

National Political Science Bee – A Set Qualifying Exam

Name _____

School _____

Grade _____

Email address _____

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.

Questions 1-3 refer to image 1 in the resource section of the examination.

1. Based on the graph, which of the following conclusions can be drawn about voter participation in presidential elections since 1912?

- A. Voter turnout has declined steadily since 1912.
- B. Decreasing numbers of Americans affiliated with political parties has strongly effected voter turnout.
- C. Turnout in presidential election years has varied widely based on historical context and candidates.
- D. None of these conclusions are supported by the data represented in the graph.

2. Which of the following might explain the large drop in voter turnout between 1916 and 1928 for both midterm and presidential elections?

- A. The ratification of the 19th Amendment.
- B. The severe economic downturn during the decade of the 1920s.
- C. Increased efforts to suppress the African American vote in the 1910s and 1920s.
- D. The increasing influence of political machines on voting in urban areas.

3. All of these would account for the sharp increase in turnout in the 2018 midterm election EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. A strong desire among core Republican voters to support President Trump and Republican candidates.
- B. Record numbers of women, people of color and younger candidates seeking office in the 2018 midterm election.
- C. Economic prosperity due to the policies of the Trump administration.
- D. A large number of competitive House and Senate races throughout the country.

Questions 4-7 refer to image 2 in the resource section of the examination.

4. Which of the following significant categories of mandatory federal government spending is NOT reflected in this chart?

- A. entitlement programs
- B. procurement of new military weapons systems
- C. interest payments on the federal debt
- D. block grants to the states

5. Which of the following best defines the term discretionary spending?

- A. any spending that is implemented through an appropriations bill passed by Congress
- B. spending on programs enumerated in the Constitution
- C. federal government spending that is required by law and based on eligibility and formulas
- D. spending that is under direct control of the executive branch

6. According to the graph, which of the following was the largest category of mandatory spending in 2015?

- A. Social Security
- B. health care
- C. defense / homeland security
- D. food and agriculture, transportation and veterans are all roughly equal percentages

7. Changing authorization laws for mandatory spending requires which of the following?

- A. a simple majority in both the House and Senate
- B. a simple majority in the House and a 60-vote majority in the Senate
- C. a two-thirds majority in both the House and the Senate
- D. a majority of the entire membership in both the House and the Senate

Questions 8-10 refer to image 3 in the resource section of the examination.

8. Which of the following is supported by the information in the chart?

- A. Fewer Americans are registered members of political parties than in 2000.
- B. Registered independents make up a larger percentage of the electorate in 2018 than they did in 2000.
- C. The majority of the American voting population lives in states that register voters by party.
- D. During a Democratic presidency, membership in the Republican party increases as a percentage of the electorate

9. Under a true closed primary system, voters are allowed to do which of the following?

- A. Vote in any primary regardless of registered party affiliation.
- B. Change their party affiliation up to election day in order to vote in another party's primary.
- C. Vote in either the Democratic or Republican primary even if they are registered as independent or unaffiliated on election day.
- D. Voters are only allowed to cast a ballot in the party primary for which they are registered before election day.

10. Which of the following groups is MOST likely to be a registered member of the Democratic party?

- A. white women
- B. Hispanic women
- C. black men
- D. Asian men

Questions 11-14 refer to the following passage.

In a republic, the manners, sentiments, and interests of the people should be similar. If this be not the case, there will be a constant clashing of opinions; and the representatives of one part will be continually striving, against those of the other. This will retard the operations of government, and prevent such conclusions as will promote the public good. If we apply this remark to the condition of the United States, we shall be convinced that it forbids that we should be one government. The United States includes a variety of climates. The productions of the different parts of the union are very variant, and their interests, of consequence, diverse. Their manners and habits differ as much as their climates and productions; and their sentiments are by no means coincident. The laws and customs of the several states are, in many respects, very diverse, and in some opposite; each would be in favor of its own interests and customs, and, of consequence, a legislature, formed of representatives from the respective parts, would not only be too numerous to act with any care or decision, but would be composed of such heterogeneous and discordant principles, as would constantly be contending with each other.

