) We need a strong central government to replace the Articles of Confederation. Without this, the country will not function well. | Federalist |
| 2) We should simply fix the Articles of Confederation. We don’t need the Constitution. |  |
| 3) The states should have more power than a central government. |  |
| 4) The central government should be the “Supreme Law of the Land” in order to unite the country. |  |
| 5) We need a Bill of Rights to ensure that our liberties, like the right to free speech, are protected. |  |
| 6) There is no need for a Bill of Rights. The Constitution itself already protects rights. |  |
| 7) The President created by the Constitution is really just a king or tyrant waiting to happen. |  |
| 8) A strong President is necessary to protect the country against foreign attack and make sure laws are carried out properly. |  |
| 9) The Constitution gives the federal government enough power to overpower the states and take away their rights. |  |
| 10) The system of checks and balances in the Constitution protects against an abuse of power. |  |

**Part B: Today’s Political Parties.** Today, we have a two-party system with two major political parties, or groups that share similar ideas about society and the role of government in it. The **Democratic Party** usually has more liberal or progressive views and supports more government intervention and social programs in order to help out society, but at the cost of higher taxes and less freedom. The party tends to be against more spending on defense and the military. The **Republican Party** usually has more conservative or traditional views and supports less government intervention and lower taxes, giving people and businesses more freedom at the cost of fewer social programs to help out society. The party tends to support more spending on defending the country’s borders.

Read the following statements, and decide if they would reflect a Democratic or Republic viewpoint. Write “Democratic” or “Republican” next to each statement.

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| **STATEMENT:** | **WHO WOULD SAY IT?** |
| 11) The government should reduce taxes for business owners so that they can hire more workers to help the economy. | Republican |
| 12) The government should help provide affordable health care for its citizens. We can raise taxes to pay for it. |  |
| 13) We need government rules, or regulations, to reduce carbon emissions. Businesses might complain about having less freedom, but that’s the price we need to pay to protect the environment. |  |
| 14) Gun rights are guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment. The government should not limit the rights of gun owners. |  |
| 15) Illegal immigrants should be prevented from entering the country, and stronger border security is needed. We’re ok with spending more on the military to protect our country. |  |
| 16) The government should increase the minimum wage and offer more funding and programs like food stamps for impoverished citizens. |  |
| 17) We need to protect the free expression of religion in our community, and faith-based initiatives (or religious-based programs) are often the best way to assist those in need or who require help. |  |
| 18) Government programs like Social Security and Affirmative Action should be limited. People should be mostly responsible for themselves. |  |
| 19) The government should make stricter rules to regulate businesses so that they are more fair to consumers. |  |
| 20) The death penalty should be abolished or never used; no matter what or how bad the crime is, no one should lose their life for committing it. |  |

**Part C. Multiple Choice**. Based on our discussion, answer the following questions.

**21) What was the Anti-Federalists' greatest concern about ratifying the U.S. Constitution?**

*A) The lack of a federal court system.*

*B) The lack of a strong military.*

*C) The lack of a bill of rights.*

*D) The lack of legislative veto power.*

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_

**22) Why did the Federalists believe the national government would not become too strong if the Constitution was adopted?**

*A) The people could only act through their representatives.*

*B) The federal government would use its powers to protect, not threaten, individual liberties.*

*C) Elected government officials could be trusted to protect individual rights.*

*D) A system of checks and balances would prevent the government from becoming tyrannical.*

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_

**23). Why did the Anti-Federalists urge the addition of a bill of rights to the Constitution?**

*A) to abolish slavery*

*B) to protect individual liberties*

*C) to lower the costs of government*

*D) to check the power of state governments*

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_

**24) The passage below was written by George Clinton, an Anti-Federalist, in 1788.**

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**Which sentence summarizes Clinton’s views in this passage?**

*A) The Constitution should be approved because it will unite the country.*

*B) The best form of government is a republican one with elected representatives.*

*C) The United States has too many separate interests to form a single uniform republic.*

*D) The Constitution gives too much power to the state governments for the republic to last.*

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_

**25) Which statement below best reflects the nature of our political system in the United States?**

*A) We have a one-party system where a single political party dominates elections.*

*B) We have a two-party system where two major political parties tend to win most elections.*

*C) We have a multi-party system where many different political parties have a major influence and win elections.*

*D) The Federalists and Anti-Federalists are our current two major political parties.*

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_

**26). Which statement summarizes a belief of the Republican Party?**

*A) There should be higher taxes and more public services.*

*B) State and federal elections should be held more frequently.*

*C) Taxes should be a low as possible.*

*D) The U.S. House of Representatives is more important than the Senate.*

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_

**27) The phrases below identify the primary goals of a political party.**

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**Which political party has these objectives as its primary goals?**

*A) Democratic Party*

*B) Republican Party*

*C) Libertarian Party*

*D) Green Party*

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_

**28) Which of the following statements is true about third parties in the United States?**

*A) Third parties often have large memberships and appeal to large groups of the population.*

*B) Third parties in the US include the Socialist, Libertarian, and Democratic Parties.*

*C) Third parties tend not to win many elections, but their ideas can be influential.*

*D) Third parties are outlawed by our two-party system.*

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_