

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**True / False**

1. Politics is defined as the ability to influence the behavior of others, usually through the use of force, persuasion, or rewards.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

2. Monarchy is a form of autocracy.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

3. Dictators are accountable to elected lawmakers.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

4. In a theocracy, the government rules according to religious precepts.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

5. To the right of liberalism on the traditional ideological spectrum lies socialism.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

**Multiple Choice**

6. One of humanity's oldest and most universal institutions for dividing resources and making decisions is \_\_\_\_.

- a. government
- b. religion
- c. judiciary
- d. military
- e. marriage

ANSWER: a

7. \_\_\_\_ is defined as disagreements among people in a society over what the society's priorities should be.

- a. Politics
- b. Progressivism
- c. Social conflict
- d. Contract dispute
- e. Social competition

ANSWER: c

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8. Gareth, a first-grade teacher, finds three of his students fighting over the few toys lying in the play area. Gareth intervenes and decides which student gets to play with which toy and in what order. In resolving the conflict among his students, Gareth essentially demonstrates the process of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. centralization
- b. electioneering
- c. partisanship
- d. appeasement
- e. politics

ANSWER: e

9. In the context of functions of government, which of the following is true of power?

- a. Its exercise is always recognized as socially moral.
- b. It is the ability to influence others.
- c. It necessarily involves the use of force.
- d. It implies legal action.
- e. Its exercise is universally illegal.

ANSWER: b

10. A government is performing the function of \_\_\_\_\_ when it maintains city roads.

- a. managing foreign relations
- b. providing public services
- c. resolving conflicts
- d. defending the nation
- e. maintaining law and order

ANSWER: b

11. Which of the following is an example of a public service provided by the government?

- a. Influencing the morality of individuals
- b. Resolving religious conflicts
- c. Imposing taxes on individuals
- d. Preserving national parks
- e. Modernizing police force

ANSWER: d

12. Which of the following statements is true of public services?

- a. Lawful protection of the disabled under the Americans with Disabilities Act is a public service.
- b. The enforcement of law by the government is not regarded as a public service.
- c. Protection from economic recessions is excluded from the scope of public services.
- d. Maintaining the defense network involves lesser expenses compared to all other public services.
- e. An adjudication on a contentious issue by a court of law is a public service.

ANSWER: a

13. Which of the following bodies is NOT responsible for ensuring national security of the United States?

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- a. U.S. Army
- b. U.S. Navy
- c. Central Intelligence Agency
- d. National Security Agency
- e. New York Police Department

ANSWER: e

14. The Constitution of the United States gives \_\_\_\_\_ exclusive power over relations with foreign nations.
- a. the Republicans
  - b. individuals
  - c. the Democrats
  - d. state governments
  - e. the national government

ANSWER: e

15. Defending the nation and its culture against future acts of aggression became more important for the US government:
- a. after the Vietnam War.
  - b. with the influx of multicultural immigrants.
  - c. since the attacks on the World Trade Center.
  - d. when President Nixon resigned.
  - e. after the conclusion of the Cold War.

ANSWER: c

16. Which of the following statements is true of an autocracy?
- a. The government consists of elected representatives.
  - b. Authority lies in the hands of a single person.
  - c. Authority is gained solely by traditional means.
  - d. The people have ultimate political authority.
  - e. An individual has to acquire the consent of the people to assume power.

ANSWER: b

17. Which of the following is true of a monarchy?
- a. The government is a form of democracy.
  - b. A monarch's power is not supported by tradition.
  - c. A monarch's power is acquired through inheritance.
  - d. The government is a form of dictatorship.
  - e. A monarch always has unlimited power over the subjects.

ANSWER: c

18. In the country of Myrlington, the people are ruled by Queen Sophie like her ancestors have done for centuries. The Queen has the sole right to make all decisions concerning the lives of her people and her country's wellbeing. Myrlington is an example of a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. absolute monarchy
  - b. dictatorship

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- c. constitutional monarchy
- d. direct democracy
- e. representative democracy

ANSWER: a

19. In a constitutional monarchy, \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. the monarch's power is not supported by tradition
- b. the monarch holds complete and unlimited power
- c. the monarch's power is limited by government leaders
- d. the monarch is elected by the citizens of a country through elections
- e. the monarch has the authority to make changes in the constitution

ANSWER: c

20. \_\_\_\_\_ is an example of a constitutional monarchy.

- a. North Korea
- b. Spain
- c. India
- d. The U.S.
- e. China

ANSWER: b

21. Unlike constitutional monarchs, absolute monarchs:

- a. share governmental power with elected lawmakers.
- b. hold complete and unlimited power.
- c. are elected by a country's citizens.
- d. are limited by a constitution or a bill of rights.
- e. serve merely as ceremonial leaders of their nations.

