

CHAPTER TWO

True-False

Any element of falsity renders the statement false.

1. The constitutional doctrine of “incorporation” guarantees that a President cannot veto salary increases for federal judges.

Answer: F

2. As part of a states inherent sovereignty (power to govern), a state possesses police power to regulate private activities to protect or promote the public health, safety, or general welfare of their citizens.

Answer: T

3. A sitting president can be compelled by subpoena to testify in a civil lawsuit, because “the Law is King.”

Answer: T

4. The natural law principle of private domain provides that an individual is free to do anything he or she chooses, unless specifically prohibited or circumscribed by reasonable positive law.

Answer: T

5. Natural law is a legal theory holding that such law precedes all man-made laws and recognizes the fundamental dignity of every human being.

Answer: T

6. Only state supreme courts may declare state laws null and void.

Answer: F

7. As the national government can tax states, so it is that states can tax the national government.

Answer: F

8. The president may kill a bill by veto, but the legislature may resuscitate the bill by overriding the presidential veto by a 2/3 vote.

Answer: T

9. The Supreme Court may void a statute even if it has been passed by a 2/3 vote overriding a presidential veto, if it determines the statute to be unconstitutional.

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Answer: F

10. The president can veto part of budget legislation and approve the remainder, which then becomes law.

Answer: F

11. Members of the House of Representatives are allocated to the states on the basis of population, as determined by the decennial national census.

Answer: T

12. The president is the Commander in Chief of the armed forces, but unlike other members of the armed forces is not subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Answer: T

13. The police power of government simply means the power to arrest, prosecute, and punish criminals.

Answer: F

14. Under the “incorporation doctrine,” the Supreme Court has imposed most of the governmental limitations of the Bill of Rights on the state governments by interpretation of the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Answer: T

15. Federal judges are appointed for a period of “good” behavior. The only way to remove a judge for “bad” behavior is through impeachment and removal from office.

Answer: T

16. Judicial review is the power of Congress to declare an act of the federal government unconstitutional.

Answer: F

17. The constitutional doctrine of separation of powers speaks of the relationships between the national government and the state governments.

Answer: F

18. The president of the United States can terminate the office of any and all federal judges if done within six months of the president taking office.

Answer: F

19. The Constitution provides congress with the power to regulate business activities that affect

interstate commerce.

Answer: T

20. The federal legislative branch is unicameral and the federal constitution requires that state legislatures be tricameral.

Answer: F

21. The Supreme Court contains nine justices all appointed for six year terms by President.

Answer: F

22. The Supremacy Clause provides that federal law overrules state law.

Answer: T

23. The states are granted the authority to regulate interstate commerce through treaty, agreement or mutual cooperation.

Answer: F

24. The First Amendment provides a guarantee of the freedom to speak under all circumstances

Answer: F

25. Government can neither establish religion nor prevent the free exercise thereof.

Answer: T

26. Judicial review is the power of the judiciary to declare an act of the federal government unconstitutional.

Answer: T

Fill-ins

Complete each sentence or statement.

1. _____ means any activity that crosses state boundaries.
_____ means any activity that occurs entirely within a state's boundaries.

Answer: Interstate; Intrastate

2. A formal written order called a(n) _____ requires that an arrestee be brought before a court, usually to protect against abusive incarceration without release on bail, pending a formal trial.

Answer: writ of habeas corpus

3. An act of the legislature punishing a named individual or member of a specific group without a

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judicial trial is a(n) _____ and such a law is prohibited by the Constitution.

Answer: bill of attainder

4. The constitutional doctrine of separation of powers is concerned with the functions of the _____, the _____, and the _____ branches of government.

Answer: legislative; executive; judicial

5. One justification for a rationalization of civil disobedience of _____ law is that the violator is nevertheless complying with a higher standard of conduct, namely the _____ law.

Answer: positive; natural

6. The Supreme Court, in *Marbury v. Madison*, assumed exclusive power to _____ the meaning of the various clauses of the U.S. Constitution.

Answer: interpret

7. The Supreme Court's power of judicial review permits it to declare _____ any federal or state law that violates the Constitution.

Answer: unconstitutional OR null and void

8. Regardless of the population of a state, each will be represented by _____ U.S. Senators.

Answer: two

9. The separation of powers among the three basic branches of government permits considerable specialization of duties. The legislature engages primarily in _____, laws. the executive engages primarily in _____ laws, and the judiciary engages primarily in _____ disputes over the application of the laws.

