

Chapter 02

The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Multiple Choice Questions

1. (p. 27) The theory of popular sovereignty holds that all power
- A. will ultimately be progressively distributed.
 - B. is distributed by popular vote.
 - C. is given to the people by divine right.
 - D.** rests with the people.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Comprehension

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Principles of Constitutional Government

2. (p. 28) The notion that all individuals possess inalienable rights and willingly submit to government to protect those rights is embodied in
- A. the traditionalistic subculture.
 - B.** social contract theory.
 - C. the individualistic subculture.
 - D. popular sovereignty.

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Critical Thinking: Comprehension

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Principles of Constitutional Government

Chapter 02 - The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

3. (p. 28) Which of the following is NOT among the characteristics shared by all state constitutions?

- A. the requirement that citizens approve any changes
- B. a fear of strong executive authority
- C. popular sovereignty
- D. separation of powers

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Critical Thinking: Comprehension

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Characteristics Common to State Constitutions

4. (p. 30) Which of the following is NOT a power of the Texas legislature?

- A. propose laws
- B. oversight of state agencies
- C. propose constitutional amendments
- D. appoint judges

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Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Characteristics Common to State Constitutions

5. (p. 30) Under the Texas constitution, the power to tax resides with

- A. the governor.
- B. the legislature.
- C. the judiciary.
- D. the bureaucracy.

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Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Characteristics Common to State Constitutions

Chapter 02 - The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

6. (p. 30) Article 6 of the U.S. Constitution contains the _____ clause establishing the U.S. Constitution as the law of the land that no federal or state law may violate.

- A. preemptive
- B. establishment
- C. supremacy**
- D. primacy

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Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Characteristics Common to State Constitutions

7. (p. 31) Which constitution was the first to govern Anglos in Texas?

- A. U.S. Constitution
- B. Republic of Mexico's constitution**
- C. Republic of Texas Constitution
- D. Reconstruction constitution

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Evolution of the Texas Constitution: 1824-1876

8. (p. 33) Which constitution was pejoratively known as the "carpetbagger's constitution"?

- A. U.S. Constitution
- B. Republic of Mexico's constitution
- C. Republic of Texas Constitution
- D. Reconstruction constitution**

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Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Evolution of the Texas Constitution: 1824-1876

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9. (p. 33) The current Texas Constitution was approved by voters in _____.
A. 1866
B. 1876
C. 1886
D. 1896

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Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: The Constitution of 1876

10. (p. 35) The Spanish constitutions contributed what key element to the political climate of Texas?
A. limited government
B. property rights for women
C. decentralization of decision making
D. decreased executive power

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Critical Thinking: Comprehension

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Culture Drives Institutions

11. (p. 35) In addition to a preamble and appendix, how many articles are contained in the Texas Constitution?
A. 10
B. 17
C. 27
D. 776

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Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Important Sections of the Texas Constitution

Chapter 02 - The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

12. (p. 35) What does the Texas Constitution contain that the U.S. Constitution does not?

- A. Bill of Rights
- B. separation of powers
- C. legislative member qualifications
- D.** equal rights amendment

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Critical Thinking: Comprehension

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Important Sections of the Texas Constitution

13. (p. 35) Article 1 of the Texas Constitution covers the

- A. powers of government.
- B. legislative department.
- C. executive department.
- D.** Bill of Rights.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Important Sections of the Texas Constitution

14. (p. 35) Discussion of the legislative department is in Article ___ of the Texas Constitution.

- A. 2
- B.** 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

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Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Important Sections of the Texas Constitution

Chapter 02 - The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

15. (p. 36) Why does the Texas Constitution create a fragmented executive branch?

- A. to limit the power of the governor
- B. poor writing that had the effect of fragmenting the executive, though this was not intended
- C. to raise the status of the legislature
- D. a requirement established by the U.S. Congress in order for Texas to be readmitted to the Union

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Critical Thinking: Comprehension

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Important Sections of the Texas Constitution

16. (p. 36) Discussion of the executive department is in Article ___ of the Texas Constitution.

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Important Sections of the Texas Constitution

17. (p. 36) Discussion of the judicial department is in Article ___ of the Texas Constitution.

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Important Sections of the Texas Constitution

18. (p. 36) Why might the partisan election of judges be cause for concern?

- A. judicial decisions may be politicized
- B. the rule of law would be eliminated
- C. campaign fundraising could distract judges
- D. campaign functions mean less time for trying cases

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Analysis

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Important Sections of the Texas Constitution

19. (p. 36) The articles of the Texas Constitution that define the creation and structure of counties in the state provide for a fairly _____ system that counties are required to abide by.

- A. flexible
- B. inflexible
- C. simple
- D. centralized

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Comprehension

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Important Sections of the Texas Constitution

20. (p. 37) Ideally, a constitution should be

- A. detailed and specific.
- B. frequently amended.
- C. brief and explicit.
- D. unable to be amended.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Analysis

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Comparing the Structure of State Constitutions

21. (p. 37) Most state constitutions
- A. are relatively brief.
 - B. create strong executives.
 - C. say nothing about taxation and spending.
 - D. have been amended many times.**

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Comparing the Structure of State Constitutions

22. (p. 38) At 376,006 words, which state's constitution is the longest?
- A. Alabama's**
 - B. Louisiana's
 - C. Mississippi's
 - D. Texas's

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 3

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Comparing the Structure of State Constitutions

23. (p. 39) Except in the state of Delaware, two steps are involved in changing constitutions:
- A. a constitutional convention and citizen approval.
 - B. voter initiative and legislative approval.
 - C. legislative initiative and approval by constitutional convention.
 - D. proposal of amendments and citizen approval.**

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Amending and Revising State Constitutions

24. (p. 40) Why are state constitutions amended more frequently than the U.S. Constitution?
- A. The U.S. Constitution has built-in limits.
 - B.** State constitutions deal with a wider range of functions.
 - C. Voter initiatives have a higher rate of approval than those amendments proposed by state legislatures.
 - D. The legislature can approve state constitutional amendments.

