



Political Science Bee – B 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.

1. The Free Exercise Clause and the Establishment Clause in the First Amendment deal with which of the following freedoms in the United States?

- A. freedom of the press
- B. freedom of speech
- C. freedom of religion
- D. freedom from cruel and unusual punishment

2. Which of the following is a non-governmental organization originally created in the 1860s that has a mission to protect human life and health and alleviate human suffering all over the world?

- A. the World Trade Organization
- B. UNESCO
- C. the Wikimedia Foundation
- D. the International Red Cross

3. Which of the following best describes the current membership of the United States Senate?

- A. there is a Republican majority in the Senate of more than 10 seats
- B. there is a Republican majority in the Senate of less than 5 seats
- C. there is a 50-50 split of Democratic and Republican Senators, with Vice President Pence casting tiebreaking votes on all important matters
- D. there is a Democratic majority in the Senate of less than 5 seats

4. In the United States, Election Day is officially which of the following days?

- A. the third Thursday in October
- B. January 20
- C. the first Saturday in March
- D. the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November

5. What billionaire businessman and former mayor of New York City has announced his intent to seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020?

- A. Bill de Blasio
- B. Rudy Giuliani
- C. Andrew Cuomo
- D. Michael Bloomberg

6. Which of the following types of bills are required by the Constitution to originate in the House of Representatives?

- A. bills that increase the size of the armed forces
- B. proposals to admit new states
- C. bills to change the size of the Senate
- D. bills to raise revenue or taxes

7. Unlike members of the United States Senate, senators in the various states must meet which of the following requirements?

- A. they must be at least 50 years old
- B. they must be men
- C. they must be elected from districts of approximately equal population
- D. they must be Christian

8. In 2019, which of the following did the Republic of Macedonia add to its name to help end a longstanding dispute with Greece?

- A. 'Democratic'
- B. 'North'
- C. 'Outer'
- D. 'Greek'

9. What faction opposed to the adoption of the Constitution was led by men such as Patrick Henry and Richard Henry Lee in the 1780s?

- A. the Constitutional Union Party
- B. the democratic faction
- C. the confederation
- D. the anti-federalists

10. In December 2019, Sanna Marin became the world's youngest currently-serving state leader when she was elected prime minister of what Scandinavian country?

- A. Sweden
- B. Finland
- C. Estonia
- D. Latvia

11. Which of these age groups is MOST likely to vote in a national election in the US?

- A. 18-29 years old
- B. 30-44 years old
- C. 45-59 years old
- D. 60 years and older

12. What clause, contained in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, helps to expand the power of Congress to ensure it can carry out other powers and obligations mentioned in the Constitution?

- A. the Appointments Clause
- B. the Full Faith and Credit Clause
- C. the Necessary and Proper Clause (or the 'elastic clause')
- D. the Commerce Clause

13. Which of the following is traditionally given by presidents on the day they are sworn in to begin their terms?
- the State of the Union speech
 - an annual agenda to Congress
 - proposals for new Constitutional amendments
 - an inaugural address
14. Areas over which the federal government and state governments have shared authority in the United States include all of the following EXCEPT
- criminal justice
 - education
 - foreign policy
 - transportation
15. Which of these best describes the main political beliefs of the Scottish National Party in the United Kingdom?
- they are in favor of Scottish independence and membership in the European Union
 - they are a strongly conservative party with no stance on Scottish independence
 - they have no discernable stance on Brexit but do advocate abolition of the British monarchy
 - they advocate Brexit and an end to social welfare programs in the UK
16. In the 1972 case of *Furman v. Georgia* the Supreme Court imposed a brief ban on what type of punishment in the United States?
- the death penalty
 - life imprisonment
 - jail sentences for minors
 - traffic fines
17. The president's power to officially forgive a person for an acknowledged crime, granted by Article II of the Constitution, is known by what term?
- veto
 - pardon
 - prorogation
 - censure
18. Which of the following best describes the USMCA, a major international agreement negotiated by the Trump administration?
- an agreement to pull United States Marines out of Japan by 2025
 - a new regional trade agreement between the United States, Canada and Mexico
 - a bilateral treaty with Mexico that would allow the United States to build a border wall at Mexico's expense
 - a defense pact among America's allies in the Asia-Pacific region to combat recent aggression by China and North Korea
19. In 2019, Ted Cruz and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez began negotiating legislation that would impose a lifetime ban from what lucrative profession for former members of Congress?
- running for further political office
 - being an attorney
 - working for a major cable news outlet
 - lobbying
20. All of the following were appointed to the Supreme Court by President Obama EXCEPT
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg
 - Merrick Garland
 - Elena Kagan
 - Sonya Sotomayor
21. Protest against the Quartering Acts of the 1760s and 1770s led to which of the following Constitutional amendments?
- the Second Amendment
 - the Third Amendment
 - the Ninth Amendment
 - the Eleventh Amendment
22. Which Democratic member of Congress from Hawaii and presidential candidate broke with the party and voted 'present' on articles of impeachment against President Trump in late 2019?
- Brian Schatz
 - Tulsi Gabbard
 - Mazie Hirono
 - David Ige
23. In modern political science, the term for a government with mixed characteristics of a democracy and an autocracy is referred to by what term?
- theocracy
 - republic
 - anocracy
 - kleptocracy
24. The Supreme Court's power of judicial review arose from which of the following nineteenth century cases?
- Cherokee Nation v. Georgia*
 - ex parte Merryman*
 - Marbury v. Madison*
 - Dartmouth College v. Woodward*
25. Until he was barred from running, former Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was the leading candidate in Brazil's 2018 presidential election despite which of the following unusual circumstances?
- he had recently died
 - he was in prison
 - he had been exiled from Brazil
 - he was married to the sitting president of Brazil
26. The political philosophy that seeks to maximize liberty through freedom of choice and autonomy and often looks to curb the power of existing governmental institutions is known as which of the following?
- libertarianism
 - socialism
 - communism
 - fascism
27. Which of the following was elected Prime Minister of Canada in 2019?
- Justin Trudeau
 - Andrew Scheer
 - Yves-Francois Blanchet
 - Jagmeet Singh

