

Chapter 1: American Government: Roots, Context, and Culture

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. How does the Preamble to the Constitution begin?

- a. "We the People..."
- b. "We hold these truths to be self-evident..."
- c. "When in the Course of human events..."
- d. "In Order to form a more perfect Union..."

Answer: a

Topic: Functions of American Government

Learning Objective: 1.2 Explain the functions of American government.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. What was the most common initial reason for settlement in North America by the first colonists?

- a. family reunification
- b. religious freedom
- c. flight from diseases rampaging through Europe
- d. commerce

Answer: d

Topic: Roots of American Government: We the People

Learning Objective: 1.1 Trace the origins of American government.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

3. In a direct democracy, decisions are made collectively by citizens using _____.

- a. indirect democracy
- b. majority rule
- c. enlightened representatives
- d. oligarchy

Answer: b

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Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

4. Indirect democracy uses which of the following?

- a. plebiscites
- b. unanimity
- c. representation
- d. "mob rule"

Answer: c

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Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

5. What are republics?

- a. representative democracies
- b. direct democracies
- c. a hallmark of direct democracy
- d. communist regimes

Answer: a

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Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Which function of government stated in the Preamble is consistent with the notion of having government-provided police protection?

- a. establishing justice
- b. securing the blessings of liberty
- c. promoting the general welfare
- d. ensuring domestic tranquility

Answer: d

Topic: Functions of American Government

Learning Objective: 1.2 Explain the functions of American government.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Moderate

7. The Framers agreed that the new nation had to be founded on notions of which of the following?

- a. economic equality
- b. aristocracy
- c. racial equality

d. religious freedom

Answer: d

Topic: The Changing American People and Their Culture

Learning Objective: 1.3 Analyze the changing characteristics of the American public.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

8. In general, which of the following is true about the U.S. population?

- a. It is mostly under the age of thirty.
- b. It is getting older.
- c. It is becoming more homogeneous.
- d. It is becoming more Christian.

Answer: b

Topic: The Changing American People and Their Culture

Learning Objective: 1.3 Analyze the changing characteristics of the American public.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

9. What percentage of Americans are immigrants?

- a. 0.7 percent
- b. 3 percent
- c. 9 percent
- d. 15 percent

Answer: d

Topic: The Changing American People and Their Culture

Learning Objective: 1.3 Analyze the changing characteristics of the American public.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. Which accurately compares Southerners to Northerners?

- a. Northerners are more religious.
- b. Northerners are more likely to favor states' rights.
- c. Southerners are more in favor of civil rights.
- d. Southerners are more likely to favor downsizing the federal government.

Answer: d

Topic: The Changing American People and Their Culture

Learning Objective: 1.3 Analyze the changing characteristics of the American public.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Level: Difficult

11. Approximately what percentage of children live in a household with both parents?

- a. 45 percent
- b. 55 percent
- c. 65 percent
- d. 75 percent

Answer: c

Topic: The Changing American People and Their Culture

Learning Objective: 1.3 Analyze the changing characteristics of the American public.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

12. Based on the average age of the state's population, which issue would you expect to be least important to voters in Florida, which has the oldest state population in the U.S.?
- a. Social Security
 - b. Medicare
 - c. public education
 - d. prescription drug costs

Answer: c

Topic: The Changing American People and Their Culture

Learning Objective: 1.3 Analyze the changing characteristics of the American public.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Moderate

13. Over time, Americans' expectations of government have generally _____.
- a. increased
 - b. decreased
 - c. been related to national defense
 - d. been related to foreign policy

Answer: a

Topic: Toward Reform: People and Politics

Learning Objective: 1.4 Characterize changes in Americans' attitudes toward and expectations of government.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Level: Moderate

14. Americans' confidence in government institutions in the United States has _____.
- a. remained stagnant over time
 - b. generally increased
 - c. generally decreased
 - d. fluctuated considerably depending on who is in office

Answer: c

Topic: Toward Reform: People and Politics

Learning Objective: 1.4 Characterize changes in Americans' attitudes toward and expectations of government.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

15. Americans generally have the lowest levels of confidence in which of the following institutions?
- a. the press
 - b. business and industry
 - c. the executive branch
 - d. Congress

Answer: d

Topic: Toward Reform: People and Politics

Learning Objective: 1.4 Characterize changes in Americans' attitudes toward and expectations of government.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

16. Which of the following was expected of the federal government 200 years ago?
- a. regulating business
 - b. providing national defense
 - c. providing poverty relief
 - d. inspecting food

Answer: b

Topic: Toward Reform: People and Politics

Learning Objective: 1.4 Characterize changes in Americans' attitudes toward and expectations of government.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

17. The first permanent English settlement was established where?
- a. Jamestown
 - b. Albany
 - c. St. Augustine
 - d. Plymouth

Answer: a

Topic: Roots of American Government: We the People

Learning Objective: 1.1 Trace the origins of American government.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

18. Roger Williams settled which colony as part of his effort to separate from the Church of England?
- a. Plymouth
 - b. Providence
 - c. Massachusetts Bay
 - d. Delaware

Answer: b

Topic: Roots of American Government: We the People

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Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

19. The long-term survival of William Penn's colony has been attributed to its _____.
- a. mineral wealth
 - b. natural location
 - c. religious freedom
 - d. ethnic and religious diversity

Answer: d

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Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

20. Which country is not listed as free according to the Freedom in the World 2016 rankings?
- a. Russia
 - b. Brazil
 - c. Australia
 - d. South Africa

Answer: a

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Learning Objective: 1.2 Explain the functions of American government.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

21. Which is not a core element of the American Dream?
- a. education
 - b. freedom
 - c. high income
 - d. home ownership

Answer: c

Topic: Toward Reform: People and Politics

Learning Objective: 1.4 Characterize changes in Americans' attitudes toward and expectations of government.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy