



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. What set of constitutional amendments was enacted during the early twentieth century as a response to the ideals of the Progressive movement and the desire to expand democracy in America?
A. the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments
B. the Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Amendments
C. Twenty-fourth, Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth Amendments
D. the Bill of Rights
2. Which of the following is true of President Joe Biden?
A. he is the second Roman Catholic elected president of the United States
B. he is the only president this century not to have been governor of a US state
C. he is the only president this century to have served in the US Senate
D. he is the only president this century with no prior experience in public service or elected office
3. All of these are benefits of being a member of Congress EXCEPT which of the following?
A. free housing in Washington, DC
B. a salary over \$150,000
C. free office space in Washington, DC and within their home constituency
D. a budget for office staff
4. Which of the following hears the vast majority of criminal cases in the United States?
A. the Supreme Court
B. federal appeals courts
C. federal district courts
D. state and local courts

5. Which of these is true of the connection between Congress and the census?
A. each census results in Congress changing size
B. the Senate leadership changes after every census
C. the House is reapportioned after each census
D. states that do not meet a certain population threshold in each census are in danger of losing a Senator
6. Governor Gavin Newsom recently appointed Alex Padilla to fill the US Senate seat formerly held by which of the following?
A. Diane Feinstein
B. Kamala Harris
C. Kelly Loeffler
D. David Perdue
7. In semi-presidential systems like France, an administration in which the head of state and head of government are from different political parties is known by what term?
A. hybrid
B. cohabitation
C. dysfunctional
D. no-confidence
8. Which of the following was praised in 2020 for leading a successful response to the coronavirus pandemic in New Zealand?
A. Kevin Rudd
B. Theresa May
C. Jacinda Ardern
D. Jair Bolsonaro
9. Which of these is true of federalism in the United States?
A. power is centralized in state and local governments
B. both the national and state governments have authority over the land and people
C. it describes the system of checks and balances and separation of powers at the national level
D. state governments are subunits of the national government
10. Which of the following is NOT a permanent member of the UN Security Council?
A. Germany
B. the United States
C. Russia
D. France
11. All of these are prominent members of the Democratic leadership in Congress EXCEPT which of the following?
A. Sen. Chuck Schumer
B. Rep. Nancy Pelosi
C. Rep. Steny Hoyer
D. Sen. Mitch McConnell
12. Which of the following was written by Founding Fathers like Patrick Henry, George Clinton and Melancton Smith following the drafting of the Constitution in 1787?
A. Common Sense
B. the Anti-Federalist Papers
C. Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania
D. The Age of Reason

13. In the United States, presidential candidates for the major parties are chosen by which of the following?

- A. important party members in the various states
- B. members of Congress
- C. the executive committee of each party
- D. primary elections and caucuses in various states

14. Which of these is true of the United States Senate?

- A. the membership closely mirrors the ethnic and racial diversity of the country
- B. the membership is fairly evenly split by gender
- C. the membership reflects a diversity of former occupations and socioeconomic backgrounds
- D. none of these are true of the United States Senate

15. Which of the following was given the responsibility in the Constitution to establish a system of federal courts below the Supreme Court?

- A. the states
- B. the President
- C. Congress
- D. the Supreme Court

16. Which of the following former presidential candidates has been nominated by President Biden to serve as Secretary of Transportation?

- A. Elizabeth Warren
- B. Bernie Sanders
- C. Cory Booker
- D. Pete Buttigieg

17. All of these are examples of intergovernmental organizations EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. the International Red Cross
- B. the Islamic Development Bank
- C. the World Trade Organization
- D. the United Nations

18. All of these are examples of nations with an asymmetric federal system EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Russia
- B. the United States
- C. Spain
- D. Indonesia

19. All of these are constitutional monarchies EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Kuwait
- B. Brunei
- C. Monaco
- D. Morocco

20. Following the 2020 elections, which of the following became president pro tempore of the Senate?

- A. Chuck Schumer
- B. Mitch McConnell
- C. Patrick Leahy
- D. Chuck Grassley

21. Which of the following best defines the civil liberties of Americans?

- A. the Declaration of Independence

B. the Preamble of the Constitution

C. Article I of the Constitution

D. the Bill of Rights

22. The territory of Nagorno-Karabakh has been at the center of an ongoing conflict between which of the following pairs of nations since September of 2020?

- A. Georgia and Russia
- B. Turkey and Iran
- C. Armenia and Azerbaijan
- D. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

23. Which of the following best defines political culture?

- A. political party affiliation
- B. a set of individual beliefs about the role of government in society
- C. a set of values and beliefs widely held within a society
- D. the political beliefs held by groups on the fringes of political life

24. Which of the following guarantees that the list of rights enumerated in the Constitution is not a complete or exhaustive list of the rights granted to Americans?

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

25. The 'Appointments Clause' in Article II of the Constitution allows the president to nominate all of these EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. judges on state courts
- B. members of the Supreme Court
- C. Ambassadors
- D. public Ministers and Consuls

26. Which of these is generally true of incumbents in Congressional and Senate races?

- A. they typically win their bids for reelection
- B. challengers usually outspend incumbents by a large margin
- C. they often have worse name recognition than challengers
- D. they often lose primary challenges

27. The Supreme Court has maintained its current size of nine justices since which of the following?

- A. the size of the court is specified in the Constitution, so it has always had nine justices
- B. the Judiciary Act of 1801
- C. the beginning of Ulysses Grant's term in 1869
- D. Franklin Roosevelt's 'court packing' scheme increased the size to nine justices

28. Which of the following is true of Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen?

- A. she is a former member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors
- B. she was the first woman to be the chair of the Federal Reserve
- C. she is the first woman to the Secretary of the Treasury
- D. all of these are true of Secretary Yellen

29. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International are examples of which of the following?

