

### Political Science Bee – A Set Qualifying Exam

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

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**Instructions – Print the letter of the correct answer in the space provided or leave it blank. Write neatly and in capital letters. Correct answers are worth 2 points. Incorrect answers are worth –1 point. Questions left blank are worth 0 points.**

Questions 1-7 refer to image 1 in the resource section of the examination.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Which of these is true of Democratic voters in 2019?
- A. less than 15% of Democratic voters are non-White
  - B. the percentage of Democratic voters who are Black decreased between 2012 and 2019
  - C. over half of Democratic voters are people of color
  - D. the percentage of Democratic voters who are Hispanic has declined steadily since 1996
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The percentage of Hispanic voters as a share of the electorate has done which of the following since 1996?
- A. it has decreased
  - B. it has stayed roughly the same
  - C. it has increased by 1 to 2%
  - D. it has increased by more than 2%
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which of these is NOT true of the American electorate in the 2020 election?
- A. the median age for voters in 2020 declined compared to previous elections
  - B. the median age for voters in both parties was over 50
  - C. voters of color accounted for roughly 40 percent of Democratic voters
  - D. the share of eligible voters from Gen Z more than doubled between 2016 and 2020

- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Which of these is true of President Biden’s performance with Hispanic voters in 2020?
- A. his share of the Hispanic vote was more than 5 points higher than Hillary Clinton’s in 2016
  - B. his share of the Hispanic vote was statistically even with Hillary Clinton’s in 2016
  - C. his share of the Hispanic vote was about 1 point lower than Hillary Clinton’s in 2016
  - D. his share of the Hispanic vote was more than 7 points lower than Hillary Clinton’s in 2016
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Which of these is MOST likely to be a Democratic voter?
- A. a non-college educated White man living in rural Kansas
  - B. a Cuban American man in his 60s living in Miami
  - C. a college-educated African American woman living in a large city
  - D. a middle-aged White woman living in the suburb of a major Southern city
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Which of these is LEAST likely to be a Democratic voter?
- A. a non-college educated White man living in rural Kansas
  - B. a Cuban American man in his 60s living in Miami
  - C. a college-educated African American woman living in a large city
  - D. a middle-aged White woman living in the suburb of a major Southern city
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Which of these is true of voter registration in the United States?
- A. voter registration is a national process overseen by the federal government
  - B. roughly 40 states allow online voter registration
  - C. no states allow election day voter registration
  - D. many states require voters to register six months or more before the election

Questions 8-12 refer to the following passage.

But the great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same department, consists in giving to those who administer each department the necessary constitutional means, and personal motives, to resist encroachments of the others. The provision for defence must in this, as in all other cases, be made commensurate to the danger of attack. Ambition must be made to counteract ambition. The interest of the man must be connected with the constitutional rights of the place. It may be a reflection on human nature, that such devices should be necessary to control the abuses of Government. But what is Government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no Government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on Government would be necessary. In framing a Government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the Government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself. A dependence on the People is, no doubt, the primary control on the Government; but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions.

This policy of supplying, by opposite and rival interests, the defect of better motives, might be traced through the whole system of human affairs, private as well as public. We see it particularly displayed in all the subordinate distributions of power; where the constant aim is, to divide and arrange the several offices in such a manner as that each may be a check on the other; that the private interest of every individual may be a sentinel over the public rights. These inventions of prudence cannot be less requisite in the distribution of the supreme powers of the State.

- Federalist No. 51, 1788

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. For which of these does Madison argue in Federalist No. 51?

- A. the existence of a powerful Executive
- B. the necessity of checks and balances
- C. the necessity of a professional and permanent court system
- D. the power of individual interest as a motivation in American politics

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Which of the following does Madison believe is the primary force that will control the power of the government?

- A. states' rights
- B. the government itself
- C. a reliance on the will of the people
- D. the military

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. Why does Madison refer to the United States as a 'compound republic' in Federalist No. 51?

- A. because the people hold all of the governmental power
- B. because the federal government is divided into three branches
- C. because Congress divides power between two houses
- D. because governmental power in America is shared between states and the federal government

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. According to Federalist No. 51, which of the following is the best way to control the power of factions?

- A. to have a multitude of different interest groups, classes, and political beliefs in the country
- B. to outlaw them in the near future
- C. to embrace them and incorporate them into the structure of the government
- D. to implement an authoritarian government

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. Madison's argument about factions in Federalist No. 51 is most similar to the argument in which of the following?

- A. Brutus No. 1
- B. Federalist No. 10
- C. Federalist No. 70
- D. Federalist No. 78

Questions 13-19 refer to images 2 and 3 in the resource section of the examination.