28. According to the Constitution, Senate is able to exercise advice and consent over all of these presidential powers

EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. the filling of a Vice Presidential vacancy
- B. the power to make treaties with foreign governments
- C. the appointment of ambassadors
- D. the appointment of Supreme Court justices

29. Which of the following is in the midst of an ongoing civil war between Houthis and government-backed forces in both the countryside and major cities like Sana'a and Aden?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Iran
- C. Yemen
- D. Eritrea

30. In the United States, basic public services like fire and police protection, zoning laws, and variances are governed by which of the following?

- A. local governments
- B. state governments
- C. the federal government
- D. a combination of federal and state governments

31. Supreme Court cases like *Debs v. US* and *Schenck v. US* immediately following World War I challenged limits placed on which of the following during the war?

- A. freedom of movement
- B. freedom of the press
- C. freedom of speech
- D. the writ of habeas corpus

32. All of the following were achieved by the federal government by threats to withhold funding from states EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. term limits for members of the House of Representatives
- B. a national speed limit
- C. changing the national drinking age from 18 to 21 years old
- D. implementation and maintenance of special education programs in public schools

33. The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution prevents which of the following for Americans?

- A. being punished or tried twice for the same offense
- B. being arrested and jailed without charges
- C. being denied the right to vote based on gender
- D. being denied the right to vote based on age

34. Outgoing Kentucky governor Matt Bevin made news in late 2019 for which of the following reasons?

- A. being convicted of corruption and bribery near the end of his term
- B. being the first Kentucky governor to resign from office
- C. issuing over 400 pardons and commutations in his closing days in office
- D. refusing to relinquish his office when his term expired

35. Which of the following is true of the Chief Justice of the United States?

- A. he has two votes on the Supreme Court while Associate Justices have one
- B. he is the only justice confirmed by the House of Representatives
- C. he presides over impeachment trials in the Senate
- D. he is the only justice on the Supreme Court with a term limit

36. Which of the following is ultimately responsible for making foreign policy decisions in the United States?

- A. the Senate
- B. the Supreme Court
- C. individual states
- D. the President

37. Which of the following current Democratic presidential candidates withdrew from the 1988 presidential campaign partly due to a plagiarism scandal involving passages from a speech by British politician Neil Kinnock?

- A. Joe Biden
- B. Bernie Sanders
- C. Elizabeth Warren
- D. Andrew Yang

38. The Federal Anti-Nepotism Statute enacted in the late 1960s is often seen as a response to the appointment of what man as Attorney General of the United States in 1961?

- A. Robert McNamara
- B. McGeorge Bundy
- C. Robert Taft
- D. Robert Kennedy

39. Which of the following web sites, known for publishing caches of documents, was co-founded by Julian Assange in 2006?

- A. Snopes
- B. The Onion
- C. WikiLeaks
- D. the Christian Science Monitor

40. According to Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution, the president is required to give which of the following to Congress at the beginning of each year?

- A. information on the State of the Union
- B. his military plans for the coming year
- C. a list of cabinet members he would like to replace
- D. their instructions for legislation he would like to see passed

41. The Social Democratic Party (SPD) and Christian Democratic Union (CDU) are the major political parties of what European nation?

- A. France
- B. Greece
- C. Spain
- D. Germany

42. The final days of 2019 saw violent protests at the US embassy complex in what world capital?
- Havana, Cuba
 - Tehran, Iran
 - Baghdad, Iraq
 - London, England
43. What type of important 'electoral events' involving candidates from both major political parties will take place in Iowa in early February 2020?
- a primary election
 - a national party convention
 - a meeting of the Conservative Political Action Committee
 - party caucuses
44. In which of the following cases did the Supreme Court uphold the rights of students to protest the Vietnam War by wearing black armbands?
- Hernandez v. Texas*
 - Tinker v. Des Moines*
 - Sipuel v. Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma*
 - Brown v. Board of Education*
45. A disagreement between the Trump administration and Congress over government funding for a wall on the US-Mexico border resulted in which of the following from December 2018 to January 2019?
- the impeachment of President Trump
 - the Democratic Party gaining a majority in the House of Representatives
 - the longest federal government shutdown in American history
 - a major deployment of the US Air Force and Navy in the Gulf of Mexico and in south Texas
46. Which of the following, often referred to as 'Europe's last dictatorship', received an American ambassador in 2019 for the first time in over a decade?
- Greece
 - Turkey
 - Ukraine
 - Belarus
47. Some conservative political leaders, including Ronald Reagan, have advocated the concept of 'New Federalism' which involves which of the following?
- increasing the power of the federal government by taking power away from the states
 - reducing the power of government at all levels in the United States, including state and local governments
 - abolishing all federal aid to state governments
 - restoration of power and autonomy to states that had been lost to the federal government during the New Deal and Great Society eras
48. According to the Constitution, what is the maximum amount of time a person may serve as president of the United States?
- four years
 - six years
 - eight years
 - nine years, 364 days
49. Paul Volcker, Alan Greenspan and Janet Yellen are all former holders of what position currently held by Jerome Powell?
- Vice President of the United States
 - Chair of the Federal Reserve
 - Speaker of the House of Representatives
 - Chief Justice of the United States
50. In the Senate, a vote to end a debate on a bill or other measure is referred to by what term?
- filibuster
 - reconciliation
 - deliberation
 - cloture