Civics and American Government Mid-Term

1. Ancient Rome set up a \_\_\_ where citizens elected representatives to the Senate to rule.
   1. Dictatorship
   2. Monarchy
   3. Democracy
   4. Republic
2. A system of government in which power is divided between national, state, and local levels is a
   1. Unitary system
   2. Federal system
   3. Anarchic system
   4. Democratic system
3. This is NOT needed for democracy to prosper.
4. a social consensus
5. an uneducated public
6. a civil society
7. free enterprise
8. The Declaration of Independence founded government on principles of
9. strong central government.
10. arbitrary power.
11. taxation without representation.
12. human liberty and consent of the governed.
13. Under the Articles of Confederation, the plan for the central government did NOT include
14. an executive branch.
15. one vote per state.
16. a unicameral Congress.
17. one delegate from each state.
18. Generally, conservatives believe that the government should be used for protecting -
    1. the environment.
    2. a woman’s right to choose whether to have an abortion.
    3. a national health care system.
    4. only equal opportunity, not equality of results.
19. Someone on the left side of the political spectrum can best be described as \_\_\_\_ , while someone on the right side is considered \_\_\_\_\_\_, and someone in the center is considered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    1. Liberal, Conservative, Moderate
    2. Conservative, Liberal, Moderate
    3. Centrist, Conservative, Liberal
    4. Conservative, Moderate, Liberal
20. Locke argued that if government does not protect the rights of people, then -
    1. People should freely surrender their rights peacefully
    2. Citizens should understand that there are circumstances in which the government will have to suspend rights in order to preserve them
    3. Citizens should rewrite their agreement with the government in such a way that rights will be protected
    4. People have a right to (and should) overthrow the government.
21. Generally, liberals believe that the government can be used for which of the following?
    1. Instilling a moral code
    2. Redistributing of wealth through taxation
    3. Ensuring that the market is allowed to function totally freely
    4. None of the above
22. The **major** function of political parties in America is:
    1. educating the public
    2. presenting solutions to problems
    3. keeping the party in power responsible to the people
    4. nominating candidates for public office and presenting them to voters
23. A major problem for third parties today is:
    1. Ballot access (getting on the ballot)
    2. Debate access (getting invited to debates)
    3. Difficulty fundraising
    4. All of the above
24. In the electoral college, each state has as many electoral votes as:
    1. every other state
    2. it has U.S. Representatives
    3. it has U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators
    4. its population, divided by 1000
25. A person holding public office and seeking re-election is:
    1. a subordinate
    2. an incumbent
    3. a gerrymander
    4. a filibuster
26. Due to the necessity of winning the electoral college during an election, a candidate would be best advised to:
    1. concentrate on the largest geographical states
    2. concentrate on the smallest populated states
    3. concentrate in the most populated states
    4. concentrate on every state since each and every vote counts
27. The FCC influences the content of broadcasting through -
    1. fines and threats of revoking licenses
    2. strict guidelines for programming
    3. reviewing each program before broadcast
    4. censorship
28. Media can be loosely described as a “4th branch of government” in that -
    1. it has Constitutionally expressed powers over the three branches of government
    2. it provides a check over government officials in that it can expose corruption
    3. it can be a vote in Congress during times of emergency
    4. it can decide the outcome of presidential elections in the event of a tie in the electoral college
29. The 26th Amendment:
    1. Created freedom of the press
    2. Allowed African Americans to vote
    3. Allowed women to vote
    4. Lowered the minimum voting age from 21 to 18
30. The 15th Amendment:
    1. Created freedom of the press
    2. Allowed African American males to vote
    3. Allowed women to vote
    4. Lowered the minimum voting age from 21 to 18
31. The first televised debate in this country was between which two candidates?
    1. Nixon & LBJ
    2. JFK & Nixon
    3. George HW Bush and Al Gore
    4. Lincoln and Jefferson Davis
32. The Constitution outlines the duties and responsibilities of the President in
    1. Article I
    2. Article II
    3. Article III
    4. Article IV
33. The Article of the Constitution dealing with the Judicial Branch is:
    1. Article I
    2. Article II
    3. Article III
    4. Article IV
34. The most common method of ratifying a constitutional amendment is approval by:
    1. 2/3 of the Senate, 3/4 of the House, and at least 35 states
    2. 3/4 of both the House & Senate, plus a majority of the states
    3. 2/3 of both the House and Senate, plus 3/4 of the states
    4. 2/3 of the House, 3/4 of the Senate and 3/4 of the states
35. The Supreme Court’s main check on the other two branches of government is:
    1. Impeachment, which means getting rid of members of the other two branches
    2. Judicial review, which means saying whether or not an action or law is constitutional
    3. Impoundment, which means stopping funding of unconstitutional programs
    4. All of the above are checks the Supreme Court has over the other two branches
36. The “Elastic” (Necessary and Proper) Clause of Article 1 allows Congress to -
    1. Expand its powers in order to respond to changing circumstances over time
    2. Exercise a monopoly over the rubber band industry
    3. Eliminate the Executive and Judicial branches when necessary and proper
    4. Ensure that demand for rubber bands is perfectly elastic
37. The Full Faith and Credit clause of Article 4 requires -
    1. Banks to give mortgages to low-income families.
    2. 4-year colleges to give credit for classes taken at Community Colleges.
    3. The Federal Reserve to make overnight loans to banks.
    4. That laws from each state must be honored by the other states.
38. Why did the Framers of the Constitution desire a federal form of government?
    1. Federalism was a compromise that both strengthened the national government and protected the rights of the states.
    2. Federalism gave tons of power to the national government and made the states meaningless.
    3. The states could remain more powerful than the national government.
    4. Federalism allowed states to sign their own treaties with foreign countries.
39. According to the Constitution, the President of the U.S is officially elected by:
    1. the Cabinet
    2. the Senate
    3. the Electoral College
    4. a popular vote of the people
40. The constitutional requirements for the office of President include -
    1. resident of the U.S. for at least 14 years.
    2. serving in government positions for at least 12 years.
    3. being at least 35-years-old.
    4. all of the above.
41. If no candidate receives a majority in the electoral college, then:
    1. the winner of the popular election becomes the president
    2. the election is thrown into the House of Representatives for decision
    3. the election is thrown into the Senate for decision
    4. a runoff election is held
42. Because of the \_\_\_\_ Amendment, the president may serve a maximum of \_\_\_ terms or \_\_\_\_ years.
    1. 24th; 2; 8
    2. 22nd; 3; 10
    3. 21st; 2; 8
    4. 22nd; 2; 10
43. What was notable about the 2000 Presidential election between George W. Bush & Al Gore?
    1. George Bush established himself as an environmentalist
    2. Al Gore won, becoming the 43rd President
    3. Al Gore won the popular vote but lost the election
    4. George Bush won the popular vote but lost the electoral vote
44. One way the Founders provided for change in the Constitution was to describe how to -
    1. provide judicial restraint.
    2. ratify the Constitution.
    3. amend the Constitution.
    4. impeach presidents.
45. How did the Twenty-first Amendment affect the Eighteenth Amendment?
46. changed its venue
47. supported it
48. repealed it
49. ratified it
50. The Twenty-fourth Amendment helped some low-income African Americans to vote by -
51. change of venue.
52. eliminating poll taxes.
53. ratifying voting laws.
54. prohibiting government intervention.