ANSWER: b

22. \_\_\_\_\_ is a form of autocracy.

- a. Dictatorship
- b. Democracy
- c. Anarchy
- d. Republic
- e. Partocracy

ANSWER: a

23. Undemocratic systems that are not supported by tradition are called \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. monarchies
- b. kingships
- c. theocracies
- d. plutocracies
- e. dictatorships

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ANSWER: e

24. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ dictatorship is a government system in which a leader or group of leaders seeks to control almost all aspects of social and economic life.

- a. libertarian
- b. republican
- c. constitutional
- d. totalitarian
- e. egalitarian

ANSWER: d

25. Joseph Stalin's rule in the Soviet Union is an example of a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. totalitarian dictatorship
- b. monarchy
- c. theocracy
- d. representative democracy
- e. oligarchy

ANSWER: a

26. Which of the following statements is true of direct democracy?

- a. A high degree of citizen participation is required in government.
- b. Direct democracy presently exists in most countries in the world.
- c. The will of the majority is expressed through representatives elected by the people.
- d. A direct democracy is always headed by a monarch.
- e. The head of the state seeks to control almost all aspects of social and economic life.

ANSWER: a

27. In the island country of Semanto, quarterly meetings are held at its Civic Centre grounds to discuss and decide upon important issues of the island. Every Semanto citizen participates in the governing assembly and votes on all major issues. Semanto is an example of a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. totalitarian dictatorship
- b. direct democracy
- c. autocracy
- d. monarchy
- e. aristocracy

ANSWER: b

28. Why did the founders of the United States opt for representative democracy instead of the Athenian model of direct democracy?

- a. They believed that citizen participation was unnecessary in governance.
- b. They preferred a republic headed by a king or queen.
- c. They were against a government based on the consent of the governed.
- d. They thought that the rights of the minority would be ignored.
- e. They opined that the masses would not be able to decide what would be right for themselves.

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ANSWER: d

29. Which of the following is true of a representative democracy?
- a. The people themselves directly make political decisions.
  - b. A king or queen is considered the head of state.
  - c. The will of the majority is expressed by elected representatives.
  - d. A leader seeks to control almost all aspects of social and economic life.
  - e. The government rules according to religious precepts.

ANSWER: c

30. A republic is essentially a(n) \_\_\_\_.
- a. representative democracy
  - b. direct democracy
  - c. autocracy
  - d. plutocracy
  - e. monarchy

ANSWER: a

31. Which of the following is a difference between a presidential democracy and a parliamentary democracy?
- a. Unlike a presidential democracy, the lawmaking and law-enforcing branches of government are separate in a parliamentary democracy.
  - b. Unlike a parliamentary democracy, the president is responsible for lawmaking in a parliamentary democracy.
  - c. Unlike a presidential democracy, the lawmaking and law-enforcing branches of government are united in a parliamentary democracy.
  - d. Unlike a presidential democracy, the prime minister is separate from the legislative body in a parliamentary democracy.
  - e. Unlike a parliamentary democracy, the lawmaking branch is superior to the law-enforcing branch of the government in a parliamentary democracy.

ANSWER: c

32. The term theocracy is best defined as:
- a. a government that rules according to religious precepts.
  - b. a government in which the rich have disproportionate influence.
  - c. a government run by members of old, noble families.
  - d. a government in which political decisions are made directly by the people themselves.
  - e. a government in which the power and authority are in the hands of a single person.

ANSWER: a

33. The basic principle of \_\_\_\_ that had evolved in England was incorporated by the framers of the U.S. Constitution.
- a. ethnocratic government
  - b. limited government
  - c. theocratic government
  - d. aristocratic government
  - e. kratocratic government

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ANSWER: b

34. In the context of the English monarchy, the \_\_\_\_\_ prohibited the taking of a free man's life, liberty, or property except through due process of law.

- a. Mayflower Compact
- b. Declaration of Independence
- c. Magna Carta
- d. Articles of Confederation
- e. Bill of rights

ANSWER: c

35. Which of the following is true of the Magna Carta?

- a. It served as the first draft of America's written Constitution.
- b. It established the principle of representative government.
- c. It gave unrestricted power to monarchs.
- d. It served private interests of the king rather than public interests.
- e. It established the principle of limited government.

ANSWER: e

36. The Magna Carta:

- a. abolished trial by jury.
- b. forced the nobles to obtain the king's approval of any taxes they imposed.
- c. signaled the end of the monarch's absolute power.
- d. gave the English monarch virtually unrestricted powers.
- e. rendered due process of law unnecessary for taking a free man's life.

