



Political Science Bee – C 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. In American electoral politics, the term ‘purple state’ is best defined by which of the following?

- A. a state that votes frequently for third party candidates
- B. a state in the South that elects Democrats to statewide office instead of Republicans
- C. a state with relative balance between Democrats and Republicans where statewide and national elections are competitive
- D. Western Republican states like the Dakotas and Wyoming

2. Which of the following best describes the role of the United States Senate in the impeachment process?

- A. the Senate must pass articles of impeachment
- B. the Senate has no role in the impeachment process
- C. the Senate conducts the trial once the House passes articles of impeachment
- D. the Senate must determine the criminal penalty following conviction in an impeachment proceeding

3. What group of 85 essays, first collected in 1788, is still considered one of the most important commentaries on the Constitution?

- A. Common Sense
- B. The Age of Reason
- C. The Federalist Papers
- D. The Social Contract

4. All of the following are true of Rudolph Giuliani EXCEPT
- A. he served as Attorney General of the United States under President Obama
 - B. he is currently an attorney working for President Trump
 - C. he was mayor of New York City when the September 11 attacks occurred in 2001
 - D. he has been a Republican candidate for president in past elections

5. Which of the following is true of international non-governmental organizations?

- A. they generally fill either advocacy or operational roles, and sometimes a mix of both
- B. they are created to deal with specific issues or types of issues in many countries
- C. they are independent of any government or intergovernmental organization like the United Nations
- D. all of these are true of international non-governmental organizations

6. Which of the following is part of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution?

- A. it invalidates the debts of the Confederate States of America
- B. defines national citizenship
- C. requires states to guarantee due process and equal protection to their citizens
- D. all of these are contained in the Fourteenth Amendment

7. Which of the following is the most recent American president to be impeached?

- A. Donald Trump
- B. Andrew Johnson
- C. Richard Nixon
- D. Bill Clinton

8. March 3, 2020, the date on which 15 state will hold their presidential primaries, is known by which of the following names?

- A. ‘Decision Day’
- B. ‘Super Tuesday’
- C. ‘Primary Day’
- D. there is no special name for this day

9. Which of the following gives protection to Americans against cruel and unusual punishment?

- A. the First Amendment
- B. the Second Amendment
- C. the Eighth Amendment
- D. the Fifteenth Amendment

10. Which of the following currently leads a conservative, populist government in Hungary?

- A. Viktor Orban
- B. Jair Bolsonaro
- C. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
- D. Daniel Ortega

11. One of the biggest stumbling blocks in the relationship between the United States and China during the Trump administration has been which of the following?

- A. an ongoing trade war involving tariffs imposed by each country on certain goods produced by the other
- B. Chinese support for the governments of countries like Iran and Syria
- C. aggressive American military action in the South China Sea
- D. America's choice to hold Chinese nationals as political prisoners

12. Ratified in the wake of the contested election of 1800, which of these amendments separates the ballots for president and vice president in national elections?

- A. the Eleventh Amendment
- B. the Twelfth Amendment
- C. the Sixteenth Amendment
- D. the Twenty-second Amendment

13. Which of the following is the chief executive of a US state?

- A. the Vice President of the United States
- B. the speaker of the state house
- C. the mayor
- D. the governor

14. How many members are there in the current US Supreme Court?

- A. 7
- B. 8
- C. 9
- D. 11

15. What former Attorney General of California and current United States Senator from California has sought the nomination of the Democratic party for president in 2020?

