

Semester One Exam American Government

Directions: Please do not write on the exam! Mark all of your answers on the scantron provided. There are two parts to the exam, a scantron portion as well as two essay questions. There is a separate sheet of paper for you to respond to the essays. Please use pencil and make sure to erase all mistakes completely.

Section I: Matching – Mark the letter that corresponds with the correct definition on your scantron.

1. ___ Is the body of people living in a defined territory with government structure
2. ___ Is a government where the leader has absolute power and authority
3. ___ Means to have supreme power within its own territory
4. ___ Is a body of fundamental laws setting out principles and structure of government
5. ___ Is the power to make a law
 - a. Constitution
 - b. Dictatorship
 - c. State
 - d. Sovereign
 - e. Legislative Power

6. ___ Is a change to the meaning or interpretation of the Constitution of the United States
7. ___ Is a congressional measure admitting a U.S. Territory into the Union as a state
8. ___ Is the device by which voters register their choices in an election
9. ___ Is the place where voters go to cast their votes in an election
10. ___ Is the group that makes the formal selection of the nation's president
 - a. Informal Amendment
 - b. Polling Place
 - c. Act of Admission
 - d. Ballot
 - e. Electoral College

11. ___ Is the political arm of an interest group
12. ___ Is the idea that government must conduct itself in accordance with Constitutional principles
13. ___ Is an election within a political party to determine who will be the party's candidate
14. ___ Is the power of the courts to determine the constitutionality of a law
15. ___ Is a type of federal grant-in-aid used for a specific purpose
 - a. Judicial Review
 - b. Constitutionalism
 - c. Categorical Grant
 - d. Direct Primary
 - e. Political Action Committee

16. ___ Were people who favored ratification of the Constitution; and a stronger central government
17. ___ Were people who opposed ratification of the Constitution; wanted states rights retained
18. ___ Were the 55 delegates that were present at the Constitutional Convention
19. ___ Is the chair or leader of the convention
20. ___ Is a majority; the least number of people needed to conduct legislative business
 - a. Framers
 - b. Federalists
 - c. Quorum
 - d. Presiding officer
 - e. Anti-Federalists

21. ____ Is a two house legislative body
22. ____ Is a one house legislative body
23. ____ Is formal approval
24. ____ Is the introduction of the Constitution
25. ____ Is the smallest unit of election administration
a. Ratification
b. Unicameral
c. Preamble
d. Precinct
e. Bicameral
-
26. ____ Is to suspend a session of Congress
27. ____ Is to distribute seats in a legislative body
28. ____ Is the period of time when Congress assembles and conducts business
29. ____ Is the two-year period during which Congress meets
30. ____ Is to redistribute seats in a legislative body due to population shifts
a. Term
b. Session
c. Adjourn
d. Apportion
e. Reapportion
-
31. ____ Is the drawing of electoral district lines to advantage a political party or group
32. ____ Is a law maker who votes according to party lines
33. ____ Is a meeting of Congress to deal with an emergency or extraordinary event
34. ____ Is to adjourn a legislative session
35. ____ Is the people and interests an elected official represents
a. Prorogue
b. Special Session
c. Gerrymander
d. Constituency
e. Partisan

The date for federal elections was set by (36) as the (37) following the first (38) in (39) every (40) numbered year

- A. November
B. Tuesday
C. Congress
D. Even
E. Monday
-

- 41 ____ is the ability of a member of Congress to mail postage free of charge
42 ____ served as the first set of fundamental laws for the United States
43 ____ was the letter to King George voicing the complaints of the American Colonists
44 ____ are the first ten amendments added to the U.S. Constitution
45 ____ Lawmaker who attempts to balance their different roles
a. Bill of Rights
b. Politico
c. Franking Privilege
d. Articles of Confederation
e. Declaration of Independence
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46. Freebee mark A. You are welcome.