Answer: enacting; enforcing; adjudicating

10. Because the number of members in the federal _____ is limited to 435, the seats must be reallocated periodically on the basis of _____ as determined by the decennial national census.

Answer: House of Representatives; population

11. The process to remove a federal official or judge from office is called _____ and is conducted by _____.

Answer: impeachment; U.S. Congress

12. The _____ on corporations and on individuals is the most important single source of revenue for the federal government.

Answer: income tax

13. The president has the constitutional power to make treaties with foreign countries, but they must be approved by a(n) _____ vote of the _____. This is an example of the _____ found in our Constitution.

Answer: two-thirds; Senate; checks and balances

14. A system where two or more levels of government direct the affairs of the same people in the same nation is called _____.

Answer: federalism

15. The requirement of an opportunity to citizens be heard and/or defend their rights in a fair hearing before the federal government can take an action adverse to the interests of the citizen is an example of requirements found in the _____ of the _____.

Answer: due process clause, Fifth Amendment.

16. The _____ is the popular title given to the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Answer: Bill of Rights

17. Under Supreme Court rulings, a person who defiantly and disrespectfully burns the flag of the United States is shielded from prosecution because of the _____ Amendment.

Answer: symbolic speech; First

18. The _____ prohibits government from restricting or infringing the right to bear arms.

Answer: Second Amendment

19. A law passed with retroactive application, such as making certain prior conduct a crime, is called a(n) _____ law.

Answer: *ex post facto*

20. A city ordinance intended to criminalize begging or loitering would be an example of a specific power of government, called the _____.

Answer: police power

21. Under the equal protection clause of the _____, a restriction or eligibility requirement based upon the race of the affected individuals(s) enacted by a state government must meet the so-called _____ test, meaning that the state must demonstrate a compelling interest served by a narrowly tailored requirement.

Answer: Fourteenth Amendment, strict scrutiny

Multiple Choice

Select the one best answer.

- 1 Which of the following statements does *not* reflect a natural law principle included in the Constitution?
- a. No government official—legislator, executive, or judge—is above the law; all are subject to it.
 - b. Certain fundamental human rights are inalienable.
 - c. Every person is legally entitled to a formal education to the limit of his or her ability to learn.
 - d. All human beings possess fundamental rights to life, liberty, and property.

Answer: c

- 2 Constitutionalism means
- a. federal, state, and local governments must be democratic.
 - b. fundamental principles of law governing a nation must be expressed in a written document.
 - c. a central government must be supreme over a federation of states.
 - d. there are enforceable limits on the exercise of government power, and the private domain of every individual may not be invaded unless in accordance with reasonable positive law.

Answer: b

- 3 A proposed law that is constitutionally suspect may be
- a. rejected by vote of the legislature, before enactment.
 - b. vetoed by the chief executive, after enactment by the legislature.
 - c. ruled unconstitutional by the appropriate court.
 - d. any of the above

Answer: d

- 4 The commerce clause of the Constitution permits Congress to regulate both interstate and foreign commerce. Which of the following situations is least likely to invoke federal jurisdiction?
- a. A used car salesman rolls back the odometer of a car offered for sale to the public.
 - b. A farmer grows corn to be sold to a national health food cooperative.
 - c. A trucking company, to comply with state regulations, purchases front and rear reflectors for its trucks that will travel on the public highways.
 - d. A salesperson accepts an order for 500 tons of rice for export to Japan.

Answer: a

- 5 Which of the following is *not* a part of the doctrine of separation of powers?
- a. arbitration function
 - b. legislative function
 - c. executive function
 - d. judicial function

Answer: a

- 6 Members of the federal judiciary are
- a. elected to office for life by the senates of the states where the courts are located.

- b. appointed by the president and confirmed by majority vote of the U.S. Senate.
- c. designated in a binding recommendation by the senior senator of the state where the court is located.
- d. required to retire at age 70.

Answer: b

- 7 Which of the following is *not* a power of the president under the Constitution?
- a. the power to serve as Commander in Chief of the armed forces
 - b. the power to make treaties by and with the advice and consent of the Senate provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur
 - c. the power to raise taxes
 - d. the power to enter into executive agreements

Answer: c

- 8 Which of the following is *not* included in the right of privacy?
- a. the right to have access to contraceptives
 - b. the right to smoke marijuana in a private club
 - c. the right of a person to marry a person of another race
 - d. the right to possess obscene materials in one's home

Answer: b

- 9 Which of the following statements is *not* true of the separation of powers within the three functional branches of government?
- a. Power is distributed among the three branches of government.
 - b. Separate powers of the respective branches are exclusive and not shared.
 - c. This governmental structure restrains the natural tendency to expand granted power.
 - d. Each branch checks the other two.