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. Which of the following had the most significant effect on federal government spending in 2020?

- A. the growing federal budget deficit
- B. tight spending constraints enacted by Congress
- C. the coronavirus pandemic
- D. environmental disasters like hurricanes and wildfires

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. Which of the following is true of total government expenditures from 2019 to 2020?

- A. they increased from roughly 5% of GDP to 7% of GDP
- B. they increased from roughly 10% of GDP to 20% of GDP
- C. they increased from roughly 20% of GDP to 30% of GDP
- D. they increased from roughly 30% of GDP to 50% of GDP

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. Which of these categories of spending was added to the budget in 2020?

- A. the Paycheck Protection Program
- B. disbursements to individuals under the CARES Act
- C. several new types of unemployment compensation
- D. all of these were added to the budget in 2020

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. Roughly how much of the 2020 federal budget reflected discretionary spending?

- A. \$1.6 trillion
- B. \$2 trillion
- C. \$2.6 trillion
- D. \$3 trillion

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. Which of these best defines discretionary spending?

- A. spending mandated by the Constitution
- B. spending implemented through Congressional appropriations
- C. spending that is required by law and based on eligibility and formulas
- D. spending to pay interest on the national debt along with defense spending

\_\_\_\_\_ 18. Which of the following was the largest category of mandatory spending in 2020?

- A. Medicare
- B. Medicaid
- C. Social Security
- D. 'Other'

\_\_\_\_\_ 19. In 2019 and 2020, annual interest payments on the national debt constituted what percentage of GDP?

- A. less than 1%
- B. between 1.5 and 2%
- C. just over 3%
- D. just over 5%

Questions 20-23 refer to the following passage.

Among the enumerated powers, we do not find that of establishing a bank or creating a corporation. But there is no phrase in the instrument which, like the Articles of Confederation, excludes incidental or implied powers and which requires that everything granted shall be expressly and minutely described. Even the 10th Amendment, which was framed for the purpose of quieting the excessive jealousies which had been excited, omits the word "expressly," and declares only that the powers "not delegated to the United States, nor prohibited to the States, are reserved to the States or to the people," thus leaving the question whether the particular power which may become the subject of contest has been delegated to the one Government, or prohibited to the other, to depend on a fair construction of the whole instrument...

Although, among the enumerated powers of Government, we do not find the word "bank" or "incorporation," we find the great powers, to lay and collect taxes; to borrow money; to regulate commerce; to declare and conduct a war; and to raise and support armies and navies. The sword and the purse, all the external relations, and no inconsiderable portion of the industry of the nation are intrusted to its Government... The power being given, it is the interest of the Nation to facilitate its execution.

John Marshall, *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819)

- \_\_\_\_ 20. Which of the following is true of the ruling in *McCulloch v. Maryland*?
- the court established the power of judicial review
  - the use of the Commerce Clause to regulate financial institutions was upheld
  - the court allowed Maryland to levy a state income tax
  - the court upheld the use of implied powers to create the Second Bank of the United States
- \_\_\_\_ 21. In addition to the issue raised in the excerpt, the ruling in *McCulloch* also dealt with which other constitutional issue?
- the three-fifths clause
  - application of the supremacy clause
  - the ratification of the Eleventh Amendment
  - interpretation of the establishment clause
- \_\_\_\_ 22. Which early nineteenth century case involved the application of the commerce clause to the regulation of steamboats on the Hudson River?
- Marbury v. Madison*
  - Dartmouth College v. Woodward*
  - Gibbons v. Ogden*
  - Worcester v. Georgia*
- \_\_\_\_ 23. In general, the rulings of the Marshall court did which of the following?
- defined and increased the power of the federal government and the federal courts
  - increased the civil liberties of Americans
  - protected the rights of corporations over those of individuals
  - limited the power of the presidency and devolved governmental power onto the states