-
47. ____ Is the number of electoral votes given to the state of Nevada
48. ____ Is the total number of votes in the electoral college
49. ____ Is the number of electoral votes given to California, the state with the greatest number
50. ____ Is the minimum number of electoral votes required to win the presidency
51. ____ Is the minimum number of electoral votes given to any state
- a. 538
 - b. 270
 - c. 55
 - d. 3
 - e. 6
-
52. ____ When government is established because the leader is given authority by God
53. ____ When government is established using violence and force
54. ____ When government is established through the family structure
55. ____ When government is established because the people invest power in elected officials
- a. Force Theory
 - b. Divine Right Theory
 - c. Social Contract Theory
 - d. Evolutionary Theory
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Section II: Multiple Choices – Select the appropriate response from the selection given. Mark your response on the scantron.

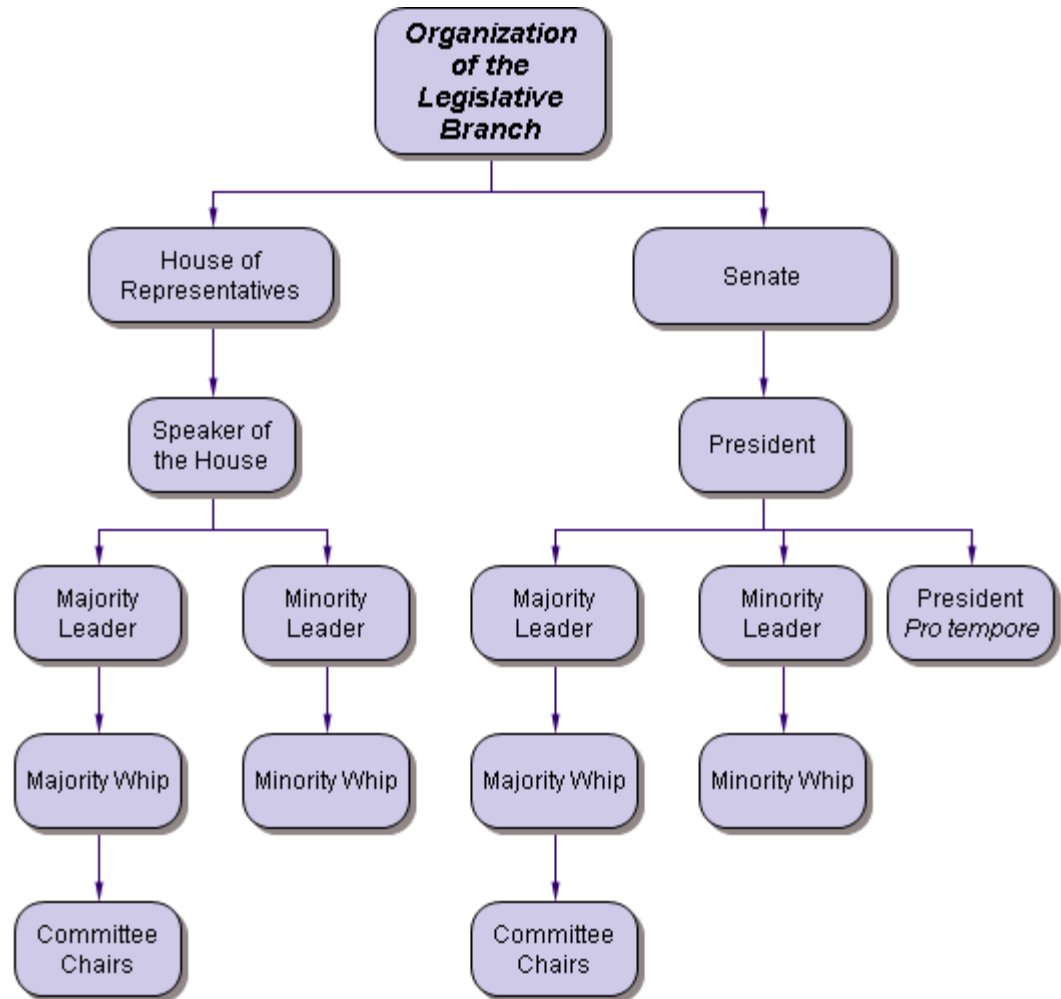
56. Who was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence?
- a. John Adams
 - b. Thomas Jefferson
 - c. George Washington
 - d. Ben Franklin
 - e. Bill Clinton
57. Which of the following was NOT one of the four characteristics of a state?
- a. Territory
 - b. Population
 - c. President
 - d. Sovereignty
 - e. Government
58. Which of the following is something every government must accomplish?
- a. Interpret Laws
 - b. Create Courts
 - c. Enforce Laws
 - d. Create Laws
 - e. A, C and D
59. In a _____ the people hold supreme political authority.
- a. Dictatorship
 - b. Monarchy
 - c. Tyranny
 - d. Democracy
 - e. All of the Above

