

**National Political Science Bee
Sample National Qualifying Exam**

Name _____

School _____

Grade _____

**Instructions - Circle the correct answer or leave it blank.
Correct answers are worth 2 points. Incorrect answers are
worth -1 point. Questions left blank are worth 0 points.**

1. The Ninth Amendment to the United States Constitution serves which of the following purposes?

- A. It lists several additional rights not included in the first eight amendments
- B. It delegates certain powers to the states under the constitution
- C. It specifies that the preceding amendments do not constitute an exhaustive list of rights
- D. It separates the ballots for president and vice president

2. Which of the following holds the first presidential primary of each presidential election season, usually in February of each election year?

- A. Texas
- B. Connecticut
- C. California
- D. New Hampshire

3. Which of these is the minimum age for an American president according to the Constitution?

- A. 25 years old
- B. 35 years old
- C. 45 years old
- D. 55 years old

4. Which of these people resigned as Prime Minister of the UK in July of 2019?

- A. Boris Johnson
- B. Theresa May
- C. David Cameron
- D. Margaret Thatcher

5. Which of the following released a report in April 2019 detailing the findings of an investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election?

- A. Robert Mueller
- B. James Comey
- C. Rod Rosenstein
- D. Adam Schiff

6. Which of these is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to environmental issues such as climate change and deforestation?

- A. UNESCO
- B. Doctors Without Borders (MSF)
- C. the International Red Cross
- D. Greenpeace

7. Which of the following are modern examples of theocratic governments?

- A. Iran and the Holy See (Vatican City)
- B. the United States and the United Kingdom
- C. Andorra and Monaco
- D. El Salvador and Thailand

8. Semi-presidential systems of government, like those of France and Poland, are characterized by which of the following?

- A. there is a division of executive power between a president and a prime minister
- B. there is a president appointed by the legislature and not subject to popular election
- C. the president is subject to oversight by a monarch or other non-elected head of state
- D. the legislature wields both legislative and executive power and the president is merely head of state with no real power

9. The federal court system in the United States is composed of which of the following?

- A. district courts
- B. the Supreme Court
- C. courts of appeals
- D. all of these are part of the federal court system

10. How many members will the electoral college have in 2020?

- A. 100
- B. 435
- C. 535
- D. 538

11. Which of the following are directly elected by the American people?

- A. Supreme Court justices
- B. federal judges
- C. members of the Senate
- D. members of the cabinet

12. Nicholas Maduro has overseen an economic collapse as the leader of what South American nation?

- A. Brazil
- B. Chile
- C. Venezuela
- D. Colombia

13. Which of the following is the common name for the intergovernmental economic organization of the largest of the 'advanced economies' in the world?

- A. the League of Nations
- B. OPEC
- C. the Group of Seven (G7)
- D. the UN Security Council

14. In the 1819 case of *McCulloch v. Maryland*, the Supreme Court upheld the use of which of the following?
- the United States military within the borders of the country
 - the 'Necessary and Proper Clause' to create the Second Bank of the United States
 - the use of the taxation power to impose an excise tax on whiskey
 - the direct election of United States Senators
15. Article II of the constitution outlines the powers of which of the following branches of the government?
- the House of Representatives
 - the Senate
 - the executive
 - the judiciary
16. In the US, twenty states allow for what process at the state level, which allows elected officials to be removed from office by a vote of the people?
- primary
 - initiative
 - referendum
 - recall
17. Of these four southern US states, which has the highest gross state product?
- Georgia
 - Alabama
 - Louisiana
 - Tennessee
18. Which of the following consumes the largest percentage of the annual federal government budget?
- interest on the national debt
 - defense spending
 - aid to foreign countries
 - social security payments
19. Which of the following was a major cause of protests in Hong Kong in 2019?
- demands from China that the region give up its autonomous status
 - widespread unemployment following a financial crisis
 - refusal of the Chinese government to implement economic and financial reforms
 - a proposal that would result in extradition from Hong Kong for trial in China for certain offenses
20. The presiding officer of the House of Representatives is the
- President Pro Tempore
 - Vice President
 - Speaker of the House
 - Majority Whip
21. Which of the following signature programs of the Obama administration has been a frequent target for Republicans since its passage?
- the Affordable Care Act
 - the Americans with Disabilities Act
 - the USA PATRIOT Act
 - the No Child Left Behind program
22. Which of the following is a power specifically granted to the United States Senate?
- drafting articles of impeachment
 - approving presidential appointments
 - authorizing each use of nuclear weapons
 - interpreting federal laws
23. The interaction between federal, state and local governments to solve common problems and implement certain policies is referred to by which of the following terms?
- cooperative federalism
 - dual federalism
 - interventionism
 - jurisprudence
24. The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court is a federal court that does which of the following?
- hears court cases involving foreign nationals in the United States
 - gives agencies like the FBI and NSA permission to gather intelligence on foreign nationals in the US
 - gives permission for intelligence operations in foreign countries
 - handles all immigration cases in the United States
25. Which of the following is the current central banking system of the United States?
- the Second Bank of the United States
 - the Department of the Treasury
 - the Federal Reserve
 - Bank of America
26. In the United States, the power of the federal government to make treaties is an example of which of the following?
- separation of powers
 - executive privilege
 - divine right of kings
 - judicial review
27. What longtime leader of Zimbabwe died at age 95 in September 2019?
- Ian Smith
 - Morgan Tsvangirai
 - Robert Mugabe
 - Kwame Nkrumah
28. What political system is characterized by the rule of a small number of people?
- dictatorship
 - democracy
 - oligarchy
 - absolute monarchy
29. Which of the following are prohibited from becoming president of the United States?
- women
 - atheists
 - naturalized citizens
 - members of the armed forces

