

Test 4: The 3 Branches of Government

PRACTICE QUESTIONS A
- Work through with your group, write the answers on a blank piece of paper

- Do not write on this

57. Cabinet members often do not have a dominant influence on presidential decision-making because
- (A) cabinet members generally maintain close independent ties to Congress
 - (B) cabinet members generally view their position only as a stepping-stone to further their own political ambitions
 - (C) cabinet members are not permitted to disagree publicly with the President
 - (D) presidential goals often conflict with the institutional goals of individual cabinet-level agencies
 - (E) only half of all cabinet members can be members of the President's party

53. Which of the following is an accurate statement about committees in Congress?

- (A) The work of a committee ends when it submits a bill to the full House or Senate for consideration.
- (B) An individual representative or senator can serve on only one committee and one subcommittee.
- (C) Membership on key committees such as House Rules and Senate Finance is limited to fixed terms.
- (D) Standing committees oversee the bureaucracy's implementation of legislation.
- (E) Committee recommendations tend to have little influence on floor voting.

45. The "Miranda warning" represents an attempt to protect criminal suspects against

- (A) unfair police interrogation
- (B) biased jury selection
- (C) imprisonment without trial
- (D) illegal wiretapping
- (E) unjustified police surveillance

44. Decisions reached by the Supreme Court under the leadership of Chief Justice Earl Warren (1953-1969) did all of the following EXCEPT

- (A) rule against malapportionment in state legislatures
- (B) void state statutes that permitted school segregation
- (C) invalidate state abortion statutes
- (D) expand the rights of criminal defendants
- (E) increase protection for First Amendment freedoms

39. The boundaries of United States congressional districts are usually determined by
- (A) the Federal Election Commission (FEC)
 - (B) the state legislatures
 - (C) the House Rules Committee
 - (D) a conference committee of the House and Senate
 - (E) the director of the United States Census Bureau
38. Which of the following statements accurately describes the selection of the caseload for the United States Supreme Court?
- (A) The United States Constitution spells out all of the categories of cases that the Supreme Court must hear.
 - (B) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has the authority to select the cases that the Court will hear.
 - (C) The Solicitor General in the Department of Justice determines the Supreme Court's agenda.
 - (D) The Supreme Court is free to choose the cases it hears with only a few limitations.
 - (E) The Attorney General screens cases for consideration by the Court.

34. The advantages of incumbency in congressional elections include which of the following?
- I. Incumbents receive more campaign contributions than do challengers.
 - II. Incumbents are able to provide important services for individual voters.
 - III. The government provides campaign funds for incumbents.
 - IV. The President usually endorses incumbents for reelection.
 - V. Most American voters believe Congress does a good job.
- (A) I and II only
(B) III and IV only
(C) I, IV, and V only
(D) II, III, and V only
(E) III, IV, and V only

35. Which of the following statements about rules of procedure in the House and Senate is correct?
- (A) Debate by a determined minority in either chamber cannot be halted.
 - (B) The rules in each chamber are determined by the majority whip.
 - (C) The rules are specified in Article I of the Constitution.
 - (D) The rules can be changed by the President during a national emergency.
 - (E) The House operates more by formal rules, while the Senate operates more on informal understandings.

26. Which of the following statements about Congress is true?
- (A) Members of Congress only occasionally are interested in and pay attention to constituents.
 - (B) The legislative process is frequently lengthy, decentralized, and characterized by compromise and bargaining.
 - (C) Lobbyists and political action committees (PAC's) successfully induce most members of Congress to trade their votes for campaign contributions.
 - (D) The growth in the size of Congress as an organization is the principal cause of growth in the federal budget deficit.
 - (E) Debate in both houses is structured by elaborate rules enacted by leaders of the majority party.

31. In *McCulloch v. Maryland*, the Supreme Court established which of the following principles?
- (A) States cannot interfere with or tax the legitimate activities of the federal government.
 - (B) The judicial branch cannot intervene in political disputes between the President and Congress.
 - (C) The federal Bill of Rights places no limitations on the states.
 - (D) The federal government has the power to regulate commerce.
 - (E) It is within the judiciary's authority to interpret the constitution.

25. Which of the following actions can Congress take if the Supreme Court finds a federal law unconstitutional?
- (A) Appeal the Court's decision to the District of Columbia's Court of Appeals.
 - (B) Formally request the President to veto the Court's decision.
 - (C) Remove certain members of the Court and replace them with new members.
 - (D) Try to amend the Constitution.
 - (E) Reenact the same law.

COMPETITION IN CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS, 1958-1986

Year	Members Reelected		Average Vote Won by Member		Members Reelected by 60% or More	
	House	Senate	House	Senate	House	Senate
1958	90%	64%	61.2%	57.5%	63.1%	71.3%
1960	93	97	60.6	54.5	58.9	71.8
1962	92	83	62.1	54.8	63.6	40.0
1964	87	85	61.7	60.3	58.5	63.0
1966	88	88	62.7	52.6	67.7	59.3
1968	97	71	64.2	52.9	72.2	58.9
1970	95	77	65.4	56.3	77.3	45.8
1972	94	74	65.6	60.5	77.8	55.0
1974	88	85	64.0	52.5	66.4	47.8
1976	96	64	65.8	50.8	71.9	68.7
1978	94	60	65.8	52.5	78.0	53.3
1980	91	55	66.1	50.1	72.9	56.2
1982	90	93	65.0	58.6	68.9	50.0
1984	95	90	65.6	61.9	75.1	73.0
1986	98	75	69.5	59.1	81.2	71.4
1958-1986 (mean percentage)	93	77	64.4	55.7	70.2	59.0

24. The data displayed in the table above best support which of the following statements?
- (A) The reelection rate is higher in the Senate than in the House.
 - (B) The average vote won by Senate members surpasses that won by House members.
 - (C) House seats are safer from election turnover than are Senate seats.
 - (D) House members serve more terms than do Senators.
 - (E) More members of the Senate win reelection by 60% or more of the vote than do members of the House.

22. All of the following powers are granted to the President by the Constitution EXCEPT
- (A) commissioning officers in the armed forces
 - (B) addressing the Congress on the state of the union
 - (C) receiving ambassadors
 - (D) granting pardons for federal offenses
 - (E) forming new cabinet-level departments

21. Congressional standing committees are best described as
- (A) specially appointed investigative bodies
 - (B) joint committees of the two houses of Congress
 - (C) committees created for each session
 - (D) permanent subject-matter committees
 - (E) advisory staff agencies
9. Supreme Court justices were given tenure subject to good behavior by the framers of the Constitution in order to ensure that
- (A) justices are free from direct political pressures
 - (B) justices remain accountable to the public
 - (C) justices are encouraged to make politically popular decisions
 - (D) cooperation between the judicial and legislative branches is assured
 - (E) Presidents are encouraged to seek younger nominees for the Supreme Court
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11. The most important source of the Supreme Court's caseload is
- (A) its original jurisdiction
 - (B) its appellate jurisdiction
 - (C) instruction from the solicitor general
 - (D) the special master's certification of cases for review
 - (E) Congress' certification of cases for review

8. The role of a conference committee in Congress is to
- (A) hold hearings on proposed legislation
 - (B) oversee the actions of the executive branch of the government
 - (C) decide which bills should be considered by the full Senate
 - (D) conduct hearings that make information available to the public
 - (E) reconcile differences in bills passed by the House and Senate
10. The committee system is more important in the House than in the Senate because
- (A) the seniority system plays no role in the House and therefore committees must play a larger role
 - (B) the Constitution mandates the type of committee structure in the House
 - (C) committee members are appointed by the President
 - (D) the House is so large that more work can be accomplished in committees than on the floor
 - (E) the majority party in the House prefers to give priority to the work of the committees

1. Which of the following is an example of checks and balances, as established by the Constitution?

- (A) A requirement that states lower their legal drinking age to eighteen as a condition of receiving funds through federal highway grant programs
- (B) Media criticism of public officials during an election campaign period
- (C) The Supreme Court's ability to overturn a lower court decision
- (D) The requirement that presidential appointments to the Supreme Court be approved by the Senate
- (E) The election of the President by the electoral college rather than by direct election

Item No.	Correct Answer	Percent Correct by Grade					Total Percent Correct
		5	4	3	2	1	
1	D	99	98	97	90	63	92
2	A	93	89	84	79	64	82
3	C	92	88	81	75	59	80
4	B	93	87	73	55	32	70
5	E	94	88	83	72	53	80
6	C	99	98	96	94	81	94
7	D	97	93	86	73	42	81
8	E	91	79	61	37	21	59
9	A	91	85	77	62	34	72
10	D	99	97	92	79	48	86
11	B	91	82	70	57	39	69
12	C	90	83	70	57	43	69
13	D	90	85	79	65	44	74
14	E	89	80	74	65	53	73
15	A	97	93	88	78	62	85
16	C	97	93	82	66	41	77
17	D	90	81	70	57	43	68
18	E	83	70	60	51	36	60
19	D	64	53	42	32	20	42
20	B	87	75	64	52	39	62
21	D	94	86	72	50	22	67
22	E	75	64	57	45	35	55
23	A	74	57	44	36	29	45
24	C	97	93	87	79	56	84
25	D	95	89	78	59	30	72
26	B	95	90	80	64	35	76
27	C	95	87	78	58	31	73
28	E	62	52	46	38	28	44
29	C	71	60	54	49	40	55
30	E	84	68	53	36	24	52

Item No.	Correct Answer	Percent Correct by Grade					Total Percent Correct
		5	4	3	2	1	
31	A	89	80	68	53	37	65
32	D	79	66	51	38	21	52
33	A	82	72	63	56	38	63
34	A	89	71	53	38	25	52
35	E	85	72	55	38	20	55
36	B	99	95	90	75	46	84
37	C	90	83	73	58	38	69
38	D	86	81	69	48	25	64
39	B	85	71	54	35	19	52
40	A	46	27	15	10	11	19
41	A	85	74	60	44	26	58
42	E	81	63	47	33	19	48
43	B	95	86	71	42	15	64
44	C	67	52	40	30	22	41
45	A	99	97	92	82	58	89
46	A	90	76	63	44	20	60
47	E	81	62	46	34	16	47
48	D	86	76	66	55	38	66
49	A	64	45	34	26	22	37
50	C	95	87	76	54	26	71
51	B	79	62	48	35	21	49
52	E	85	74	60	44	26	58
53	D	40	33	29	26	19	29
54	A	84	67	49	30	21	49
55	E	88	77	60	38	20	57
56	C	71	54	39	26	13	40
57	D	87	73	54	31	19	54
58	E	73	49	25	15	11	33
59	C	89	74	56	33	13	54
60	B	79	65	51	35	23	51