Answer: b

- 10 Which of the following is *not* a government within our national system of federalism?
- a. the United States government
 - b. state and local governments
 - c. the United States Chamber of Commerce and its network of local branches
 - d. special government districts, such as those for school, park, or flood control purposes

Answer: c

- 11 Constitutional "due process of law" requirements do not apply to actions of
- a. private colleges.
 - b. the federal government.
 - c. state governments.
 - d. counties, cities, or special district governments.

Answer: a

- 12 The famous case of *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) established the constitutional doctrine of
- a. judicial review.

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- b. presidential prerogative.
- c. congressional power over the budget.
- d. administrative agency powers.

Answer: a

- 13 Under the Constitution as amended, suffrage (or the right to vote in U.S. political elections), is not available to
- a. adult women.
 - b. foreigners with work visas.
 - c. adult men.
 - d. persons in the military.

Answer: b

- 14 If subpoenaed to appear in federal court, or before a federal grand jury, the president has the following lawful choices, *except*
- a. assert “executive privilege” and refuse to appear regardless of court rulings.
 - b. appear, but assert the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.
 - c. appear and answer questions, but answer in a self-serving way so long as technically truthful.
 - d. challenge the subpoena and refuse to appear until the issue is resolved by an appellate court.

Answer: a

- 15 Judicial review means that the
- a. president has the power to appoint judges.
 - b. Congress has power under the Constitution to grant pardons.
 - c. Chief Justice is always appointed from the current members of the Supreme Court.
 - d. Supreme Court has the power to declare legislative acts unconstitutional.

Answer: d

- 16 Which of the following is *not* a specific power of voters to participate directly in state government?
- a. the appointment of judges
 - b. the direct initiative
 - c. the referendum petition
 - d. the recall petition

Answer: a

17. Which of the following is *not* one of the supreme laws of the U.S.?
- a. a treaty of the United States
 - b. a statute of a state
 - c. a constitutional amendment
 - d. a statute of the United States

Answer: b

18. Which of the following statements is *not* true regarding the Bill of Rights?
- a. Freedom of religion is expressed in the First Amendment.

- b. Originally, the Bill of Rights applied only to limit or restrain the national government.
- c. Incorporation is the legal doctrine imposing the guarantees of the Bill of Rights upon the states.
- d. The Bill of Rights was ratified by a simple majority of the original 13 states.

Answer: d

19. Following impeachment, a federal judge or the president may be convicted of high crimes and misdemeanors and removed from office following the vote of
- a. 51 U.S. Senators.
 - b. 2/3 of the House of Representatives.
 - c. 51% of the U.S. Senators who choose to vote on the issue.
 - d. 2/3 of the U.S. Senators who choose to vote on the issue.

Answer: d

20. What free speech activity has been held by the Supreme Court to be protected under the First Amendment?
- a. the symbolic act of burning an American flag
 - b. smoking crack to protest government criminalization of private ingestion of chemicals
 - c. killing oneself in protest of war
 - d. yelling bomb as a joke in a crowded stadium

Answer: a

21. In the year 2000 presidential election,
- a. George W. Bush won the electoral vote because he won the popular vote.
 - b. George W. Bush won the electoral vote after the U.S. Supreme Court stopped a Florida recount that had been ordered by the Florida Supreme Court.
 - c. George W. Bush won the popular vote after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to rule on a challenge brought by Albert Gore regarding vote counting in New York.
 - d. Although Albert Gore won the electoral vote, George W. Bush was declared president because he won the popular vote.

Answer: b

22. A statute prohibiting abortion except in specified situations could be determined to be either constitutional or unconstitutional by
- a. legislative research during the enactment process.
 - b. high court review immediately following enactment.
 - c. judicial review and decision as a result of an aggrieved person's appeal.
 - d. declaratory judgment rendered by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Answer: c

23. Which of the following is accurate regarding the legality of affirmative action programs:
- a. Under recent Supreme Court decision they are unconstitutional because they constitute discrimination on the race or other protected classifications of people.
 - b. Government is prohibited from enacting any new affirmative action programs but existing ones are "grandfathered" in so long as they remain continually in use.
 - c. Hard quotas are acceptable under most circumstances
 - d. Hard quotas are probably not allowed but programs granting preferences or assistance to individuals based on race are probably constitutional.

