

COACHING REPORT – Pre-Assessment: American Politics and the US Constitution (PGVP)

Attempt 1 - July 29, 2023

[Print View](#)

Assessment Description

American Politics and the U.S.

Constitution examines the evolution of representative government in the United States and the changing interpretations of the civil rights and civil liberties protected by the Constitution. This course will give candidates an understanding of the powers of the branches of the federal government, the continual tensions inherent in a federal system, the shifting relationship between state and federal governments, and the interactions between elected officials and the ever-changing electorate. This course will focus on such topics as the role of a free press in a democracy, the impact of changing demographics on American politics, and the debates over and expansion of civil rights. Upon completion of the course, candidates should be able to explain the basic functions of the federal government, describe the forces that shape American policy and politics, and be better prepared to participate in America's civic institutions. This course has no prerequisite.

Competent

Competencies and Topics Assessment Score

- ▲ The Development of Constitutional Democracy - 17% of assessment



EXEMPLARY

- ▲ The Influence of the Enlightenment

[Review](#)

1. Which contributor to the Enlightenment identified two key aspects to our existence, liberty and property?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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John Locke



Thomas Hobbes

Montesquieu

Adam Smith

2. What is the purpose of the Occupy Wall Street movement?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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It advocates for a correction of today's economic inequalities.



Using This Report

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

It advocates for increased minority voting rights.

It speaks out against the racial inequality in employment.

It advocates for greater regulation of religious ideologies.

^ The Articles of Confederation

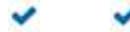
[Suggested Study](#) [Review](#)

- ✓ 3. There were several factors that significantly contributed to the government structure outlined in the Articles of Confederation. What was one of them?

[Less](#)

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

Americans wished the government to be representative of the states.



The states were unable to protect American ships from attacks by the Barbary pirates.

Taxation was a well-recognized way for the national government to retain control over the individual states.

The people wanted a strong central government to gather defenses in times of war.

- ✗ 4. What was a major difference between the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution?

[Less](#)

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

The Articles of Confederation did not provide for a national judiciary.



The Articles of Confederation required states to provide troops for national defense.



The Articles of Confederation did not allow states to establish banks.

The Articles of Confederation required states to pay for land claims west of the Appalachian Mountains.

^ The Constitutional Convention

[Review](#)

- ✓ 5. What did the Great Compromise between the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan that was finalized in the Constitution establish?

[Less](#)

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

Authority to tax and regulate trade

A two-chamber Congress



National armed forces

A national currency

- ✓ 6. What were the results of the three-fifths compromise?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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It allowed free states to pay taxes on only three-fifths of its foreign imports.

It required slave states to pay taxes on three-fifths of enslaved persons sold domestically.

It allowed slave states to count three-fifths of their enslaved population for the purpose of representation.

It required slave states to pay taxes on three-fifths of all imported enslaved persons.

^ Federalist vs. Anti-federalist

[Review](#)

7. What was a Federalist argument in support of the ratification of the Constitution?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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A strong national government is better for national defense and economic growth.

A strong national government is better for the representation of small landowners of modest wealth.

Strong state governments are better for funding internal improvements like roads.

Strong state governments are better for facilitating business transactions.

8. Which concepts were James Madison referencing when he stated, "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition" in *Federalist, no. 51?*

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Free enterprise and competition

Life and the pursuit of happiness

Separation of powers and checks and balances



Equality and individual rights

^ Separation of Powers & Checks and Balances [Review](#)

9. What is a judicial check on the executive branch?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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The Supreme Court can veto an executive order.

The Supreme Court can override an executive pardon.

The Supreme Court can declare actions by the executive branch unconstitutional.



The Supreme Court can block a declaration of war.

10. What describes a legislative check on the judicial branch?

[Less](#)

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

Congress can change the Supreme Court's jurisdiction.



Congress can appoint federal judges.

Congress can limit the term of a Supreme Court justice.

Congress can override a Supreme Court decision.

Structure of The United States Government - 23% of assessment



COMPETENT

The Legislative Branch

Review

11. What best explains why individual members of the Senate have more legislative power than individual members of the House of Representatives?

Less

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

The increased length of the term of office in the Senate

The higher minimum age requirement in the Senate

The ability of the Senate to approve members of the president's cabinet

The smaller total number of Senate members compared to the number of representatives



12. What describes the equal proportions method of congressional apportionment?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Congressional districts are drawn in order to maintain similar numbers of voters in each district.



Congressional districts are drawn so that states are each given an equal number of members in the House of Representatives.



Congressional districts are drawn to guarantee that each district will be equally represented in the Senate.