- A. Kamala Harris
- B. Elizabeth Warren
- C. Corey Booker
- D. Beto O'Rourke

16. Contempt of Congress is best defined by which of the following?

- A. being disrespectful or mean to a Congressman or Senator
- B. obstructing the work of Congress
- C. attempting to arrest a member of Congress during a session
- D. a Congressional punishment for a member behaving badly

17. The UK law passed in September of 2019 and commonly referred to as the Benn Act requires which of the following?

- A. that Boris Johnson resign as Prime Minister at the conclusion of Brexit
- B. that the queen must abdicate if Brexit does not happen in a timely fashion
- C. that the UK cannot under any circumstances withdraw from the EU
- D. that the Prime Minister must seek an extension on Brexit from the EU unless certain conditions are met

18. In the United States, primary elections have which of the following roles in selecting a president?

- A. they help determine which candidates get the presidential nominations for the Democratic and Republican parties
- B. they determine which candidates will be in a runoff election in each state
- C. they determine which parties will be allowed to run in the general election in each state
- D. primary elections have no role in selecting an American president

19. Which of the following describes the current membership of the US House of Representatives?

- A. there is a Republican majority in the House of just over 30 seats
- B. there is a Democratic majority in the House of a little less than 10 seats
- C. there is a Democratic majority in the House of just over 30 seats
- D. there is a Democratic majority in the House of well over 100 seats

20. In almost every US state, the high executive office that maintains state records and oversees elections is which of the following?

- A. the attorney general
- B. the comptroller
- C. the secretary of state
- D. the commissioner of insurance

21. Which of the following occurred as a result of the United States withdrawing troops from Kurdish areas of Syria in October 2019?

- A. Russia also withdrew from the area due to the presence of the Syrian army, the Turkish army and a large number of Islamic State fighters
- B. Turkey launched an invasion of northern Syria to attack Kurdish fighters who had been allied with the US
- C. the Islamic State declared victory over the US in the region after quickly defeating Kurdish fighters
- D. no significant foreign policy or military event occurred as a result of this action

22. Chuck Grassley is currently third in the presidential line of succession because he serves in which of the following positions?

- A. Secretary of State
- B. Secretary of the Treasury
- C. Speaker of the House
- D. President pro tempore of the Senate

23. Which of these is true of the legislatures in various US states?

- A. every state has a bicameral legislature
- B. the lower house of every state legislature is called the House of Representatives
- C. every state has a legislature that meets annually
- D. every state has some form of elected legislature

24. Which of the following cases was decided by the Supreme Court in late 2000 that had a major impact on the results of that election?
- Bush v. Gore*
 - Republican Party of the US v. Democratic Party of the US*
 - New York Times v. Sullivan*
 - DC v. Heller*
25. One of the largest line items in the budget of US states is the administration of the CHIP program which provides which of the following services to certain residents?
- higher education
 - healthcare
 - car insurance
 - housing
26. All of these describe the role of Congress in national defense EXCEPT which of the following?
- Congress has the power to declare war.
 - Congress has the power to raise and maintain the armed forces.
 - Congress has the power to deploy troops overseas.
 - Congress has the power to make rules for the military.
27. Which of the following best describes the political views of Senator Bernie Sanders?
- he is a libertarian, much like Sen. Rand Paul
 - he is a moderate, centrist Democrat
 - he is a self-described democratic socialist with many progressive views
 - he is a communist
28. All of the following have non-voting members in the United States Congress EXCEPT
- Washington, DC
 - Puerto Rico
 - the Marshall Islands
 - Guam
29. According to the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the Constitution, what is the supreme law of the land in the United States?
- state constitutions
 - the United States Constitution
 - state court rulings
 - presidential executive orders
30. Which candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination lost an election in Texas in 2018 for the Senate seat currently held by Ted Cruz?
- Julian Castro
 - Steve Bullock
 - John Hickenlooper
 - Beto O'Rourke
31. Which of these is true about third parties in American presidential elections?
- third parties routinely receive electoral votes in presidential elections
 - third parties have, as recently as the late nineteenth century, won presidential elections
 - third parties often garner over 25% of the popular vote in individual states
 - third parties often advocate specific issues or causes, like financial reform or environmentalism, or radical political ideas
32. Which of the following best describes the Twenty-seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution?
- it allows Americans over 18 years old the right to vote
 - it gives Washington, DC votes in the electoral college
 - it changes the inauguration of the president from March to January
 - it prevents any congressional pay raise from taking effect until the start of the next congressional term
33. Vladimir Putin is currently the leader of which of the following polities?
- France
 - the United Kingdom
 - Spain
 - Russia
34. Which of the following disciplines would likely consider the relationship between politics and the development of the technology sector in the United States?
- international relations
 - political economy
 - game theory
 - institutionalism
35. A bill that fails to become law in the United States because the president does not sign it and cannot return it to Congress because Congress is not in session has been subjected to which of the following?
- a recall vote
 - a pocket veto
 - a referendum
 - a line-item veto
36. All of the following were subjects of Constitutional amendments advocated by progressives in the United States in the early twentieth century EXCEPT
- voting rights for women
 - an end to poll taxes
 - direct election of United States senators
 - allowing Congress to levy an income tax
37. The Preamble to the United States Constitution is often seen as an example of which of the following governmental principles?
- rule of the people
 - representative government
 - collective security
 - judicial review

38. The recent disputes between the California Air Resources Board and the EPA over air quality standards in the state are an example of which of the following constitutional principles?
- checks and balances
 - separation of powers
 - taxation power
 - federalism
39. All of these are guaranteed by the First Amendment EXCEPT which of the following?
- the right to a trial by jury
 - freedom of speech
 - freedom of the press
 - the free exercise of religion
40. All of these were included in the original Cabinet of the United States EXCEPT
- the Vice President
 - the Secretary of War
 - the Secretary of the Treasury
 - the Attorney General
41. Which of the following best describes the World Organization of the Scout Movement and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts?
- international non-governmental organizations with a focus on children and youth
 - government agencies organized by the United States government to oversee the Boy and Girl Scouts
 - United Nations organizations with a focus on education and cultural preservation
 - large, multinational corporations with a focus on youth sports and outdoor activities
42. All of these are prominent current Democrats EXCEPT which of the following?
- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
 - Mitch McConnell
 - Ilhan Omar
 - Rashida Tlaib
43. Which of the following best describes the current government of Turkey?
- Turkey is a constitutional monarchy with a powerful king
 - Turkey has a parliamentary democracy with a prime minister as head of government, much like the UK
 - Turkey operates without a separate executive branch
 - Turkey has recently amended its constitution to transition from a parliamentary system to an executive presidency at the urging of political leaders including Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
44. In the case of *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the Supreme Court applied the Due Process and Equal Protection clauses found in which constitutional amendment?
- the First Amendment
 - the Second Amendment
 - the Fourteenth Amendment
 - the Twenty-seventh Amendment
45. Which of the following refers to the role of the president with regard to the United States military?
- chief strategist
 - commanding general of the United States
 - commander-in-chief
 - Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
46. In the case of *Griswold v. Connecticut* in 1965, the Supreme Court ruled that which of the following could be assumed from a combination of other constitutional protections?
- a protection against self-incrimination
 - a right to privacy
 - the right to a speedy trial
 - a protection against unreasonable searches
47. In the 2018 midterm elections, which of the following was notable about candidates Andrew Gillum and Stacey Abrams?
- they were Republicans elected to governorships in traditionally Democratic states in 2018
 - both are African American Democrats who lost close elections in largely Republican southern states in 2018
 - both became part of 'the Squad' of young Democrats in the House of Representatives after winning seats in Republican districts
 - both were high-profile Senate candidates for the Social Democratic party in southern states
48. The branch of political science that studies things like diplomacy and treaties is referred to by which of the following terms?
- demography
 - international relations
 - econometrics
 - human geography
49. Which of the following is a nonprofit NGO based in the United States that has as its mission to provide open-content information on a variety of websites to the public free of charge?
- Alphabet
 - The Wikimedia Foundation
 - Facebook
 - CARE International
50. Article VI of the Constitution specifically prohibits what type of 'test' or qualification for holding public office in the United States?
- a religious test
 - a citizenship test
 - an age qualification
 - a test based on race or ethnicity