- Brutus No. 1 (1787)

11. Which of the following best summarizes the argument of the passage with regard to the national legislature?

- A. The national legislature must be large in order to represent the varied interests of the states.
- B. The national legislature should gain sovereignty over the state legislatures.
- C. The United States can only be governed effectively by a strong national legislature.
- D. A national legislature in a republic cannot function if its members represent divergent or varied interests.

12. Brutus and other anti-federalists would also have likely been opposed to which of the following in the United States?

- A. the maintenance of a standing army for the country
- B. declaring independence from Great Britain
- C. requiring the states to have a republican form of government
- D. states retaining control over the institution of slavery

13. The passage above makes an oblique argument against which of the following parts of the new Constitution?

- A. impeachment powers
- B. the 'commerce clause'
- C. separation of powers
- D. enumerated powers

14. The arguments of Brutus in No. 1 are nearly a point-by-point refutation of James Madison's argument in which of the following?

- A. the Bill of Rights
- B. Federalist No. 10
- C. Federalist No. 70
- D. Federalist No. 78

Questions 15-19 refer to image 4 in the resource section of the examination.

15. Which of the following establishes the reserved powers that are granted to the states under the constitutional system?

- A. the Eighth Amendment
- B. the Ninth Amendment
- C. the Tenth Amendment
- D. the Eleventh Amendment

16. Which of these is an example of a concurrent power not listed in the chart?

- A. regulating the postal system
- B. regulation of foreign commerce
- C. professional licensure
- D. taxation

17. Which of these is responsible for conducting elections under the constitutional system?

- A. the federal government
- B. the states
- C. this is a concurrent power shared by states and the federal government
- D. this is a power reserved to counties and municipalities only

18. Which of the following is true of regulation of corporations under federalism?

- A. due to the commerce clause, only the federal government can regulate corporations
- B. regulation of corporations is a concurrent power
- C. because states are responsible for chartering corporations, only states can regulate corporations
- D. regulation of corporations is not allowed under federal law

19. Which of these is an example of power delegated solely to the federal government not listed in the chart?

- A. protecting and maintaining copyrights
- B. regulating intrastate commerce
- C. defining inheritance laws and regulating wills
- D. ratifying constitutional amendments

Questions 20-22 refer to the following passage.

One may well ask: "How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?" The answer lies in the fact that there are two types of laws: just and unjust. I would be the first to advocate obeying just laws. One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that "an unjust law is no law at all."

Now, what is the difference between the two? How does one determine whether a law is just or unjust? A just law is a man made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law...

A law is unjust if it is inflicted on a minority that, as a result of being denied the right to vote, had no part in enacting or devising the law. Who can say that the legislature of Alabama which set up that state's segregation laws was democratically elected? Throughout Alabama all sorts of devious methods are used to prevent Negroes from becoming registered voters, and there are some counties in which, even though Negroes constitute a majority of the population, not a single Negro is registered. Can any law enacted under such circumstances be considered democratically structured?

- Martin Luther King, Jr., 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' (1963)

20. Which of the following best summarizes Dr. King's view on dealing with 'unjust laws' like the ones mentioned in the passage?

- A. Dr. King advocates withdrawing from white society and preaches black separatism in response to these laws.
- B. Dr. King believes that disobeying unjust laws is ethical, provided it is done in a peaceful way and with acceptance of the legal consequences.
- C. Dr. King believes that the only way to deal with unjust laws is through acceptance and maintenance of the status quo.
- D. Like Malcolm X, Dr. King believes that violence in response to unjust laws is justified.

21. Which of these actions of the federal government helped to address the Alabama laws referred to in the passage by Dr. King?

- A. the Supreme Court decision in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*
- B. the Twenty-fourth Amendment
- C. the Civil Rights Act of 1957
- D. the Supreme Court decision in the case of *Tinker v. Des Moines*

22. Later in this document, Dr. King makes reference to being arrested for 'parading without a permit' which he claims violated which of his basic constitutional rights?

- A. his right to due process and equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment
- B. his right to the free exercise of religion under the First Amendment
- C. his protection from cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment
- D. his right to freedom of speech and assembly under the First Amendment

Questions 23-25 refer to image 5 in the resource section of the examination.