Congressional districts are drawn so each will have an equal number of members of the Republican and Democratic parties.

13. What is an example of a congressional allocation that would influence the national budget to help a member of congress's district or state?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Money appropriated to specific projects that benefit a congressperson's personal businesses

Exemptions written into the law that only benefit a certain political action committee

Funds for the building of an airport in a congressperson's district



YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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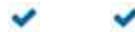
A congressperson's support for a colleague's bill if the colleague will support the congressperson's bill

14. Why is the House Rules Committee one of the most powerful committees in the U.S. House of Representatives?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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It determines the rules for debate and in what order to schedule consideration of bills in the House.



It sets rules that must be followed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

It defines the process of selecting the majority leader in the House of Representatives.

It is made up of senior representatives who have served at least three terms in office.

^ The Executive Branch

[Review](#)

15. Which constitutional amendment established term limits for the president?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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The Nineteenth Amendment

The Seventeenth Amendment

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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The Twentieth Amendment

The Twenty-Second Amendment



16. What is the purpose of executive agreements?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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To influence domestic policy without passing legislation through Congress

To establish agreements with foreign countries without congressional approval



To exercise the use of the military without requiring a declaration of war from Congress



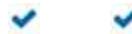
To override congressional legislation that the president does not support

17. Which statement best describes "executive privilege"?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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A president may withhold confidential communication from the courts and the legislative branch.



A president may exercise any power because of the checks and balances provision by the other branches of government.

When a president successfully asserts a power without

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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impeachment, that power becomes assigned to the executive branch.

A president may expand power and authority through the use of the cabinet, which is not restricted or limited by the Constitution.

18 How can an outgoing president exert significant influence over a new president's administration?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
----------------	-------------------

By having a budget that affects the ability of the incoming administration to pursue new initiatives



By continuing to operate through the first 100 days during the incoming administration's transition

By reserving a seat in the new president's cabinet

By participating in agenda setting during the transition

^ The Judicial Branch

[Review](#)

19 What describes the importance of the Supreme Court decision in *Marbury v. Madison*?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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It reinforced congressional

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
----------------	-------------------

impeachment power.

It protected presidential control over the military.

It established the principle of judicial review.

It affirmed the presidential use of veto power.

 20 How are individuals nominated to the Supreme Court?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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They are chosen by the president of the United States.

They are confirmed by the House of Representatives.

They are selected from the current pool of federal judges.

They are chosen from the available constitutional law professors.

 21 How does the 14th Amendment affect the powers of the federal judiciary?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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It expanded the judiciary's power over states that applied laws unfairly.

It restricted the judiciary's power to national issues instead of state

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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issues.

It expanded the judiciary's power to rule in disputes between states.

It restricted the judiciary's power to override state constitutions.

^ Power Under the American Federalist System [Review](#)

 22 What is a power reserved for the states?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Conducting foreign relations

Coining money

Declaring war

Conducting elections



 23 Which constitutional amendment allows states to reserve powers not explicitly granted to the national government?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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The Eighth Amendment

The Tenth Amendment



The Twelfth Amendment

The Nineteenth Amendment

24. What did the Supreme Court's ruling in *Gibbons v. Ogden* establish?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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A basis for exercising broad states' rights under the Tenth Amendment

A loose constructionist interpretation of the commerce clause

A strict constructionist interpretation of the supremacy clause

A foundation for the constitutional principle of judicial review



- Political Participation - 25% of assessment ✓ COMPETENT

- Presidential and Congressional Elections Review

25. How do most states award votes in the Electoral College?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Candidates get electoral votes in proportion to their share of the statewide popular vote.

The candidate who wins the popular vote nationwide gets all the electoral votes for the state.

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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The candidate who wins the popular vote in the state gets all the electoral votes for the state.



Candidates get one electoral vote for each congressional district where they win the popular vote.

26. Which amendment provided for the separate election of the president and vice president?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
----------------	-------------------

The Eleventh Amendment



The Twelfth Amendment

The Thirteenth Amendment

The Fourteenth Amendment

27. What is a characteristic of an open primary system?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Any resident in the district is allowed to run as a candidate for any party during the primary.



Voters registered with any political party are allowed to vote for candidates in any party during the primary.

Candidates from every political party compete against each other until two are selected for a general election.

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Voters are required to meet together to publicly declare their support for a primary candidate.

 28 What is true about campaign ads in primary elections?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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They generally mention all participating political parties.

They often try to raise the name recognition of a candidate.



They often discourage people from taking actions to vote.

They are primarily aimed at more independent voters.