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Answer: d

24. A television commercial created and paid for by trade association advocating a particular viewpoint on a current issue in United States politics
- Is probably highly protected speech under the First Amendment
 - Is probably commercial speech granted no protection under the First Amendment
 - Is probably commercial speech granted limited protection under the First Amendment
 - Is not “speech” meaning that the First Amendment does not apply to it.

Answer: a

25. Under the Commerce Clause, a state law that affects interstate commerce
- is unconstitutional.
 - could be allowed if the protected interest and the need to protect it outweighs the burden placed upon commerce.
 - is allowed so long as it receives a vote of support in the United States Senate
 - is constitutional provided that the law focuses on trade with foreign nations.

Answer: b

Short Answer Essays

1. Take the pro or con of the argument that prospective appointees to the U.S. Supreme Court ought to publicly reveal their personal philosophy upon each of the largest issues or controversies in society, such as abortion rights, prayer in public schools, flag burning, gun control, and desensitization to violence in the media.

Answer:

Answers here may vary widely, but should receive good grades if they identify practical difficulties, such as the inability to find any candidates satisfactory to all, despite possible theoretical benefits.

2. What is meant by the nationalization of the Bill of Rights? Explain why nationalization was necessary and how it came about.

Answer:

Students should discuss how the doctrine of selective incorporation by the Supreme Court has been instrumental in forcing the states to comply with the guarantees of the Bill of Rights. An explanation of the process of incorporation and how the court rationalized use of the Fourteenth Amendment to accomplish this end would be a complete answer. Superior students might hypothesize the situation today if certain provisions of the Bill of Rights had not been incorporated.

3. What is meant by the words “...all Men are created equal...” in the Declaration of Independence?

Answer:

It means that all persons have equal rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and these terms have been extended to the right to property and to due process of law and various other identified rights under law. Obviously the language was never intended to suggest absolute equality. Notable differences include characteristics such as health, appearance, strength, race, gender, agility, income, personality, ambition, energy, ability, skill, wit, size, talent, beauty, education, wealth, longevity, geographical location, relatives, friends, associates, height, weight, etc.

4. Briefly describe and explain the constitutional doctrine of federalism.

Answer:

The definition of federalism as a political arrangement in which two or more levels of government direct the affairs of the same people should be a central part of the answer. Some recognition that local and regional differences ought to be reflected in the system of governance should be given, however.

5. Briefly describe the constitutional doctrine of separation of powers, noting particularly the uniqueness of such a doctrine.

Answer:

The answer should identify the various elements of the doctrine of separation of powers, and show the special way that the powers and functions of the U.S. government are shared, as well as how the separation of powers forms a unique system of checks and balances. It is unique in the sense that it inhibits the development of centralized power, namely a dictatorship.

6. The office of the United States Attorney General, responsible for the entire federal law enforcement system, is an adequate safeguard against abuses by the presidency. Take either the pro or con of this statement.

Answer:

On the one hand, the Attorney General has all the resources necessary to protect against presidential abuses (e.g., direct access to federal courts and grand juries and their subpoena power, government investigatory agencies, resources and budget). On the other hand, being appointed by the president, there is a question of whether or not the Attorney General always would have the will to investigate or prosecute. And even if he or she does, will the Attorney General's judgment be respected by the people?

7. Define and give an example of the doctrine of incorporation.

Answer:

Seventy-five years after the enactment of the Fourteenth Amendment, the Court began to

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interpret the due process clause of that amendment to restrict the States from interfering with certain individual freedoms identified in the Bill of Rights. Among the recognized rights that are protected from state infringements are freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from double jeopardy, and the right to protection from self-incrimination and illegal search and seizure.

8. Explain the guarantee of due process contained within the Constitution.

Answer:

There are two due process clauses in the Constitution, one in the Fifth Amendment that applies to federal government and one in the Fourteenth Amendment that applies to state and local government. These clauses require that individuals deprived of life liberty or property be given due process of the law. The clauses have been highly debated and extensively interpreted. Generally the clauses require a fair hearing and treatment for many interests, especially individuals accused of a crime, or some form of a fair opportunity to defend one's interest.