23. According to the cartoon, the No Child Left Behind Act is an example of which of the following?

- A. judicial activism
- B. interest groups influencing policy
- C. an unfunded mandate
- D. a federal block grant

24. The No Child Left Behind Act did not assert a national achievement standard for testing and made participation in the program technically optional for which of the following reasons?

- A. because the Supreme Court had ruled that national education standards were unconstitutional
- B. due to the strong opposition of President Bush to national standards in the initial draft of the bill
- C. due to strong Democratic opposition to federal government funding for education
- D. because under the Tenth Amendment states have the power to set their own education policies

25. Which of the following exhibits a similar relationship between the federal government and state governments to that illustrated by No Child Left Behind?

- A. the federal government's use of federal highway funding to influence states to raise the drinking age to 21
- B. federal funding for Social Security pensions
- C. the constitutional guarantee of a republican form of government in every state
- D. the federal government and certain state governments imposing income taxes on their citizens

Questions 26-29 refer to the following passage.

The complete independence of the courts of justice is peculiarly essential in a limited Constitution. By a limited Constitution, I understand one which contains certain specified exceptions to the legislative authority; such, for instance, as that it shall pass no bills of attainder, no ex-post-facto laws, and the like.

Limitations of this kind can be preserved in practice no other way than through the medium of courts of justice, whose duty it must be to declare all acts contrary to the manifest tenor of the Constitution void. Without this, all the reservations of particular rights or privileges would amount to nothing.

Some perplexity respecting the rights of the courts to pronounce legislative acts void, because contrary to the Constitution, has arisen from an imagination that the doctrine would imply a superiority of the judiciary to the legislative power. It is urged that the authority which can declare the acts of another void, must necessarily be superior to the one whose acts may be declared void. As this doctrine is of great importance in all the American constitutions, a brief discussion of the ground on which it rests cannot be unacceptable...

Nor does this conclusion by any means suppose a superiority of the judicial to the legislative power. It only supposes that the power of the people is superior to both; and that where the will of the legislature, declared in its statutes, stands in opposition to that of the people, declared in the Constitution, the judges ought to be governed by the latter rather than the former. They ought to regulate their decisions by the fundamental laws, rather than by those which are not fundamental.

- Alexander Hamilton, Federalist No. 78 (1788)

26. Which of the following powers of the Supreme Court does this passage advocate under the new Constitution?
- lifetime appointment of judges
 - a judiciary with powers superior to that of the legislative and executive
 - judicial review of congressional acts
 - federal judges operating outside of Constitutional authority
27. Earlier in this essay, Hamilton says which of the following about the judicial branch?
- that it will be the weakest of the branches of government because it has no power over 'will' or 'force'
 - the judiciary is naturally superior to the executive and legislative branches because it has the power of judgement
 - lifetime appointments for federal judges should be abolished through amendment
 - the judicial branch should be more accountable to the will of the people
28. Hamilton argues in Federalist No. 78 that federal judges should retain their positions as long as they exhibit which of the following characteristics?
- complete and total impartiality
 - political expediency
 - willingness to exceed their constitutional authority
 - good behavior
29. Which of the following does Hamilton believe is superior in the constitutional system?
- the power of the executive
 - the will of the people expressed through the Constitution
 - the power of the legislature
 - the judicial branch
30. All of these extended the franchise in America EXCEPT which of the following?
- the Fifteenth Amendment
 - the Nineteenth Amendment
 - the Twenty-third Amendment
 - the Twenty-seventh Amendment
31. Which of the following terms describes voting based on whether a voter believes a party or candidate should be re-elected based on past performance?
- prospective voting
 - retrospective voting
 - rational-choice voting
 - party-line voting
32. The belief that the Constitution protects all races equally and that measures like affirmative action are unnecessary or illegal is known by which of the following terms?
- 'equal protection'
 - the 'colorblind Constitution'
 - 'due process'
 - 'separate but equal'
33. All of the following could be considered period effects on political ideology in the United States EXCEPT which of the following?
- the 2008 financial crisis
 - the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001
 - the presidential election of 1952
 - the Great Depression
34. Which of these is true of third parties in America?
- they frequently win elections, especially for state legislatures
 - they benefit from the winner-take-all system in American elections
 - they exert influence on national politics by drawing attention to issues that are often ignored by major parties
 - they are often more centrist in their ideologies than major parties