- \_\_\_\_ 24. Which of these amendments did NOT deal with voting rights in the US?
- the Twenty-Fifth Amendment
  - the Twenty-Fourth Amendment
  - the Nineteenth Amendment
  - the Fifteenth Amendment
- \_\_\_\_ 25. Which of these is the LEAST common among these forms of city government?
- council-manager
  - mayor-council
  - town meeting
  - commission
- \_\_\_\_ 26. Prospective voting is a voter behavior based on which of the following?
- past performance of a party or candidate
  - longstanding party loyalty
  - the influence of family and friends
  - voter expectation of future performance of a candidate or party
- \_\_\_\_ 27. Which of these is NOT a measure intended to increase the professionalism of state legislators?
- increasing the number of standing committees
  - increasing legislative salaries
  - implementing term limits
  - increasing funding for legislative staff
- \_\_\_\_ 28. Which of these would be considered a period effect on political attitudes?
- the upcoming 2022 midterm election
  - the 2008 financial crisis
  - ageing
  - having children
- \_\_\_\_ 29. An individual's perceived ability to affect change or influence political affairs is referred to by what term?
- political efficacy
  - political culture
  - rational-choice voting
  - pluralism
- \_\_\_\_ 30. A linkage institution performs which of the following functions in a government?
- informs the public about laws that have been passed by the government
  - enforces laws through police actions
  - connects the people to the government in some way
  - serves to mobilize the public in time of war
- \_\_\_\_ 31. In most states, revenue for schools comes disproportionately from which of these sources?
- income taxes
  - state lottery funds
  - property taxes
  - license and use fees

\_\_\_\_\_ 32. Which of the following terms characterized the foreign policy of the Bush administration after the Sept. 11 attacks?

- A. détente
- B. isolationism
- C. negotiation
- D. preemption

\_\_\_\_\_ 33. Which of these is the largest interest group in the United States?

- A. AARP
- B. Common Cause
- C. the League of Women Voters
- D. the ACLU

\_\_\_\_\_ 34. Traditionally, House incumbents win reelection roughly what percentage of the time?

- A. less than 60%
- B. roughly 70%
- C. roughly 80%
- D. over 90%

\_\_\_\_\_ 35. In the United States, federal taxation is generally progressive and taxation at the state and local level is generally which of the following?

- A. also progressive
- B. regressive
- C. proportional
- D. flat

\_\_\_\_\_ 36. Which of these agencies enforces truth in lending laws and regulates false and misleading advertising?

- A. the Federal Communications Commission
- B. the Consumer Product Safety Commission
- C. the Federal Trade Commission
- D. the Civil Service Commission

\_\_\_\_\_ 37. Which of these best defines fiscal policy?

- A. manipulation of interest rates and the money supply by the Federal Reserve
- B. taxation, borrowing and spending policies made by Congress and the president
- C. regulation of banking and finance by the federal government
- D. none of these defines fiscal policy

\_\_\_\_\_ 38. Which of these is the subject of the Twenty-first 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

\_\_\_\_\_ 39. All of these are criteria that may qualify a group for suspect classification under federal law EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. having been subject to discrimination, hostility or stigma in the past
- B. possession of an immutable or highly visible trait
- C. being a criminal
- D. being powerless to protect themselves via the political process

\_\_\_\_\_ 40. How many times in American history has the Supreme Court declared a federal law unconstitutional?

- A. fewer than ten times
- B. between 100 and 200 times
- C. just over 500 times
- D. nearly 1000 times

\_\_\_\_\_ 41. Which of these is true of federal government regulations?

- A. the federal government has fewer than ten regulatory agencies as of 2020
- B. the Reagan administration greatly increased government regulation over several industries, including banks and airlines
- C. the federal government had almost no regulatory policies or agencies until the late 1880s
- D. federal government regulation was decreased tremendously during the Great Depression along with the size of the bureaucracy

\_\_\_\_\_ 42. Which of these is the most broadly representative of the diversity of the American people?

- A. the House of Representatives
- B. the Senate
- C. federal court judges
- D. the permanent federal bureaucracy

\_\_\_\_\_ 43. Which of these is often used by Congress when they fail to pass regular appropriations bills?

- A. continuing resolutions
- B. reconciliation
- C. impoundment
- D. omnibus bills

\_\_\_\_\_ 44. Which of the following conducts press briefings and serves as a conduit of information between the White House and the press?

- A. the Chief of Staff
- B. the Communications Director
- C. the Press Secretary
- D. the National Security Advisor

\_\_\_\_\_ 45. Which of the following is true of the War Powers Act?

- A. it has not been used since it was passed in 1973
- B. it grants the president unchecked power to deploy American troops
- C. it may violate separation of powers
- D. it has been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court

\_\_\_\_\_ 46. A presidential veto can be overturned by which of the following?

- A. a simple majority vote in both houses of Congress
- B. a two-thirds vote in either the Senate or House
- C. a two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress
- D. a three-fourths vote in both houses of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_ 47. Committee chairs in Congress are usually chosen by which of the following methods?

- A. merit
- B. seniority
- C. election by members of the committee
- D. the president

\_\_\_\_\_ 48. Which of the following describes the correlation between education level and voting?