- A. UN agencies
- B. international non-governmental organizations
- C. government-sponsored charitable organizations
- D. none of these apply to Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International

30. In the 2020 presidential general election, the Trump and Biden campaigns combined spent roughly which of the following amounts on television ads?

- A. \$100 million
- B. \$250 million
- C. \$500 million
- D. \$1 billion

31. In late 2020, what has been described as the largest protest in human history took place in India and was led by people in what occupation?

- A. farmers
- B. domestic workers
- C. healthcare workers
- D. teachers

32. Which of the following is necessary to be a member of a political party in America?

- A. paying annual dues
- B. regular attendance at party meetings
- C. simply claiming to be a member
- D. being registered to vote in your state as a member of the party

33. All of these were key members of President Trump's Coronavirus Task Force in 2020 EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Senator Ted Cruz
- B. Dr. Deborah Birx
- C. Vice President Mike Pence
- D. Surgeon General Jerome Adams

34. Which of these is NOT a substantial source of federal government revenue in the US?

- A. personal income taxes
- B. corporate income taxes
- C. excise taxes
- D. borrowing

35. Countries like Turkey, Hungary and Russia are often described by political scientists using which of the following terms?

- A. direct democracies
- B. consensus democracies
- C. guided democracies
- D. illiberal democracies

36. Which of the following is true of governors in the United States?

- A. most governors serve four-year terms
- B. most states do not have term limits for governors
- C. most governors do not have a veto power
- D. most gubernatorial elections in the US take place in presidential election years

37. Which of these best characterizes Operation Warp Speed?

- A. it was the codename for the US military response to the Capitol insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021
- B. it was the name given to the Russian hacking incident involving the SolarWinds company and US government agencies
- C. it was the name for the large economic stimulus package passed by Congress late in President Trump's term
- D. it was the name given to the Trump administration's efforts to aid in the development and deployment of a coronavirus vaccine in the US

38. Of the roughly 150 people who have been nominated to the Supreme Court since 1789, approximately what percentage have failed to be confirmed by the Senate?

- A. 5%
- B. 25%
- C. 50%
- D. 75%

39. Which of the following conditions MUST be true for a 'pocket veto' to occur?

- A. one party has a supermajority in Congress
- B. the president refuses to issue a veto message to Congress
- C. Congress adjourns before the president can return the bill
- D. the bill deals with appropriations or taxation and originated in the House

40. The 'Vesting Clauses' of the Constitution do which of the following?

- A. grant Senate the power to pass articles of impeachment
- B. give the president the authority to declare war
- C. give sole legislative power to Congress, executive power to the president and judicial power to the courts
- D. give the Supreme Court the power to strike down treaties

41. Efforts by members of Congress to steer federal money, programs and contracts to their districts or states can be referred to by which of the following terms?

- A. affirmative action
- B. deficit spending
- C. oversight
- D. 'pork barrel' politics

42. Which of these best characterizes the result of the 2020 election in the House of Representatives?

- A. the Republicans regained the majority they lost in the 2018 midterm elections
- B. the Democrats retained their majority but lost seats in the election
- C. the Democrats retained their majority and gained several seats in the election
- D. the House is evenly divided, and Vice President Harris will have to cast tiebreaking votes when necessary

43. Which of these is true of state constitutions in the US?

- A. most states do not have written constitutions
- B. state constitutions supersede the US constitution within the boundaries of that state
- C. most state constitutions are longer and more detailed than the US constitution
- D. most states use constitutions written in the nineteenth century with few changes or amendments

44. The Sixteenth Amendment allowed which of the following in the US?

- A. voting rights for American women
- B. a personal income tax
- C. the prohibition of sale, manufacture and transport of alcohol
- D. the direct election of US Senators

45. Which of the following is the ruling party of South Africa?

- A. the Democratic Alliance
- B. the African National Congress
- C. the Economic Freedom Fighters
- D. the Freedom Front Plus

46. In the opening days of his administration, President Biden committed the US to remain in which of the following organizations after President Trump had pledged withdrawal in 2021?

- A. the WHO
- B. NATFA
- C. the Trans-Pacific Partnership
- D. NATO

47. According to the Office of Personnel Management, roughly how many civilian employees does the federal government have?

- A. 500 thousand
- B. 750 thousand
- C. 1 million
- D. 2 million

48. During the summer of 2020, women were at the forefront of protests against the regime of Alexander Lukashenko in what country?

- A. Belarus
- B. Ukraine
- C. Lithuania
- D. Estonia

49. Yoshihide Suga replaced which of the following as Prime Minister of Japan in 2020?

- A. Yoshihiko Noda
- B. Naoto Kan
- C. Shinzo Abe
- D. Yukio Hatoyama

50. Which of the following usually provides services like police and fire protection, trash collection and water services?

- A. municipal governments
- B. state governments
- C. the federal government
- D. these are usually provided by all three levels of government