30. In current Congressional politics, 'The Squad' refers to a group of
- Democratic congresswomen from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds
 - legislators from the Republican party who strongly back President Trump
 - experienced centrist senators from both parties
 - extremely conservative congressmen who advocate small government and lower taxes
31. Which of the following is responsible for selecting the President of the United States?
- a direct vote of the American people
 - the Senate
 - state legislatures
 - the Electoral College
32. What does the 'Guarantee Clause' in Article IV specify about the governments of American states?
- they will have bicameral legislatures
 - they will have governors
 - they will be a republican form of government
 - they will be direct democracies
33. A democratic government with issues like lapses in press freedoms or civil liberties, or elections with some irregularities are characterized by which of the following terms?
- dictatorships
 - illiberal democracies
 - republics
 - consensus democracies
34. Which of the following is an example of a supranational union?
- EU
 - NAFTA
 - the International Red Cross
 - the government of the state of Texas
35. Which of these international agreements or gatherings were intended to address the growing threat of climate change?
- the Kyoto Protocol
 - the Paris Agreement
 - the Rio Earth Summit
 - all of these had climate change as their focus
36. Supreme Court justices are appointed to terms of what length?
- 4 years
 - 6 years
 - 15 years
 - justices are appointed to life terms
37. Both the federal government and state governments have the power to do all of the following EXCEPT
- fund highways
 - regulate commerce
 - levy taxes
 - declare war
38. Which of the following makes up the professional staff of American embassies and diplomatic missions overseas?
- the GAO
 - the FBI
 - the Foreign Service
 - the Department of the Interior
39. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization between the United States and its European allies is an example of which of the following in international relations?
- a collective security agreement
 - an arms control treaty
 - a trade union
 - a wartime military alliance
40. The Nordic countries, including Sweden and Denmark, all embrace governmental and economic practices based on what political theory?
- communism
 - oligarchy
 - anarchy
 - socialism
41. Which of these age groups is LEAST likely to vote in a national election in the US?
- 18-29 years old
 - 30-44 years old
 - 45-59 years old
 - 60 and older
42. All of the following are responsibilities of the president listed in Clause 3 of Article II of the Constitution EXCEPT
- giving Congress information on the state of the union
 - recommending measures for Congress's consideration
 - receiving foreign representatives
 - appointing Congressional leadership
43. Christine Blasey Ford testified in a highly controversial confirmation hearing for which of the following in 2018?
- Sonny Perdue
 - James Mattis
 - Rick Perry
 - Brett Kavanaugh
44. The constitution of the United Kingdom is unusual in that it has which of the following characteristics?
- it has well over 100 formal amendments
 - it is uncodified, in that it is not a single, formal, written document
 - it is almost identical to, and was the basis for, the United States Constitution
 - it has been adopted with almost no changes in every Commonwealth country
45. In 2018, Ethiopia signed a peace agreement with which of the following neighboring countries?
- Kenya
 - Somalia
 - Eritrea
 - Djibouti

46. Which of the following do presidents Herbert Hoover and Donald Trump have in common?

- A. both served in the cabinet before they were elected president
- B. they are the only men elected president without holding elected office or having served in the military prior to their election
- C. they are the only two presidents who were not lawyers prior to becoming president
- D. both were born outside of the United States to American parents

47. All of the following are prominent Republican politicians EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Mike Pence
- B. Mitch McConnell
- C. Nancy Pelosi
- D. Susan Collins

48. Which of these has historically given Congress and the federal government much of its power?

- A. the 'reserve powers' clause
- B. the Commerce Clause
- C. the power to print and coin money
- D. impeachment powers

49. Which of the following is the role of the president with regard to the United States military?

- A. the president has the power to declare war
- B. the president has the power to appropriate funds to pay for the armed forces
- C. the president is commander in chief of the United States military
- D. the president makes all laws regarding the military

50. The 'Great Compromise' at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 was responsible for which of the following?

- A. the ability of the government to levy taxes
- B. the structure and composition of the United States Congress
- C. the establishment of the office of the president
- D. the Bill of Rights