ANSWER: c

37. The English Bill of Rights passed by the English Parliament in 1689 established that:

- a. the king or queen had to conduct and monitor parliamentary elections.
- b. the king or queen had to have Parliament's approval to maintain an army.
- c. the king or queen could levy taxes without being answerable to anyone.
- d. the king or queen could refuse to take the Parliament's suggestions in matters of national concern.
- e. the king or queen could make changes to the Constitution without the Parliament's consent.

ANSWER: b

38. \_\_\_\_\_ is a voluntary agreement among individuals to create a government and to give that government adequate power to secure the mutual protection and welfare of all individuals.

- a. A social contract
- b. A political compromise
- c. A charter
- d. Liaison
- e. The Geneva Convention

ANSWER: b

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39. Which of the following is a fundamental principle on which the American democracy is based?

- a. Equal protection of the law
- b. Minority rule and majority rights
- c. Presidential dictatorship
- d. Unlimited freedom
- e. Divine right

ANSWER: a

40. The Declaration of Independence:

- a. established the principle of limited government.
- b. is the speech presented by the first president of the United States.
- c. is a treaty between the founding Americans and the British colonists.
- d. outlined the value of partiality under the law.
- e. established the principle of government without the consent of the governed.

ANSWER: a

41. Zoya was arrested for staging a peaceful protest against animal cruelty in front of an animal-testing research institution. Zoya justified her actions by saying that the Constitution gives her the freedom to speak freely on any topic and issue. To which of the following concepts was Zoya referring?

- a. Equality
- b. Property
- c. Liberty
- d. Capitalism
- e. Amoralism

ANSWER: c

42. Which of the following best describes the term capitalism?

- a. It is a set of political beliefs that include the advocacy of active government.
- b. It is a concept that holds, at a minimum, that all people are entitled to equal protection under the law.
- c. It is an economic system based on the private ownership of wealth-producing property.
- d. It is a more popular term for the set of political beliefs known as liberalism.
- e. It is an intrinsic property which measures the disregard for material possessions.

ANSWER: c

43. Differences among Americans in interpreting their collectively held values underlie the division between the \_\_\_\_\_ parties.

- a. Federalist and Anti-Federalist
- b. Socialist and Liberalist
- c. Republican and Democratic
- d. Conservative and Liberalist
- e. Nationalist and Traditionalist

ANSWER: c

44. Which of the following is true of the Tea Party movement?



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- a. It resists political compromise.
- b. It arose in the 1950s and continues to shape conservative beliefs.
- c. It supports big government.
- d. It advocates socialist positions on public policy.
- e. It calls for greater gun control.

ANSWER: a

45. One of the outgrowths of the civil rights movement of the 1960s was an emphasis on \_\_\_\_\_, the belief that the American society should maintain and protect its diversity by laws.

- a. socialism
- b. progressivism
- c. capitalism
- d. multiculturalism
- e. abolitionism

ANSWER: d

46. Life expectancy in the U.S. is expected to increase significantly in the future. This would imply that:

- a. distribution of the national income among generations will become even more difficult.
- b. there will be fewer retired people collecting Social Security and private pensions.
- c. the number of working adults will be much higher than retirees.
- d. the number of individuals eligible for Medicare will decrease.
- e. the contribution of older people towards the national income would increase.

ANSWER: a

47. In the context of original American political ideology, conservatives:

- a. wished to establish new policies and practices.
- b. wanted to be free from traditional constraints.
- c. believed that government interference in the economic affairs would be necessary.
- d. wished to conserve traditional social and political habits.
- e. were in favor of a large government.

ANSWER: d

48. Which of the following is a characteristic of conservatives?

- a. They place a high value on the principle of order, on family values, and on patriotism.
- b. They support the protection of minority rights of all kinds.
- c. They strongly favor the separation of church and state.
- d. They support government intervention to improve the welfare of individuals and to protect civil rights.
- e. They have developed a negative opinion about American military initiatives abroad.

ANSWER: a

49. Miranda complained about the tight regulations being imposed on the gun store owned and run by her family. She felt that individuals and families should be responsible for establishing their own economic status instead of being limited by regulations or dependent on benefits from the government. According to her, the government should only intervene to ensure adherence to traditional religious and family values. Miranda's views are most closely aligned with the political

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ideology of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. socialism
- b. communism
- c. conservatism
- d. liberalism
- e. libertarianism

ANSWER: c

50. Which of the following statements about liberalism is true?

- a. Liberals advocate adherence to traditional family values.
- b. Liberals believe that the social and economic outcomes that exist in the presence of government action are frequently unfair.
- c. Liberals think that the government should support laws that impose traditional religious values.
- d. Liberals commonly accuse conservatives of valuing "big government" for its own sake.
- e. Liberals support the protection of minority rights of all kinds.