 29 What was the purpose of creating the Federal Election Commission in the 1970s?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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To manage the operation of polling stations

To ensure transparency in campaign financing



To limit the influence of negative campaigning

To regulate the influence of super PACs

30 Who can vote for a United States representative?

[Less](#)

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

Any voter in the representative's state

Any voter registered in the representative's party

Any voter in the representative's congressional district

Any voter in the United States



Interest Groups

[Suggested Study](#) [Review](#)

31 What is the definition of inside lobbying?

[Less](#)

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

An attempt to sway government decision-making targeted directly at government officials



An attempt to sway government decision-making through media-covered events

An attempt to sway government decision-making by influencing public opinion

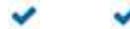
An attempt to sway government decision-making by proposing legislative policies

32 What was determined in U.S. v. Windsor and Obergefell v. Hodges?

[Less](#)

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

They declared DOMA unconstitutional and legalized same-sex marriage nationwide.



They declared that spending money in an election was essentially equivalent to free speech.

They required the registration of lobbyists representing any interest group under certain circumstances.

They removed any restrictive limits to how much money unions or corporations can donate to Super PACs.

33 How do Super PACs operate?

[Less](#)

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

They cannot give money directly to individual candidates.



They are allowed to give up to \$15,000 per year to any national party.

They can give no more than \$5000 per candidate, per election.

They collect money to donate to or against candidates or issues.



34. What is one common method of influence used by interest groups?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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They target members of congressional committees that have special influence on relevant legislative areas.



They target cabinet members viewed as more sympathetic to their cause.

They target the staff of opposing congressional members to educate them on relevant policy.

They target celebrities and other highly influential figures to sway congressional voting.

35. In which case did the Supreme Court establish that spending on political campaigns constituted political speech that is protected by the First Amendment?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Breedlove v. Suttles

Buckley v. Valeo



Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission



Shelby County v. Holder

36. What is closely associated with a citizen being less likely to vote?

[Less](#)

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

Having a college education

Being an older adult

Having a lower income job



Being a woman

37. What was required by states under the 1993 National Voter Registration Act?

[Less](#)

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

It required states to demand proof of citizenship before allowing individuals to register to vote.

It required states to allow individuals to register to vote at the same time they go to vote.

It required states to allow citizens to register to vote when they sign up for driver's licenses.



It required states to allow driver's licenses as identification for those registering to vote.

38. A voter casts a ballot for a candidate based solely on the candidate's previous vote on a tax cut.

Which type of voting decision is demonstrated in this situation?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Inspectuve

Retrospective



Introspective

Prospective

39. What is one method used by Southern states to restrict African American voting during the early 1960s?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Literacy tests



Property ownership requirements

Godfather clauses



Voter identification laws

- Civil Liberties and Civil Rights - 25% of assessment

EXEMPLARY

- Civil Rights & Civil Liberties Under the United States Constitution [Review](#)

40. What was the impact of the Supreme Court's decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
----------------	-------------------

It allowed racial segregation by establishing the "separate but equal" doctrine.



It prevented African Americans from serving on juries.

It prohibited African Americans from holding elected offices.

It allowed states to use literacy tests to determine eligibility to vote.

41 Which constitutional amendment guarantees the right of a public trial and representation by an attorney?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
----------------	-------------------

Fourth Amendment

Fifth Amendment

Sixth Amendment



Eighth Amendment

42 What is the focus of multiple amendments in the Bill of Rights?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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The powers of elected leaders

The rights of non-U.S. citizens

The powers of the Supreme Court

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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The rights of criminal defendants  

43. In which types of cases would the Supreme Court use the standard of strict scrutiny?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Cases that restrict fundamental rights of protected classes  

Cases related to workplace discrimination against women

Cases concerning restrictions of rights against foreign nationals

Cases involving discrimination against people with lower incomes

^ Balancing Liberties and Public Safety

[Review](#)

44. Which term is defined as a power of the government to take or use property for a public purpose?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Eminent domain  

Voir dire

Common law

Constitutional right

45. What describes the Supreme Court's ruling in *Mapp v. Ohio*?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Law enforcement officers do not need a search warrant when using drug-sniffing dogs.

Evidence obtained because it was in plain view is not admissible without a warrant.

Evidence obtained without a warrant falls under the exclusionary rule and is not admissible.

Law enforcement officers are required to have a warrant for a search even if consent is given by the suspect.

