

Multiple Choice

1. Members of Congress come from all walks of life including a variety of previous career fields. The two most common previous jobs for members of Congress are both related to which field?

- a) Law
- b) Social work
- *c) Politics
- d) Medicine

2. Congress approves all appointments to federal courts, but the courts still provide a check on Congress. What power do the federal courts have over Congress?

- *a) They can decide the constitutionality of laws passed by Congress
- b) They can impeach any member of Congress
- c) The Supreme Court, with support from lower courts, can bar Congress from meeting
- d) They appoint a new member if someone resigns

3. Most bills originate in _____.

- a) The Senate
- b) Conference Committee
- *c) The House of Representatives
- d) The White House

4. When the number of House members and senators is added together we get the full membership of the Congress. How many members of Congress are there?

- a) 435
- *b) 535
- c) 538
- d) 100

5. It is often said that Congress represents America in a miniature. Despite this, we know that some groups remain underrepresented in Congress. Which of the following groups exist in Congress and the population equally?

- a) Women
- b) African Americans
- c) Hispanic Americans
- *d) None of the above

6. What is the main role of the Library of Congress?

- a) To facilitate visitors to the Capitol Building
- b) To archive all official government documents
- *c) To serve the Congress by providing information to lawmakers
- d) None of the above

7. Approximately what percent of State of the Union requests have been fulfilled by Congress since 1965?

- *a) 40%

- b) 65%
- c) 10%
- d) 80%

8. Who was the first president to deliver his State of the Union address at night to more effectively communicate with the public?

- a) Richard Nixon
- b) John F. Kennedy
- *c) Lyndon Johnson
- d) Jimmy Carter

9. What is the first step the president would take to remove a member of Congress from office?

- *a) There is no process for the president to remove a member of Congress from office
- b) Hold a joint meeting with the Speaker of the House and Majority Leader in the Senate
- c) File a petition with the Senate parliamentarian
- d) Draft an executive order adjourning Congress

10. Political party leaders hold much of the power in the modern legislative process and this fact frustrates members of Congress as well as the public. What can be done to change the process?

- a) The president's cabinet can vote to force Congress into an Executive Reorganization session
- b) The Supreme Court can rule the legislative process to be unconstitutional
- c) The Department of Justice can file a claim with the Senate to form a reorganization committee
- *d) Members outside the party leadership can organize to change the rules that shape the process

11. If you were advising the president, and assuming her main goal was to enact sweeping policy changes, what task would you advise her to assign to her best staffers?

- a) Designing mass media campaigns about her agenda
- *b) Coordinating with party leadership in Congress
- c) Overseeing cabinet meetings
- d) Monitoring the Supreme Court

12. Given what we know about the pace of the legislative process, what is the easiest way for a new member of Congress to make an impact for their constituents during their first term in office?

- a) Introduce as many bills as possible
- b) Found a Political Action Committee
- *c) Conduct oversight on an important industry in their district
- d) Move to Washington, D.C. permanently

13. The lower chamber of Congress, said to be closer to the people, is known as the _____.

- a) House of Commons
- b) General Assembly
- *c) House of Representatives
- d) Senate

14. The upper chamber of Congress, said to be more exclusive and deliberative, is known as the _____.

- a) House of Lords
- b) House of Representatives
- c) General Assembly
- *d) Senate

15. Protecting the individual rights of citizens is a common consideration throughout the U.S. Constitution. The founders immediately amended the constitution with the first ten amendments, which are better known as what?

- *a) The Bill of Rights
- b) The Magna Carta
- c) The U.S. Code
- d) The Declaration of Independence

16. What committee is usually formed to reconcile the differences between the two versions of the same bill passed by the House and Senate?

- a) Rules committee
- *b) Conference committee
- c) Standing committee
- d) Joint reconciliation committee

17. What term refers to someone who believes policy should be made by considering all possible policy choices based on a neutral, best-outcome perspective?