ANSWER: b

51. The government of Yartha recently passed a law preventing the consumption of alcohol as alcohol consumption conflicts with certain religious beliefs. Roger opposed this law as he is of the opinion that the government should avoid laws that endorse or impose traditional religious values. Roger's views are most closely aligned with the political ideology of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. conservatism
- b. archaism
- c. socialism
- d. liberalism
- e. communism

ANSWER: d

52. Which of the following is a difference between liberals and socialists?

- a. Socialists have commitment to egalitarianism than liberals.
- b. Unlike liberals, socialists advocate active government intervention to protect civil rights.
- c. Unlike liberals, socialists oppose government redistribution of income.
- d. Unlike liberals, socialists have zero tolerance for strong government.
- e. Socialists have stronger adherence to traditional social and religious values than liberals.

ANSWER: a

53. Which of the following statements is true of libertarians?

- a. They oppose almost all government regulation of the economy.
- b. They chiefly form political alliances with the socialists.
- c. They support government involvement in issues of private morality.
- d. They have tolerance for a strong government.
- e. They support the government sponsored social welfare schemes.

ANSWER: a

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54. Which of the following is a difference between libertarians and conservatives?
- a. Unlike conservatives, libertarians support all government regulation of the economy.
  - b. Unlike conservatives, libertarians advocate active government intervention to protect civil rights.
  - c. Unlike conservatives, libertarians oppose government involvement in issues of private morality.
  - d. Unlike conservatives, libertarians support government redistribution of income.
  - e. Unlike conservatives, libertarians oppose the separation of church and state.

ANSWER: c

55. Which of the following is a similarity between liberals and libertarians?
- a. Both believe that the government should have a limited role in economic affairs.
  - b. Both oppose government involvement in issues of private morality.
  - c. Both advocate active government intervention to improve the welfare of individuals.
  - d. Both support government redistribution of income.
  - e. Both believe that big government is simply a necessary tool for promoting the common welfare.

ANSWER: b

**Completion**

56. A totalitarian dictator \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. attempts to satisfy the individual needs of a country's citizens
  - B. opposes government redistribution of income
  - C. seeks to control almost all aspects of social and economic life
  - D. acquires power through inheritance

ANSWER: seeks to control almost all aspects of social and economic life

57. \_\_\_\_\_ is possible only in small communities in which citizens can meet in a chosen place and decide key issues and policies.
- A. Representative democracy
  - B. Direct democracy
  - C. Monarchy
  - D. Dictatorship

ANSWER: Direct democracy

58. The founders of the United States believed that \_\_\_\_\_ would deteriorate into mob rule.
- A. representative democracy
  - B. dictatorship
  - C. monarchy
  - D. direct democracy

ANSWER: direct democracy

59. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is a form of government based on the principle that the powers of government should be clearly restricted either through a written document or through wide public understanding.
- A. limited government
  - B. totalitarian dictatorship
  - C. monarchy
  - D. autocracy

ANSWER: limited government

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60. A key element in conservative thinking is the belief that the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. government should avoid laws that endorse or impose traditional religious values
- B. distribution of economic benefits that exists in the absence of government involvement is optimum
- C. government should not interfere in issues of private morality and behavior
- D. distribution of social benefits is most effective when government schemes favor minorities

**ANSWER:** distribution of economic benefits that exists in the absence of government involvement is optimum

### **Essay**

61. In the context of functions of governments, discuss the terms power and authority.

**ANSWER:** Governments decide how conflicts will be resolved so that public order can be maintained. Governments have power—the ability to influence the behavior of others. Power is getting someone to do something that he or she would not otherwise do. Power may involve the use of force (often called coercion), persuasion, or rewards. Governments typically also have authority, which they can exercise only if their power is legitimate. As used here, the term authority means the ability to use power that is collectively recognized and accepted by society as legally and morally correct. Power and authority are central to a government's ability to resolve conflicts by making and enforcing laws, placing limits on what people can do, and developing court systems to make final decisions. For example, the judicial branch of government—specifically, the United States Supreme Court—resolved the highly controversial question of whether the Second Amendment to the Constitution grants individuals the right to bear arms. In 2008 and 2010, the Court affirmed that such a right does exist. Because of the Court's stature and authority as a government body, there was little resistance to its decision, even from gun control advocates.

