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POLS 1000 proficiency pre-/post-test multiple-choice questions

1. In order to be a good citizen, it is most critical to possess
 - a. powerful friends.
 - b. money.
 - c. strongly held convictions.
 - d. knowledge.
 - e. a college degree.
2. Government can best be defined as
 - a. the institutions and procedures by which a territory and its people are ruled.
 - b. the set of political principles and values that guide political life.
 - c. the legalized theft of others' property.
 - d. the invisible hand that turns private interests into public goods.
 - e. the shared set of values, beliefs, and attitudes that people have about politics.
3. Which of the following is the main benefit of a constitutional government?
 - a. The government must obey democracy.
 - b. The government is limited by the rule of law.
 - c. The government will distribute social goods equally.
 - d. The government is stable.
 - e. The government will produce high levels of economic growth.
4. A representative democracy is a system of government that
 - a. allows citizens to vote directly on laws and policies.
 - b. allows citizens to make, veto, or judge statutes personally.
 - c. gives citizens a regular opportunity to elect top government officials.
 - d. gives citizens the ability to make important military decisions directly.
 - e. legally requires government officials to vote for policies that a majority of the constituents prefer.
5. Throughout American history, the concept of liberty has been linked to
 - a. the idea of privacy.
 - b. the idea of limited government.
 - c. the idea of unlimited government.
 - d. the idea of economic equality.
 - e. the Articles of Confederation.
6. The belief that political authority should rest with the people themselves is called
 - a. equality of opportunity.
 - b. political equality.
 - c. pluralism.
 - d. popular sovereignty.
 - e. federalism.
7. The framers of the Constitution attempted to create a government that could do all of the following *except*
 - a. promote commerce.
 - b. protect private property from radical state legislatures.
 - c. limit excessive democracy.
 - d. restrict the power of the central government.
 - e. lead to the eventual inclusion of nonwhites in political life.
8. The Federalists believed that the powers of government could be limited by

- a. providing Congress with a larger grant powers.
 - b. decreasing the powers of the executive branch, especially those of the vice president.
 - c. confining the powers of the federal government to certain narrowly defined areas and by adding a bill of rights to the Constitution.
 - d. creating an internal system of checks and balances within government.
 - e. preventing government from collecting revenue through taxation.
9. The framers of the Constitution intended to create a presidency capable of
- a. completely dominating Congress.
 - b. withstanding excessive popular pressure by making it subject to indirect election through the electoral college.
 - c. spending money with little interference from any other branch of government.
 - d. regulating all forms of commerce.
 - e. declaring war on any country that posed a threat to American national security.
10. In a federal system a majority of governmental responsibilities are
- a. the sole responsibility of the federal government.
 - b. under the complete authority of state governments.
 - c. shared by both state and federal authorities.
 - d. provided by local government agencies.
 - e. carried out by private corporations and religious organizations.
11. Which of the following best describes the distinction between civil liberties and civil rights?
- a. Unlike civil liberties, civil rights place positive obligations on the government to take action.
 - b. Unlike civil liberties, civil rights restrict and limit government action.
 - c. Unlike civil liberties, civil rights are only enforced by state governments.
 - d. Unlike civil liberties, civil rights protect corporations as well as individuals.
 - e. Unlike civil liberties, civil rights have no basis in the Constitution.
12. Which of the following is *not* a liberty protected by the Bill of Rights?
- a. the free exercise of religion
 - b. freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures
 - c. guarantee of due process of the law
 - d. equal protection of the laws
 - e. freedom of speech
13. The process by which underlying political values are formed is known as
- a. political socialization.
 - b. ideological education.
 - c. brainwashing.
 - d. value enhancing.
 - e. attitudinal evolution.
14. The complex set of beliefs and values that, as a whole, form a general philosophy about the government is called