60. In a ___ those who rule are not responsible to the people.
- Direct Democracy
 - Dictatorship
 - Indirect Democracy
 - Confederacy
 - Both A and B
61. How many articles are there in the Constitution?
- 27
 - 1
 - 3
 - 7
 - 15
62. How many amendments are there in the Constitution?
- 10
 - 27
 - 7
 - 15
 - None of the Above
63. Which of the following was the plan proposed by the large population states at the Constitutional Convention?
- New Jersey Plan
 - Texas Plan
 - Virginia Plan
 - Large Population Plan
 - John Adams Plan
64. Which of the following was the compromise made at the Constitutional Convention that decided how slaves would be counted in the population?
- Connecticut Compromise
 - 3/5th Compromise
 - Slavery Deal
 - Southern Appeasement Compromise
 - None of the Above
65. Which of the following was the plan proposed by the small population states at the Constitutional Convention?
- New Jersey Plan
 - New York Plan
 - Virginia Plan
 - Small Population Plan
 - There was no small state plan
66. Which document was the Constitution intended to replace?
- The Declaration of Independence
 - The Magna Carta
 - The Articles of Confederation
 - The Bill of Rights
 - The Mayflower Compact
67. The United States Congress is a _____ legislative body.
- Bicameral
 - Unicameral
 - a group of unelected party members
 - none of the above

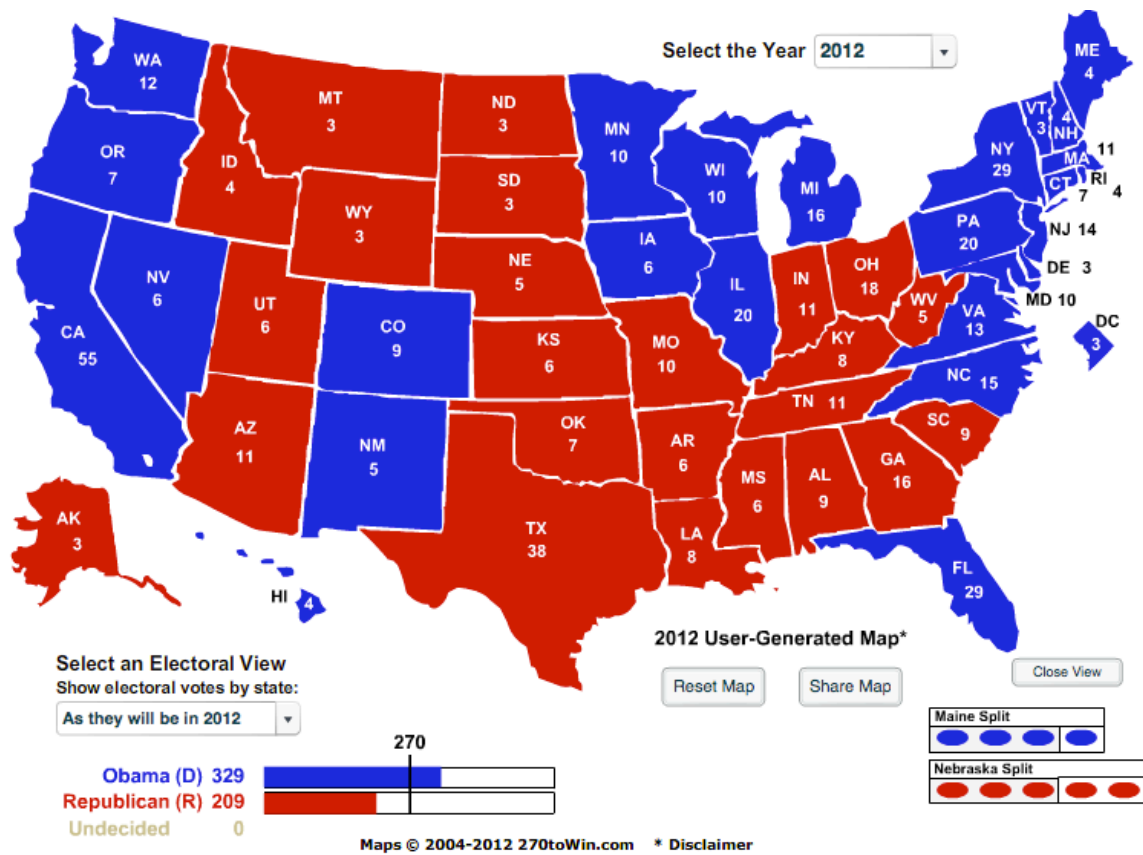
68. The _____ party is represented by color red and their symbol is an elephant.
- Democrats
 - Republicans
 - Green party
 - Libertarian Party
 - Communist Party
69. The color blue represents the _ party and their symbol is the donkey.
- Democrats
 - Republicans
 - Green Party
 - Libertarian Party
 - Communist Party
70. This compromise at the Constitutional Convention created a bicameral legislature and an executive branch with a president.
- New Jersey Compromise
 - Connecticut Compromise
 - Virginia Compromise
 - James Madison Compromise
 - The Federalist Compromise
71. Which of the following was a weakness of the Articles of Confederation?
- They did not create a president
 - They did not provide for a way to collect taxes
 - They gave the states too much power
 - They did not create a federal court system
 - All of the Above
72. Deficit financing
- Is all of the money borrowed by the government over the years and not yet repaid, plus the accumulated interest on that money?
 - Is the practice of spending more money than received in revenue and borrowing to make up the difference?
 - Is any kind of money that a creditor must by law accept in payment for debts?
 - Is the legal proceeding in which the bankrupt person's assets are distributed among those to whom a debt is owed?
 - None of the above.
73. The Constitution gives Congress the power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, and Excises.
- True
 - False
74. The exclusive right of an author to reproduce, publish, and sell his or her creative right is known as a _____.
- Patent
 - Copyright
 - Trademark
 - All of the above
75. Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 states that Congress has the power "to establish Post Offices and Post Roads." This is also known as _____.
- The Executive Power
 - The Currency Power
 - The Structuration Power
 - The Postal Power