62. Explain the role of the U.S. government in defending the nation and its culture.

**ANSWER:** Historically, matters of national security and defense have been given high priority by governments and have demanded considerable time, effort, and expense. The U.S. government provides for the common defense and national security with its Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. The departments of State, Defense, and Homeland Security, plus the Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, and other agencies, also contribute to this defense network. As part of an ongoing policy of national security, many departments and agencies in the federal government are constantly dealing with other nations. The Constitution gives our national government exclusive power over relations with foreign nations. No individual state can negotiate a treaty with a foreign nation. Of course, in defending the nation against attacks by other nations, a government helps to preserve the nation's culture, as well as its integrity as an independent unit. Failure to defend successfully against foreign attacks may have significant consequences for a nation's culture. For example, consider what happened in Tibet in the 1950s. When that country was taken over by the People's Republic of China, the conquering Chinese set out on a systematic program, the effective result of which was large-scale cultural destruction. Since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in 2001, defending the homeland against future terrorist attacks has become a priority of our government.

63. In the context of American political culture, explain the significance of the Declaration of Independence.

**ANSWER:** A political culture can be defined as a patterned set of ideas, values, and ways of thinking about government and politics. American political culture is passed from one generation to another through families, schools, and the media. This culture is powerful enough to win over most new immigrants. Indeed, some immigrants come to America precisely because they are attracted by American values. The ideals and standards that constitute American political culture are embodied in the Declaration of Independence, one of the founding documents of this nation. The political values outlined in the Declaration of Independence include natural rights (to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness), equality under the law, government by the consent of the governed, and limited government powers. In some ways, the Declaration of Independence defines Americans' sense of right and wrong. It presents a challenge to anyone who might wish to overthrow our democratic processes or deny our citizens their natural rights. The rights to liberty, equality, and property are

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fundamental political values shared by most Americans. These values provide a basic framework for American political discourse and debate because they are shared, yet Americans often interpret their meanings quite differently. The result of these differences can be sharp conflict in the political arena.

64. Discuss the dynamics of the U.S. 2014 elections.

**ANSWER:** In 2014, the fierce antipathy between the parties continued unabated. Public opinion polls reported that increasing numbers of Republicans and Democrats considered the other party to be not merely misguided, but a threat to the very nature of the country. The Republicans had high hopes of winning control of the U.S. Senate, in part because their older, more prosperous supporters might be more likely than Democratic groups to turn out and vote. Republican hopes were realized, in part due to the lowest voter turnout in more than seventy years. The Republicans took control of the U.S. Senate. The Republicans were also able to build on their 2010 successes in U.S. House races. In the end, they enjoyed a larger margin in the House than in any election year since 1928. Democratic prospects for 2016 did not appear to be so bleak, however. In a presidential election year, more Democratic-leaning young people and minority group members could be expected to vote. The number of Hispanic citizens, a majority of whom are Democrats, is growing every year. In mid-2015, Hillary Clinton, the probable Democratic presidential nominee, led every Republican hopeful in public opinion polls. Most experts, however, believed that the House would remain Republican for years to come.

65. Differentiate between the modern American political ideologies of conservatism and liberalism.

**ANSWER:** When it comes to ideology, Americans are often placed in two broad political camps: conservatives and liberals. The term conservative originally referred to persons who wished to conserve—keep—traditional social and political habits and institutions. The term liberal referred to those who wanted to be free from tradition and to establish new policies and practices. In today's American political arena, however, these simple definitions of liberalism and conservatism are incomplete. Both terms mean much more. Conservatism is a set of political beliefs that include a limited role for the national government in helping individuals and in the economic affairs of the nation, as well as support for traditional values and lifestyles. A key element in conservative thinking is the belief that the distribution of social and economic benefits that would exist if the government took little or no action is usually optimum. Conservatives believe that individuals and families should take responsibility for their own economic circumstances, and if that means that some people have less, so be it. Conservatives also place a high value on the principle of order, on family values, and on patriotism. Conservatism has always included those who want society and the government to reflect traditional religious values, and Christian conservatives remain an important part of the conservative coalition today.

Liberalism is a set of beliefs that include the advocacy of active government, including government intervention to improve the welfare of individuals and to protect civil rights. While modern American liberalism can trace its roots to the New Deal programs of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the ideology did not take its fully modern form until the 1960s, during the Johnson administration. Johnson went well beyond the programs of Roosevelt with new economic initiatives, such as Medicare and Medicaid. These programs—and more recent health-care reforms—reflect the strong liberal belief that the social and economic outcomes that exist in the absence of government action are frequently unfair. Conservatives commonly accuse liberals of valuing "big government" for its own sake. Liberals reject that characterization and argue that big government is simply a necessary tool for promoting the common welfare.