- A. there is no measurable correlation between education level and voting behavior
- B. people without college degrees are much more likely to vote than people with college degrees
- C. people without college degrees generally vote in local and state elections but stay away from national elections
- D. people with college degrees are more likely to vote than those without college degrees

\_\_\_\_\_ 49. Which of the following is an accurate comparison of the House of Representatives and the Senate?

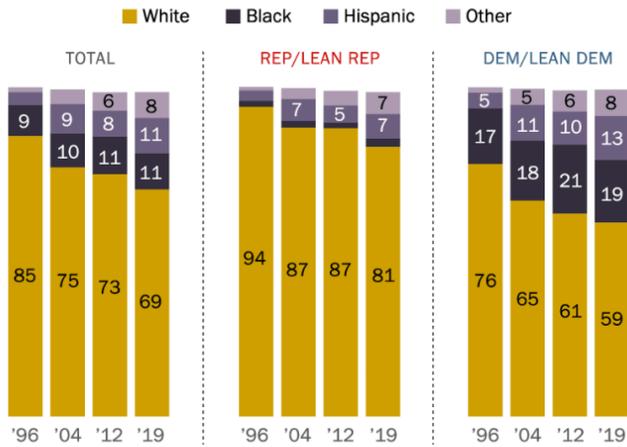
	House	Senate
A.	elected to six-year terms	elected to six-year terms
B.	confirms a vice president appointed under the Twenty-fifth Amendment	confirms Supreme Court justices appointed by the president
C.	must confirm cabinet appointments made by the president	chooses the president in the event no candidate receives a majority in the electoral college
D.	requires cloture votes to prevent a filibuster	has the power to initiate bills raising revenue under the Origination Clause

\_\_\_\_\_ 50. Which of the following is an accurate comparison of the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution?

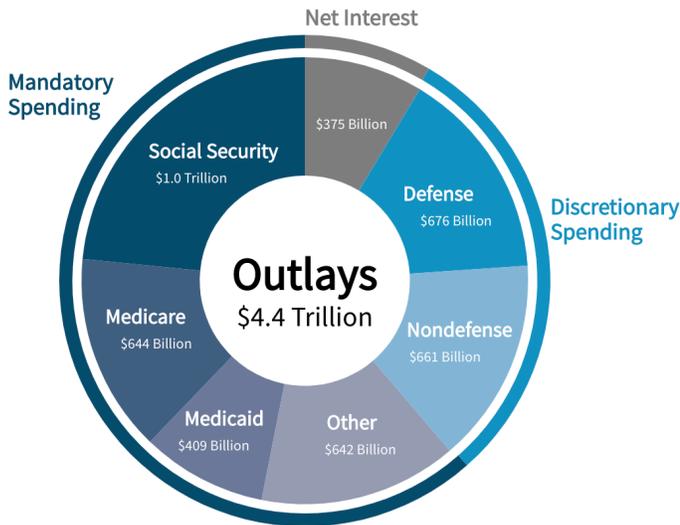
	Articles of Confederation	Constitution
A.	bicameral legislature	unicameral legislature
B.	equal representation only congress	proportional representation only in congress
C.	strong executive	weak executive
D.	congress may declare war	congress may declare war

Image 1 (Questions 1-7)

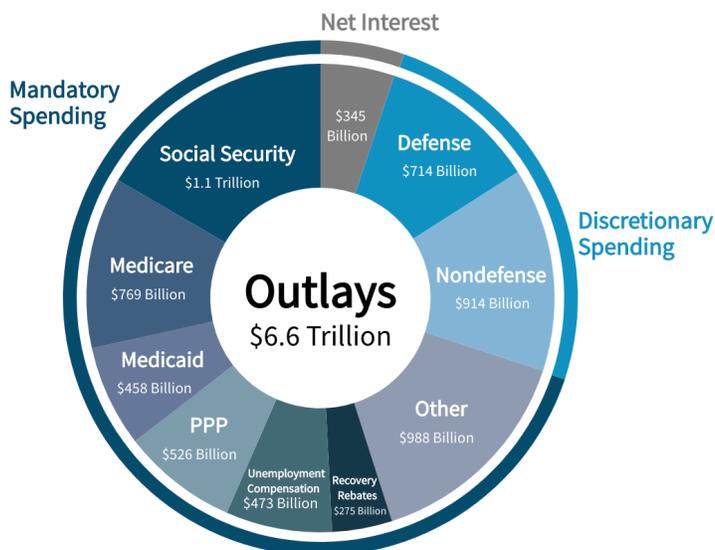
% of registered voters who are ...



Images 2 and 3 (Questions 13-19)



US federal budget in 2019



US federal budget in 2020