35. Which of the following is true of contemporary American media?

- A. the proliferation of web sites and cable news channels allows Americans to select media content that aligns with their political beliefs if they desire
- B. citizen journalists are generally held to the same standards of ethics and fact-checking as professional journalists
- C. media consolidation has had little effect on the contemporary media
- D. modern technology and reporting techniques have eliminated bias from the media almost entirely

36. Political socialization can best be defined by which of the following?

- A. voting behavior in which large groups of voters cast similar ballots based on corrupt political pressure
- B. the process of civics education undertaken by all Americans in public schools
- C. political discussions held in formal or informal settings, usually in the leadup to and aftermath of major elections
- D. the process by which people develop political values or beliefs through interactions with those close to them, educational institutions, and with the media

37. Which of the following is a major function of political parties in the American electoral system?

- A. finding and eliminating corruption in the electoral process
- B. helping to select candidates for office
- C. working with members of the opposing party to craft and pass legislation
- D. overseeing elections and voting

38. Which of the following is true of the approval rating of the United States Congress?

- A. it has been consistently higher than that of the president for the last 30 years
- B. it tends to be at its lowest over the last 30 years immediately following an election
- C. it dropped below 10% in the immediate aftermath of the September 11 attacks
- D. it has been lower than 30% for the last decade

39. 'Exigent circumstances' may give law enforcement officials the ability to circumvent which of the following constitutional protections?

- A. the Eighth Amendment protection against cruel and unusual punishment
- B. the Fifth Amendment protection against double jeopardy
- C. the Fourth Amendment protection from warrantless searches
- D. the Sixth Amendment right to a speedy trial

40. Which of the following best characterizes the method by which constitutional amendments may be proposed?

- A. amendments may be proposed by a majority vote of both houses of Congress or at a convention called by a majority of state legislatures
- B. amendments may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress or at a convention called by two-thirds of state legislatures
- C. amendments may be proposed by a three-fourths vote of both houses of Congress or by executive order
- D. amendments may only be proposed by unanimous vote of both houses of Congress

41. Which of the following names a philosophy of judicial decision-making whereby judges allow their personal views about public policy, among other factors, to guide their decisions?

- A. certiorari
- B. judicial activism
- C. judicial review
- D. judicial restraint

42. In the House of Representatives, the Ways and Means Committee has exclusive authority over which type of bills?

- A. transportation
- B. business regulation
- C. taxation
- D. federal criminal punishments

43. Which of the following is an accurate comparison of the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution?

	Articles of Confederation	Constitution
A.	unicameral legislature	unicameral legislature
B.	proportional representation only congress	equal representation only in congress
C.	strong executive	strong executive
D.	congress may declare war	congress may declare war

44. Which of the following is an accurate comparison of the House of Representatives and the Senate?

	House	Senate
A.	elected to four-year terms	elected to six-year terms
B.	have the sole power to conduct impeachment trials	have the sole power to pass articles of impeachment
C.	must confirm cabinet appointments made by the president	chooses the president in the event no candidate receives a majority in the electoral college
D.	has the power to initiate bills raising revenue under the Origination Clause	has the power to confirm flag officers in the United States military

45. Which of the following is an accurate comparison of liberal and conservative views on economic policy?

	Liberal	Conservative
A.	The federal government should promote economic growth through cutting funding for social programs	The federal government should ensure that social programs are well-funded and financially secure
B.	The federal government should exercise very little control over the economy	The federal government should regulate banks and businesses in the public interest
C.	The government should tax wealthier Americans at a higher rate than others and should ensure that poor Americans pay lower or no taxes	Corporate and individual taxes should be low, including for wealthy Americans
D.	Infrastructure spending should be funded on a limited basis by the federal government	Government-funded infrastructure development is integral to American economic growth

46. Which of the following is an accurate comparison of the holdings in each of these cases?

	<i>Shaw v. Reno</i>	<i>Wisconsin v. Yoder</i>
A.	Upheld restrictions on free speech under the Sedition Act	Affirmed the use of implied powers by Congress
B.	Redistricting based on race must be held to strict scrutiny under the equal protection clause	Ruled a compulsory school attendance law violated the First Amendment
C.	Declared the preclearance section of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional	Affirmed that some restrictions on religious freedom are allowed under the First Amendment
D.	Outlawed use of the death penalty in federal cases	Prevented the release of certain sensitive government documents in major newspapers

47. The 'commerce clause' that defines the powers of Congress to regulate interstate commerce is located in what article of the Constitution?