46. Which amendment provides the rights for individuals to question those who testify against them and to call witnesses for their own defense?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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The Fourth Amendment

The Fifth Amendment

The Sixth Amendment

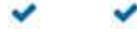
The Eighth Amendment

47. What does the U.S. Supreme Court's interpretation of the Fifth Amendment's right to due process mean for citizens?

[Less](#)

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

The government must use consistent and fair procedures if it wants to limit a citizen's rights or seize private property.



Citizens have the right to dispute a court's decision if they do not agree with it, but the government ultimately determines guilt or innocence.

The government cannot limit the rights of citizens, except in the case that the Supreme Court gives the government authority over a specific right.

Citizens are protected from seizure of property by the government as long as they follow specific procedures to avoid it.

^ Liberty According to the First Amendment

[Review](#)

- ✖ 48 Why was the Supreme Court's ruling in *Brandenburg v. Ohio* significant for freedom of speech?

[Less](#)

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

It extended federal protection for abstract discussions of violence and overthrow of the government.



It limited federal protection for obscene speech, such as pornographic magazines.

It limited federal protection for symbolic political speech, such as flag

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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burning.

It extended federal protection for defamatory speech, such as tabloid journalism.



49 What describes the effect of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores*?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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States are not allowed to enact laws that make relationships between same-sex couples illegal.

Businesses do not have to provide employees access to birth control if it violates the business owner's religious beliefs.



Businesses are not allowed to deny services to married same-sex couples that are provided to other married couples.

States cannot deny healthcare benefits to employees' same-sex marriage partners.

50 What describes the Supreme Court's ruling in *Texas v. Johnson*?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Nonthreatening hate speech is constitutionally protected.

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Flag burning is constitutionally protected political speech.



Laws banning same-sex relationships are unconstitutional.

Fourteenth Amendment protections extend to all minority groups.

51. What is an aspect of the Supreme Court's Lemon test when determining whether a law violates the establishment clause?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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It must not inhibit nor advance a particular religious practice.



It must not be offensive to a major world religion.

It must not make any reference to a deity or a higher power.

It must uphold Judeo-Christian values.

^ Restriction and Expansion of Individual Rights [Review](#)

52. What was a result of Obergefell v. Hodges?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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It required that same-sex marriages be recognized across states.



YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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It affirmed the equal protection of same-sex couples under the Fifth Amendment.

It established the guiding principle for segregation until the 1950s.

It upheld that the right to privacy included a woman's right to an abortion.

 53 What was a result of Roe v. Wade?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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It upheld that the right to privacy included a woman's right to an abortion.



It allowed Jim Crow laws to continue.

It decided that segregated schools violated the Fourteenth Amendment.

It affirmed the equal protection of same-sex couples under the Fifth Amendment.

 54 How did the Civil War Amendments affect individual rights in the United States?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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They expanded individual rights by extending protections to people of color.



YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

They restricted individual rights by narrowing protections to men only.

They expanded individual rights for people of color but restricted rights for people who were white.

They restricted individual rights for men but expanded rights for women.

↖ Public Opinion and the Media - 10%
of assessment 

COMPETENT

↖ Influence of Media on Democracy 

 55. What is an appropriate characterization of media agenda setting?

[Less](#)

YOUR CORRECT
ANSWER ANSWER

Agenda setting is based on modern meeting management practices.

Agenda setting determines which events deserve public attention.  

Agenda setting is an attempt to cover all news without limit.

Agenda setting censors new stories that are unfavorable to sponsors.

 56. What describes the principle of prior restraint?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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News agencies require permission from government officials before publishing stories.

The government can prevent some information from being published if it affects national security.



News agencies need court approval to publish stories about government corruption.

The government can censor stories that could damage the country's reputation internationally.



57 Which legislation required the executive branch of the U.S. government to provide information requested by citizens?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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The Freedom of Information Act



Miller v. California (1973)

The Radio Act of 1927

Branzburg v. Hayes (1972)

Influence of Public Opinion on Democracy

[Review](#)

58 How do presidents use mandates after an election?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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They use their public support to implement campaign promises.

✓

They use their new power to punish political rivals.

They plan reelection for the next campaign immediately.

They elect members of their party to local offices.

✓

59 Why is the Supreme Court affected less by public opinion than other government organizations?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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The justices are not elected but are appointed.

✓ ✓

The justices hear cases people are familiar with.

The justices are elected by the Electoral College.

The justices decide cases based on legislative support.

60 What is one common demographic group?

[Less](#)

YOUR ANSWER	CORRECT ANSWER
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Income

✓ ✓

Secondary employment

YOUR	CORRECT
ANSWER	ANSWER

Name

Experience

Time used: 45 min

of Questions: 60