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Critical Thinking: Comprehension

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Patterns of Constitutional Change

25. (p. 41) Between 1975 and 2013, the Texas legislature proposed 299 amendments for voter approval, and of these, voters accepted _____ percent.
- A. 44
 - B. 65
 - C. 73
 - D.** 85

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Amending the Texas Constitution

26. (p. 41-42) Which of the following aspects of the process of amending the state constitution contributes to low voter turnout?
- A. odd-year elections
 - B. low interest in the issues
 - C. confusing ballot wording
 - D.** All of these answers are correct.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Amending the Texas Constitution

27. (p. 44) Many reformers believe the Texas Constitution is in need of a comprehensive revision. Why is this unlikely to happen?

- A. strong distrust of government
- B. high levels of satisfaction with the existing process
- C. strong distrust of reformers
- D. "Lone Star" pride in having the longest state constitution

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Analysis

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Criticisms of the Texas Constitution

28. (p. 45) What was the result of a bill introduced in 1999 calling for a general revision of the Texas Constitution?

- A. It was defeated in a floor vote.
- B. It was not approved by the citizens.
- C. It died in committee.
- D. It was inadvertently placed on the wrong calendar and was ignored.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 3

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: Conclusion to the Texas Constitution

29. (p. 46) The system that provides for a sharing of powers between the national government and the state governments is known as

- A. federalism.
- B. unitarianism.
- C. confederation.
- D. separation of powers.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: The American Federal System of Government

Chapter 02 - The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

30. (p. 46) Most countries in the world have a _____ form of government.

- A. federal
- B. confederal
- C. unitary**
- D. binary

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: The American Federal System of Government

31. (p. 46) A _____ form of government leaves the most power with state and local governments.

- A. federal
- B. confederal**
- C. unitary
- D. monarchical

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Comprehension

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: The American Federal System of Government

32. (p. 47) Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution contains this statement? "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

- A. Ninth
- B. Tenth**
- C. Eleventh
- D. Twelfth

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Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: The American Federal System of Government

Chapter 02 - The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

33. (p. 48) By what authority did the U.S. Congress create a national bank in 1790?

- A. U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Marbury v. Madison*
- B. Article 8 of the U.S. Constitution
- C. Interstate Commerce Clause
- D.** Necessary and Proper Clause

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Critical Thinking: Comprehension

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: The American Federal System of Government

34. (p. 49) Which of the following is an exclusive power of the national government?

- A.** regulate interstate commerce
- B. conduct national elections
- C. regulate banks
- D. provide education

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: The American Federal System of Government

35. (p. 50) After World War I, the Supreme Court required states to adhere to basic protections in the Bill of Rights through the use of clauses in the _____ Amendment.

- A. Tenth
- B. Eleventh
- C.** Fourteenth
- D. Eighteenth

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Comprehension

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: The American Federal System of Government

36. (p. 51) A(n) ____ grant is for broad purposes and gives state and local governments a significant amount of discretion in how the money is spent.

A. categorical

B. block

C. formula

D. earmark

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Comprehension

Difficulty: 2

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: The American Federal System of Government

37. (p. 52) Nineteenth century federalism

A. continued unchanged through the twentieth century.

B. saw the federal government dictate even the smallest aspects of state and local government.

C. saw the federal government dominant over states.

D. saw states dominant over the federal government.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Critical Thinking: Knowledge

Difficulty: 1

Teaching Emphasis: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

Text Answer Hint: The American Federal System of Government

Essay Questions

38. Discuss how the Texas Constitution is a good example of how limits can be placed on the power of a state government. Use specific examples.

Answers will vary

39. Explain why the 1869 Reconstruction constitution was unacceptable to Texas's existing political culture and how it influenced the subsequent 1876 Texas Constitution.

Answers will vary

40. List the characteristics of the ideal constitution. Does the U.S. Constitution live up to these ideals? Does the Texas Constitution? Explain.

Answers will vary

41. Discuss the first five articles of the Texas Constitution. What are the key characteristics of each?

Answers will vary

42. In light of the conditions that lead to low voter turnout, what changes could be made to increase voter participation? Which political subculture represented in Texas would probably favor lower voter participation? Why?

Answers will vary

43. List the four reasons the piecemeal process of amending the Texas Constitution every two years will likely continue.

Answers will vary

44. What key aspects of the United States Constitution have allowed the federal government to have more power than state governments?

Answers will vary

45. How has the United States government used its power to compel states to enact certain policies, such as a minimum drinking age of 21? Why is this power controversial?

Answers will vary

46. How does the United States Constitution regulate relations between the states? What are the practical consequences of this regulation?

Answers will vary