- a. public opinion.
 - b. political ideology.
 - c. political socialization.
 - d. political efficacy.
 - e. political sophistication.
15. Which of the following statements best summarizes the findings of studies on the relationship between public opinion and public policy in the United States?
- a. The government's actions are always exactly in line with the public's preferences.
 - b. The government's actions are never in line with the public's preferences.
 - c. The government's actions are usually inconsistent with the public's preferences but some areas of agreement always arise.
 - d. The government's actions are usually in line with the public's preferences but some areas of disagreement always arise.
 - e. Whenever the government takes action, public opinion changes to support the action.
16. Which of the following is the best description of a political party?
- a. an organization that influences the government through fund-raising
 - b. an organization established by the Constitution to nominate candidates
 - c. an organization that was considered seditious until the twentieth century
 - d. an organization that tries to influence the government by getting its members elected to office
 - e. an organization that collects fees from its members in order to pay the salaries of government officials
17. One important cause of the United States' two-party system is
- a. the Constitution's requirement for bipartisanship in Congress.
 - b. internal mobilization.
 - c. proportional representation.
 - d. multi-member electoral districts.
 - e. single-member electoral districts.
18. Which system develops when the winner of an electoral race obtains more votes than any other candidate?
- a. the majority system
 - b. proportional representation
 - c. the plurality system
 - d. the winner-take-all system
 - e. the spoils system
19. An individual's psychological attachment to one party or another is called a party
- a. ideology.
 - b. opinion.
 - c. identification.
 - d. tradition.
 - e. value system.

20. Three types of factors, _____, _____, _____, influence the decisions of voters at the polls.
- wealth, education, and issues
 - advertising, partisan loyalty, and personality
 - partisan loyalty, issues, and the characteristics of candidates
 - advertising, debates, and issues
 - honesty, partisan loyalty, and wealth
21. Interest groups are concerned with the _____ of government, while political parties are concerned with the _____ of government.
- policies, personnel
 - values, goals
 - membership, authority
 - lawfulness, political feasibility
 - legitimacy, power
22. What is the most important and beneficial resource that lobbyists provide government officials?
- legitimacy
 - money
 - information
 - campaign workers
 - legal assistance
23. Which of the following is the best definition of a constituent?
- It is another name for a voter.
 - It is the same for a member of Congress running for re-election.
 - It is someone who donates money to a campaign.
 - It is a person who lives in the district represented by a member of the legislature.
 - It is the name for a person who has sued the federal government in court for violating the Constitution.
24. Congress is a _____ legislature with _____ members.
- unicameral; 342
 - bicameral; 535
 - bicameral; 100
 - unicameral; 630
 - unicameral; 750
25. A senator or representative running for re-election is called the
- constituent
 - elector
 - trustee
 - delegate
 - incumbent

26. The office of the presidency was established by _____ of the Constitution.
- Article I
 - Article II
 - Article III
 - Article IV
 - Article V
27. The power to declare war is given to whom under the Constitution?
- the president
 - the Senate
 - both houses of Congress
 - the Senate, with the approval of the president
 - the Department of Defense
28. Which of the following is *not* a major role of bureaucracy?
- implementing laws
 - enforcing laws
 - issuing rules
 - promoting the general welfare
 - passing laws
29. What is the origin of most federal bureaus?
- Congress passes laws creating and funding most federal bureaus.
 - The cabinet secretaries create most federal bureaus out of administrative necessity and convenience.
 - Most federal bureaus are created by executive agreement.
 - Most federal bureaus are created by the Constitution's Article II powers.
 - Most federal bureaus are created by executive order of the president.
30. Why is the Supreme Court case *Marbury v. Madison* important?
- In this case, the Court declared the authority of Congress to regulate the economy of the United States.
 - In this case, the Court nationalized the Bill of Rights.
 - In this case, the Court authorized itself to exercise judicial review over laws passed by Congress.
 - In this case, the Court declared the secession of the Confederate states to be in violation of the Constitution.
 - In this case, the Court declared the segregation of schools based on race illegal.
31. A writ of *habeas corpus* declares that
- the government must show a legal cause for holding someone in detention.
 - the government cannot send a defendant to stand trial in a geographically distant jurisdiction.
 - a defendant in a felony trial must receive assistance from legal counsel.
 - capital punishment can be neither cruel nor unusual.
 - the government cannot search premises without a warrant issued by a judge.
32. When the government's goals are embodied in a law or an order, backed by punishments or rewards, it is best described as
- public policy.