- A. Article I
- B. Article II
- C. Article III
- D. Article V

48. Which of the following is a major impact of the *Citizens United* decision on American campaigns?

- A. overall it decreased the cost of Congressional and US Senate campaigns while greatly increasing the amount of money spent on presidential campaigns
- B. traditional fundraising for the campaign committees of the major parties, particularly the Republicans, nearly doubled between 2008 and 2016
- C. political contributions from the wealthiest Americans greatly increased, especially to the types of PACs covered by the *Citizens United* decision
- D. it did not have an appreciable effect on campaigns

49. Which of these is the subject of the Twenty-second Amendment to the Constitution?

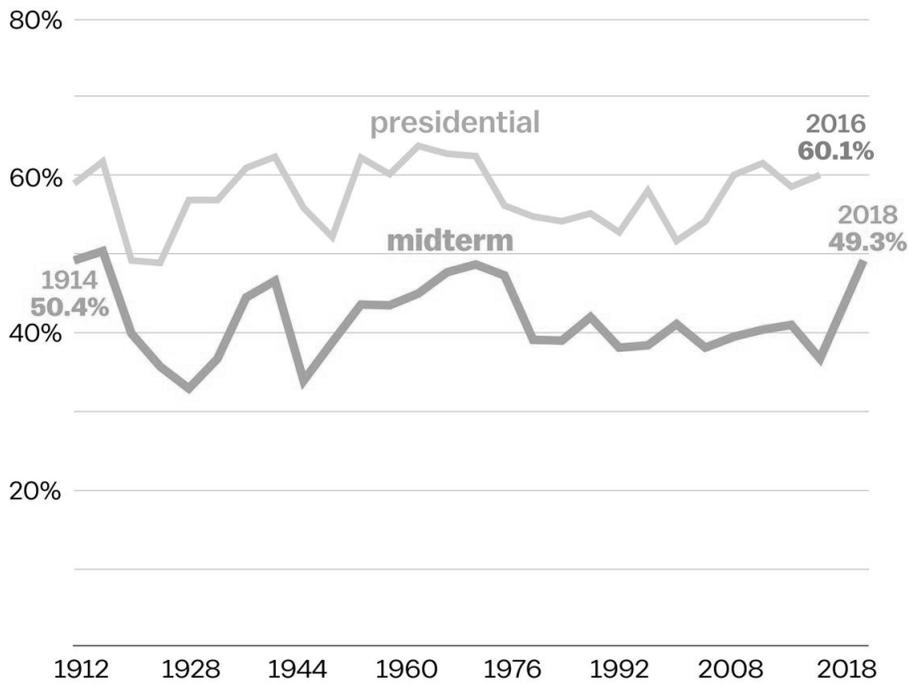
- A. the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment
- B. moving the date of the presidential inauguration from March to January
- C. ending the poll tax
- D. establishing term limits for the presidency

50. Which of the following constitutes an 'iron triangle' for federal policy towards veterans in the US?

- A. the president, the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs
- B. the United States military, the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congressional committees on veterans
- C. Congressional committees on veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and groups like the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars
- D. the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs

Resource Section

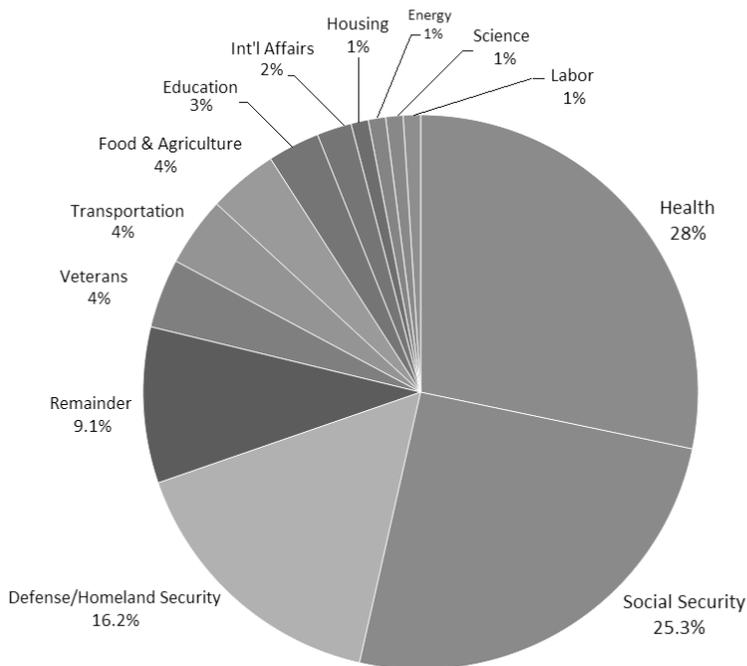
Questions 1-3 refer to the following image [Image 1]



This graph shows the share of the voting eligible population of the United States that voted in the given federal elections.

Questions 4-7 refer to the following image [Image 2]

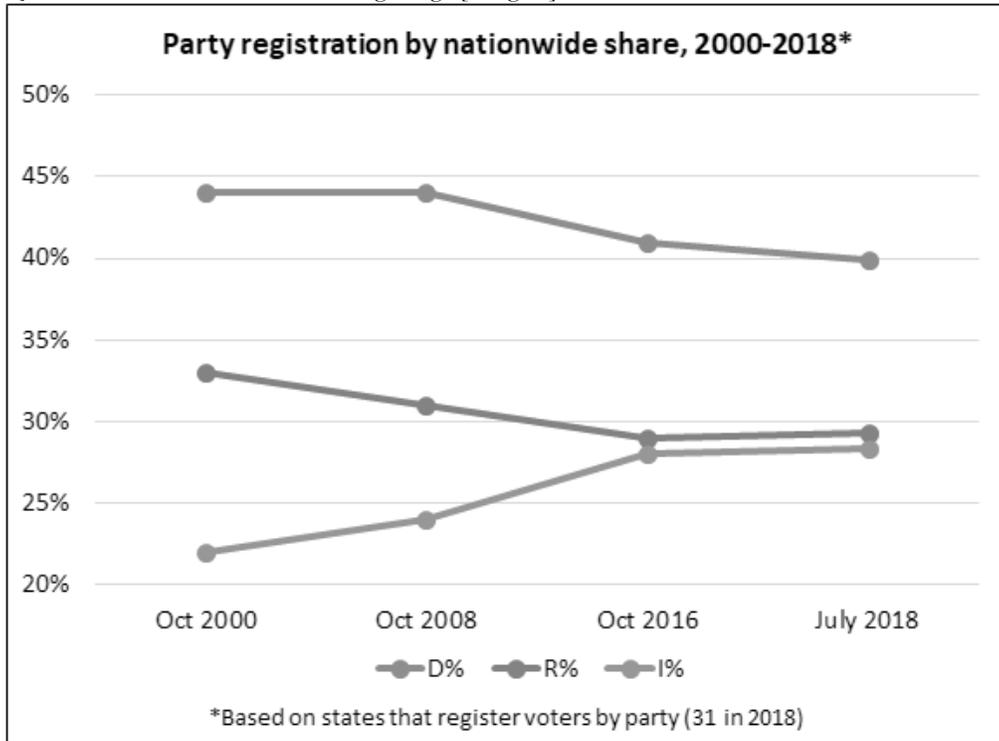
Percent of spending, including discretionary and mandatory



This chart shows percent of federal spending from the fiscal year 2015 federal budget.

* "Remainder" includes legislative branch, judicial branch, independent agencies and departments of Commerce, Interior, and Treasury, minus offsetting receipts.

Questions 8-10 refer to the following image [Image 3]



[Note – Starting in 2000, Democratic registration is the top line, Republican the middle and Independent the bottom]

Questions 15-19 refer to the following chart [Image 4]

Federal powers	Concurrent powers	State powers
print and coin money declaring war maintaining the military making treaties	law enforcement courts regulation of banks make and enforce laws	establishment of schools incorporating local governments regulating health and morals defining legal relationships

Questions 23-25 refer to the following image [Image 5]