76. Which of the following is NOT a requirement to be a Senator?
- Must be at least 30 years of age
 - Must have been a citizen of the United States for at least nine years
 - Must be an inhabitant of the State from which he/she is elected
 - All of the above
 - None of the above
77. The process by which citizens of one country become citizens of another is known as _____.
- Naturalization
 - Citizenship
 - Immigration
 - Residency
 - None of the above
78. Which of the following is NOT a requirement to be a member of the House?
- Must be at least 25 years of age
 - Must have been a citizen of the United States for at least twelve years
 - Must have been an inhabitant of the State from which he or she is elected.
 - All of the above
 - None of the above
79. A proposed Constitutional Amendment needs _____ vote in each house.
- A. Three-fifths B. eight-tenths C. three-fourths D. two-thirds
80. If no candidate for President receives a majority in the Electoral College, the _____ decides the election.
- A. President B. Senate C. House D. Supreme Court E. Oprah
81. _____ Elections are those Congressional elections held between Presidential elections.
- A. Off-year B. impeachment C. gerrymandering D. Senatorial E. none of these
82. The exact size of the House of Representatives is _____ members.
- A. 100 B. 534 C. 535 D. 435 E. none of these
83. Members of the House serve a _____ year term.
- A. 2 B. 4 C. 6 D. life E. none of these
84. The Constitution directs Congress to reapportion the seats in the House after each _____.
- First Tuesday in November of each even numbered year
 - Census
 - Presidential election
 - Congressional election
 - None of the above
85. If the vice presidency is vacated, the President selects a _____.
- A. Predecessor B. Superior C. Successor D. Official E. None of the above
86. The requirements for the House of Representatives are the same for the United States Senate.
- A. True B. False
87. In an impeachment trial a two-thirds vote of Senators present is needed for conviction.
- A. True B. False
88. The Senate has power to impeach, or bring charges against the individual.
- A. True B. False
89. Term for a Senator is 4 years.
- A. True B. False