- *a) Technocrats
- b) Bureaucrats
- c) Autocrats
- d) Lobbyists

18. What term do members of Congress use to refer to the people they represent?

- a) Representees
- b) District citizenry
- *c) Constituents
- d) None of the above

19. The State of the Union Address is a constitutional requirement, but to whom is the address mainly directed?

- a) Citizens
- b) The Supreme Court
- c) Federal employees
- *d) Congress

20. The president, Senate majority leader, and Speaker of the House each wield significant power in their institutional roles. Which of the following is a key difference between them?

- a) Only the Speaker and Senate majority leader are paid with tax dollars
- b) The Speaker and Senate majority leader hold national office without national constituency

- c) The president has many more staffers
- *d) Both b and c

21. What happens if the president vetoes a bill and Congress still wants it to become law

- a) Nothing because presidential vetoes are final
- *b) With enough votes the Congress can overturn the veto and the bill becomes law
- c) Congress can reprimand the president and hope he reverses his decision
- d) Congress can sue the president and the Supreme Court decides the fate of the bill

22. What happens when the president sponsors a bill in Congress?

- a) The bill is assigned to a specific committee for presidential bills
- b) If enough members cosponsor the bill it can be voted on without a committee hearing
- *c) Presidents cannot sponsor bills in Congress
- d) Both a and b

23. Which section in the Constitution distinguishes between foreign and domestic policy?

- a) Article I, Section 4
- b) Article IV, Section 2
- c) Article I, Section 2
- *d) None of the above

24. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution gave Congress power to do which of the following?

- *a) Impose taxes
- b) Establish a public education system
- c) Appoint cabinet secretaries
- d) Establish judicial review

25. What did the War Powers Act do?

- *a) Reserved Congress' right to intervene in a president's deployment and use of troops
- b) Shifted the power to declare war from Congress to the president
- c) Capped spending on the military in a given year
- d) Required the president to report updates on any wars during the State of the Union address

26. Congress does not hold all and unlimited powers. Which of the following is a power reserved for the president?

- a) Ratifying trade agreements
- b) Establishing diplomatic relations with other countries
- c) Receiving ambassadors from other countries
- *d) Both b and c

27. Within Congress there is the Democratic Caucus and the Republican Conference. What are these two groups examples of?

- a) Groups formed by each party to screen nominations
- *b) Internal governing groups for lawmakers to discuss policy and party strategies
- c) Fundraising organizations
- d) Formal advisory groups to the president that only exist when their party has the White House

28. If a bill originates in the House and passes a floor vote, what is the next step in the legislative process?

- a) A hearing by the House Rules Committee
- b) Conference Committee
- *c) A similar bill must be introduced by a senator
- d) It goes to the White House for the president's signature

29. Who decides if a bill will get a subcommittee hearing?

- a) The Speaker of the House
- b) The Senate arbiter
- *c) The committee of jurisdiction's chairman
- d) Both a and b

30. If a bill has passed both on the House and Senate floors how might party leaders go about defeating the bill?

- *a) Refusing to appoint conferees to the conference committee
- b) Filing a discharge petition for the bill
- c) Having the president submit a hold for the bill
- d) Moving into a special session

31. Which of the following best defines the term *ideology*?

- a) The belief that policy should be made based on a neutral, best-outcome perspective
- *b) A set of consistent political values
- c) A set of elected officials organized to support certain public policies
- d) The belief that congressional procedures should be interpreted literally instead of via evolving precedents

32. Which section of the Constitution establishes political parties?

- a) Article I, Section 4
- b) Article IV, Section 1
- c) The eleventh amendment
- *d) None of the above

33. About how many people does the average member in the House of Representatives represent?

- a) 20,000,000
- b) 60,000
- c) 1,500,000
- *d) 700,000

34. If a member of Congress has a personal interest in the outcome of a vote are they allowed to support it on the floor?

- a) Yes, but there will be political costs and they may not be reelected
- b) No, the parliamentarian will revoke their right to vote
- *c) No, the conflict-of-interest provision in the congressional rules prohibits it

d) No, the political parties prohibit their members from doing so

35. Do members of Congress today cast more or fewer votes on the floor than they did in the mid-20th century?

*a) More

b) About the same

c) Fewer

d) We cannot compare because the process of voting has changed

