

AP Government & Politics
Ch. 1 & 2 Unit Exam

1. In a republic, "usurpations are guarded against by a division of the government into distinct" branches. This is an example of:
- (A) Federalism
 - (B) Tyranny of the majority
 - (C) Divide and conquer
 - (D) A system of checks and balances
 - (E) Separation of powers
2. The Constitution supersedes other laws. This means that it
- (A) Is less powerful than ordinary law
 - (B) Is more popular than ordinary law
 - (C) It always contradict ordinary law
 - (D) It must be followed before ordinary law
 - (E) It is less important than ordinary law
3. Elections for the House of Representatives provide
- (A) equal representation for every state
 - (B) proportional representation based on population
 - (C) a system in which only those candidates who receive a majority of the votes cast win on the first ballot
 - (D) proportional representation based on the percentage of votes cast for each party
 - (E) proportional representation of racial and ethnic minorities
4. Which of the following statements best describes the Articles of Confederation?
- I. domination of the government by the states
 - II. a national congress with one house and no executive
 - III. no national court system
 - IV. no ability of the central government to enforce the collection of taxes
- (A) I only
 - (B) I and II only
 - (C) I,II, and III only
 - (D) I and IV only
 - (E) I, II, III, and IV
5. Which of the following documents created a compromise that led to the formation of a bicameral legislature
- (A) Articles of Confederation
 - (B) Connecticut Compromise
 - (C) New Jersey Plan
 - (D) Virginia Plan
 - (E) Federalist Papers
6. Enlightenment philosopher John Locke advocated
- (A) A divine monarchy
 - (B) Rights for the minority
 - (C) Majority rights
 - (D) Democratic rule
 - (E) Protection of Natural rights
7. The reserved powers of the state governments can best be described as those powers
- (A) not specifically granted to the national government or denied to the states
 - (B) implied in the Fifth Amendment
 - (C) listed specifically in the 9th Amendment
 - (D) exercised by both national and state governments
 - (E) granted to states as part of the implied powers doctrine

8. Which of the following documents represents the first adopted Constitution for the United States?
- (A) The Declaration of Independence
 - (B) The Bill of Rights
 - (C) The Articles of Confederation
 - (D) The Virginia Plan
 - (E) The Connecticut Plan
9. Which of the following is an example of what public policymaking is NOT?
- A. a majority of the public supporting the government passing a bill about unemployment
 - B. the President making an executive order on Immigration Reform
 - C. Congress and the President deciding not to act on the AIDS crisis
 - D. the press creating public concern about racial discrimination
 - E. the Senate considering a law to control vehicle emissions
10. The Virginia and New Jersey Plans introduced at the Constitutional Convention differed mainly over whether
- A. slavery should be permitted in the country
 - B. there should be a legislative branch at the national level
 - C. states should have equal numbers of representatives to congress
 - D. there should be a president
 - E. the judicial branch should be able to review actions of Congress
11. In an Anti-Federalist system of government, political power is primarily
- A. vested in the individual person
 - B. vested in the state governments
 - C. vested in the central government
 - D. divided between the central government and regional governments
 - E. divided between state governments and foreign governments
12. The main argument **against** the need for a Bill of Rights by Federalists was that
- A. if the national government was to be strong, no limits on its powers should be listed
 - B. states could use the power of nullification if national laws violated individual liberties
 - C. the states could easily withdraw from the Union if the national government violated individual liberties
 - D. the Constitution already established a government of limited powers; so no bill of rights was necessary
 - E. People were as trustworthy and good; there was no need for a Bill of Rights
13. The power of the people (popular majority rule) was limited by the Constitution in several ways, including
- A. That the representation in both houses of Congress was made the same.
 - B. Establishing a directly elected House of Representatives.
 - C. granting lawmaking powers to the Judicial Branch
 - D. concentrating political power in a single, supreme legislature
 - E. Making the amending of the Constitution relatively difficult.

14. "Life, liberty and property" were
- A. rights commonly listed in colonial charters
 - B. Examples John Locke's natural rights
 - C. explicitly named in the preamble to the AOC
 - D. listed in the Bill of Rights
 - E. taken for granted worldwide
15. Under America's first constitution, the Articles of Confederation,
- A. the national government dominated the state governments
 - B. the executive branch had more power than Congress
 - C. Congress was a unicameral body.
 - D. states were represented in Congress proportionally according to population
 - E. reflected the founding father's belief that a national standing army was a necessary
16. Which of the following statements reflects a pluralist theory of American politics?
- (A). American politics is dominated by a small elite
 - (B). Public policies emerge from cooperation among elite's in business, labor, and government
 - (C). Public policies emerge from compromises reached among competing groups.
 - (D). American politics is dominated by cities at the expense of rural areas.
 - (E). The American political arena is made up of isolated individuals who have few group affiliations outside the family
17. In *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), the Supreme Court assumed the power to
- (A) decide whether internal congressional procedures are constitutional
 - (B) advise Congress on the constitutionality of a proposed law
 - (C) regulate slavery
 - (D) decide on the constitutionality of a law or an executive action
 - (E) approve executive agreements
18. All of the following were characteristic of the American gov. under the Articles of Confederation EXCEPT:
- (A) the central government consisted of a Congress in which each state was represented equally
 - (B) no legislative or executive branch was created
 - (C) the central government could not regulate commerce between states
 - (D) the central government could not levy taxes
 - (E) the Articles could only be amended through an unanimous vote of the states
19. Which of the following statements reflects an elitist idea of American politics?
- (A) The military-industrial complex dominates American public policymaking.
 - (B). Thousands of competing interests influence public policymaking
 - (C). Large states dominate public policy because of their overrepresentation in Congress
 - (D). American politics are dominated by rural areas at the expense of the urban areas.
 - (E). Since only one registered voter in three votes in off-year congressional races, Congress represents only the politically active.

1. The Constitution was an attempt to address problems of decentralization that were experienced under the Articles of Confederation.

a. List three problems of decentralized power that existed under the Articles of Confederation.

b. For each problem you listed, identify one solution that the Constitution provided to address the problem.

2. The writers of the Constitution sought to establish a government strong enough to enforce national interests but not so strong that it would destroy liberty.

a. Identify and explain two ways the Constitution increased the powers of the national government.

b. Identify and explain two ways the Constitution limited the powers of the national government.