- b. regulation.
 - c. administrative rule making.
 - d. legislation.
 - e. implementation.
33. _____ are government grants of cash or other valuable commodities, such as land, used to promote activities desired by the government.
- a. Contracts
 - b. Tax credits
 - c. Business development funds
 - d. Categorical grants
 - e. Subsidies
34. The power to raise or lower the tax rate is part of
- a. monetary policy.
 - b. fiscal policy.
 - c. the contracting power.
 - d. discretionary spending policy.
 - e. budgetary policy.
35. If the Federal Reserve wants to help boost a sagging economy, which one of the following is the most direct way it can do this?
- a. raise interest rates so that banks can earn more money on the loans they provide to individuals and businesses
 - b. lower interest rates so that banks can provide more loans at cheaper rates to individuals and businesses
 - c. take money out of circulation so that the dollar becomes more valuable
 - d. raise the reserve requirement, restricting the amount of cash and negotiable securities banks must have on hand
 - e. lower tariffs so that corporations can trade more freely with foreign countries
36. Which of the following groups receive the most benefits from government's social policies?
- a. the middle class
 - b. the working poor
 - c. children
 - d. racial and ethnic minorities
 - e. the nonworking poor
37. Social Security is a good example of
- a. outdoor relief.
 - b. indoor relief.
 - c. a means-tested program.
 - d. a contributory program.
 - e. a noncontributory program.
38. Which of the following is *not* a component of American foreign policy?
- a. diplomacy

- b. security policy
- c. trade policy
- d. military policy
- e. Social Security

39. Which of the following goals has traditionally been of lowest priority in U.S. foreign policy?
- a. economic interests
 - b. human rights
 - c. national security
 - d. globalization
 - e. international trade
40. Most American presidents have been
- a. international politicians who set out to make their place in history through achievement in foreign policy.
 - b. focused on promoting their own legacies regardless of whether that means prioritizing toward foreign or domestic policy.
 - c. focused on promoting the well-being of the United States regardless of whether that means prioritizing toward foreign or domestic policy.
 - d. equally focused on promoting the United States through both foreign and domestic policy.
 - e. domestic politicians who set out to make their place in history through achievements in domestic policy.
41. Which of the following is the most important actor in the foreign policy establishment?
- a. Congress
 - b. the president
 - c. the Department of State
 - d. the Department of Defense
 - e. the CIA
42. The Wyoming legislature meets:
- a. all year around.
 - b. for no more than sixty days in odd years and twenty days in even years.
 - c. for not more than sixty days every two years.
 - d. never.
43. Historically, Wyoming residents have tended to mostly vote for candidates from the _____ Party.
- a. Independent
 - b. Republican
 - c. Democratic
44. The Wyoming Constitution stresses the principle of
- a. economic equality.
 - b. political equality.
 - c. social equality.
45. Wyoming has a/an _____ legislature.
- a. professional
 - b. fulltime
 - c. citizen
 - d. irrelevant
46. In what way was Wyoming a pioneer in political equality?
- a. First to secure religious liberty
 - b. First to levy war against another country
 - c. First to give suffrage to all residents older than 18 years of age

- d. First to give suffrage to women
- e. First to abolish slavery

47. What are the Wyoming Constitutional provisions regulating the procedure of passing bills?

- a. Each bill may only contain one subject.
- b. No bill may become law which has not been referred to a committee.
- c. The bill must be printed for use of the legislators.
- d. All of the above.
- e. Only a and c are correct.

48. Which is NOT an elected state office established by the Constitution of the State of Wyoming?

- a. Auditor
- b. Governor
- c. Secretary of State
- d. Superintendent of Public Education
- e. Supervisor of Counties and Municipalities

49. What qualifications does the Wyoming State Constitution give for the office of Governor?

- a. Citizen of the U.S.; qualified elector; 25 years old; resident of Wyoming 10 years
- b. Citizen of the U.S.; qualified elector; 27 years old; resident of Wyoming 5 years
- c. Citizen of the U.S.; qualified elector; 30 years old; resident of Wyoming 5 years
- d. Citizen of the U.S.; qualified elector; 30 years old; resident of Wyoming 7 years
- e. Citizen of the U.S.; qualified elector; 35 years old; resident of Wyoming 5 years

50. Which of the following is one power given to the Governor of the Wyoming State Constitution that is NOT afforded to the President by the United States Constitution?

- a. The power to declare war on another sovereign nation
- b. The power to veto line items in appropriations bills
- c. The power to ignore legislation by the U.S. Congress
- d. The power to appoint ambassadors to represent the state before foreign nations
- e. The power to disregard the federalization of national guard units in the state