90. The penalty for conviction of an impeachment is removal from office. A. True B. False
91. There are no limits set on the number of terms a representative may serve. A. True B. False
92. The number of seats in the House shall be apportioned among the States on the basis of their respective populations. A. True B. False
93. The Constitution states that Congress shall be composed of two Congressmen from each State and consists of 100 Congressmen today. A. True B. False
94. There are 100 senators. A. True B. False
95. Members of the Senate have always been elected by a direct vote of the people. A. True B. False
96. Which of the following is not one of the Vice President's duties?
- a. To help decide the question of presidential disability
 - b. To preside over the Senate
 - c. To preside over the House of Representatives
 - d. To perform diplomatic and political chores for the President
 - e. All of the above are vice-presidential duties.
97. Which of the following is not a qualification to become president?
- a. Be a natural born citizen.
 - b. Have represented their state in a political seat
 - c. Have lived in the United States for at least 14 years
 - d. Be at least 35 years of age
 - e. None of the above
98. Which is not true about the Electoral College?
- a. All states select electors based on the winner of the popular vote in that State
 - b. Electors meet in the State capitals on the Monday after the second Wednesday in December and cast their votes for President and Vice President
 - c. On January 6, the electoral votes cast are counted by the president of the Senate, and the President and Vice President are formally elected
 - d. If no candidate wins a majority of electoral votes (270), the election is thrown into the House of Representatives
 - e. None of the above
99. The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America.
- a. True
 - b. False
100. If the President disapproves of a bill, he can veto it. That veto can only be overturned by_____.
- a. The First Lady
 - b. Three-fourths vote in both Houses of Congress
 - c. Two-thirds vote in both Houses of Congress
 - d. The Supreme Court
101. The Constitution provides that the President shall report to Congress on the state of the Union and recommend necessary legislation.
- a. True
 - b. False
102. All legislation passed by Congress is sent to the President for approval.
- a. True
 - b. False



103. According to the Organization of the Legislative Branch chart the top position in the House of Representatives is the?
- Speaker of the House
 - President
 - Majority leader
 - majority whip
 - none of these
104. According to the Organization of the Legislative Branch chart the top position in the Senate is the?
- Speaker of the House
 - President
 - majority leader
 - majority whip
105. According to the Organization of the Legislative Branch chart the bottom position in both Houses are the?
- Minority Whip
 - Committee Chairs
 - President Pro Tempore
 - majority leader



106. According to the Electoral map above which state has the most Electoral votes?
a. Texas b. Florida c. New York d. California
107. According to the Electoral map above what is the smallest number of Electors a state can have?
a. 3 b. 4 c. 5 d. 6 e. none of these
108. How many Electoral votes does Nevada have?
a. 3 b. 4 c. 5 d. 6 e. 7
109. How many Electoral votes does Washington DC have?
a. 3 b. 4 c. 5 d. 6 e. 7
110. What year is the Electoral map for?
a. 2012 b. 2008 c. 2000 d. 2014 e. none of the above
111. According to the Electoral map who is predicted to win the Presidential election of 2012?
a. Obama b. Republican c. Undecided d. none of these

Section III: Essays – Respond to the questions on the paper provided. Pick two of the four essay questions below.

1. Explain how the Electoral College works. Why do we vote using the Electoral College system?
2. Explain how the US Constitution is amended?
3. The President and Congress annually concern themselves over the budget and its impact on the federal bureaucracy.
 - a. Describe two presidential powers the President fulfills in this process.
 - b. Describe two legislative powers Congress fulfills in this process.
 - c. Explain two factors in how the budget process involves both the president and congress in establishing control over the federal bureaucracy.
4. Several characteristics of an interest group can enhance its influence over Congress. Because of the perception that interest groups exert undue influence, Congress has regulated the influence of these groups.
 - a. Describe how each of these characteristics of an interest group can enhance its influence over Congress.
 - Financial resources
 - Expertise
 - Size
 - b. Identify two ways in which Congress has regulated the influence of interest groups.