

Exploring Government and Civics

Political Science · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. What is the name of the document that lays out the fundamental principles and laws of a country, often considered its highest law?

- A) Bill of Rights
- B) Magna Carta
- C) Constitution
- D) Declaration of Independence

2. In a democracy, what is the term for the right of citizens to vote in elections?

- A) Sovereignty
- B) Suffrage
- C) Representation
- D) Legislation

3. Which system of government divides power between a central government and regional governments (like states or provinces)?

- A) Unitary system
- B) Confederation
- C) Federal system
- D) Monarchy

4. What branch of government is responsible for making laws?

- A) Executive branch
- B) Judicial branch
- C) Legislative branch
- D) Bureaucracy

5. Who is the head of government in a parliamentary system where the monarch is the head of state?

- A) President
- B) Prime Minister
- C) Chancellor
- D) King/Queen

6. What is the term for a political system where the state holds total authority and regulates nearly every aspect of public and private life?

- A) Democracy
- B) Republic
- C) Anarchy
- D) Totalitarianism

7. In international relations, what does the term 'sovereignty' refer to?

- A) A country's ability to trade goods
- B) A country's right to govern itself without outside interference
- C) A country's military strength
- D) A country's membership in the United Nations

8. What is the primary role of a constitution in a country's government?

- A) To declare war
- B) To establish the rules for how the country is run
- C) To negotiate peace treaties
- D) To appoint military leaders

9. Which of the following is a system of government where power is held by a small group of people, often based on wealth or military power?

- A) Democracy
- B) Oligarchy
- C) Monarchy
- D) Anarchy

10. What is a political party?

- A) A group of people who study law
- B) An organized group of people who share similar political aims and opinions
- C) A group of individuals who work in the military
- D) A club for people who enjoy debate

11. What is the term for the process of officially approving a new law?

- A) Veto
- B) Ratification
- C) Impeachment
- D) Filibuster

12. In Australia, who is the head of state?

- A) The Prime Minister
- B) The Governor-General
- C) The King/Queen
- D) The Speaker of the House

13. What is the name for the official residence and workplace of the head of government in many countries?

- A) Embassy
- B) Capitol Building
- C) Palace
- D) Government House

14. What is the fundamental principle of a democracy where citizens have the power to choose their leaders?

- A) Rule of law
- B) Popular sovereignty
- C) Separation of powers
- D) Checks and balances

15. Which branch of government interprets laws and administers justice?

- A) Legislative branch
- B) Executive branch
- C) Judicial branch
- D) Parliamentary branch

16. What is the term for a formal agreement between two or more countries, often related to trade or peace?

- A) Constitution
- B) Treaty
- C) Bill of Rights
- D) Legislation

17. In a presidential system, what is the title of the person who is both the head of state and the head of government?

- A) Prime Minister
- B) Chancellor
- C) Monarch
- D) President

18. What is the practice of dividing government powers among different branches (e.g., legislative, executive, judicial) called?

- A) Checks and balances
- B) Federalism
- C) Separation of powers
- D) Constitutionalism

19. What is the term for the established system of political ideas and beliefs that influences how people view and participate in government?

- A) Culture
- B) Ideology
- C) Economy
- D) Society

20. What is a formal written request, signed by many people, appealing to authority about a particular cause called?

- A) Debate
- B) Petition
- C) Legislation
- D) Referendum