1. The Attorney General heads the -
   1. Department of Homeland Security
   2. Department of Commerce
   3. Department of Defense
   4. Department of Justice
2. The most recent addition to the president’s cabinet is
   1. Department of Energy
   2. State Department
   3. Housing and Urban Development
   4. Department of Homeland Security
3. How has the overall spending trends of presidential campaigns changed since the 1960s?
   1. Gone down
   2. Stayed the same.
   3. Gone up slightly
   4. Gone up significantly
4. Which of the following is one criticism of the electoral college after recent elections?
   1. It under represents the smaller states
   2. The winner of the popular vote might not win the presidency
   3. It identifies the winner of the presidency with certainty
   4. It is unconstitutional
5. If the president calls upon troops to stop a riot he/she is acting as:
   1. Chief Diplomat
   2. Commander-in-Chief
   3. Chief Executive
   4. Chief of State
6. If the president makes a speech as a national holiday, such as fourth of July, they are acting as:
   1. Chief Legislator
   2. Commander-in-Chief
   3. Chief Executive
   4. Chief of State
7. If the president veto’s a bill from Congress, they are acting as:
   1. Chief Legislator
   2. Commander-in-Chief
   3. Chief Executive
   4. Chief of State
8. The US Secret Service is an agency in the:
   1. Department of Justice
   2. Department of Treasury
   3. Department of Homeland Security
   4. Department of Defense
9. The Bureau of \_\_\_counts the US population every 10 years. This is run by the Department of \_\_\_.
   1. National Standards; Defense
   2. Health Care Financing Administration; Health & Human Services
   3. National Center for Health Care Statistics; Health & Human Services
   4. Census; Commerce
10. The most important duty of the president may be to ensure that all -
    1. citizens have homes.
    2. military bases are in use.
    3. laws are “faithfully executed”.
    4. Congress members control spending.
11. This Amendment protects your rights when accused of a crime:
    1. 1st Amendment
    2. 5th Amendment
    3. 19th Amendment
    4. 21st Amendment
12. Washington DC has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ electoral votes:
    1. 0, because they are not a state
    2. 3, because they have 3 voting members of Congress
    3. 3, because they receive the same as the smallest states
    4. 0, because they do not have any members of Congress
13. The means of making changes to the US Constitution is described in:
    1. Amendment 5
    2. Article 1, Section 5
    3. Article 5, Section I
    4. Article 7, Section I
14. In this part of the Constitution, the founders listed six goals for American government.
15. Preamble
16. Amendments
17. Articles
18. Supremacy Clause
19. Changing voting boundaries to benefit one political party is known as
    1. Tomfoolery
    2. Gerrymandering
    3. Quorum
    4. Ex-post-facto
20. Which of the following is a **non-legislative** power of Congress?
    1. Impeachment
    2. Creating Laws
    3. Creating Taxes
    4. Vetoes

Answer Key

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