

Advanced Government and Political Systems

Government & Politics · Practice Test · 25 Questions

1. Which landmark 1962 US Supreme Court case established the principle of 'one person, one vote' regarding legislative redistricting?

- A) Baker v. Carr
- B) Reynolds v. Sims
- C) Wesberry v. Sanders
- D) Shaw v. Reno

2. Under the Westminster system, what is the primary function of the 'Shadow Cabinet'?

- A) To draft legislation for the ruling party
- B) To scrutinize the policies and actions of the government ministers
- C) To provide legal advice to the judiciary
- D) To oversee the civil service appointments

3. Which article of the United States Constitution grants Congress the power to 'make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper' for executing its enumerated powers?

- A) Article I, Section 8
- B) Article II, Section 2
- C) Article III, Section 1
- D) Article IV, Section 3

4. What is the formal procedure known as 'cloture' in the United States Senate used for?

- A) To impeach a federal judge
- B) To confirm a cabinet nomination
- C) To end a filibuster
- D) To override a presidential veto

5. In the context of the Australian Constitution, what is the specific role of the 'Governor-General' regarding legislation?

- A) To write the preamble
- B) To grant Royal Assent to bills passed by both Houses
- C) To interpret the constitutionality of laws
- D) To dissolve the High Court

6. What is the primary characteristic of a 'unitary' system of government?

- A) Power is divided between a central authority and constituent political units
- B) All major powers reside in the central government
- C) The legislature is composed of two separate chambers
- D) The judiciary has the power of judicial review

7. Which amendment to the US Constitution abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime?

- A) 12th Amendment
- B) 13th Amendment
- C) 14th Amendment
- D) 15th Amendment

8. What does the term 'bicameralism' refer to in a parliamentary context?

- A) A system with two distinct political parties
- B) The division of the legislature into two separate houses
- C) The requirement for two-thirds majority in votes
- D) The dual role of the Head of State and Head of Government

9. Which political theory, associated with John Locke, emphasizes that government legitimacy is derived from the consent of the governed?

- A) Social Contract Theory
- B) Divine Right of Kings
- C) Marxist Dialectical Materialism
- D) Totalitarianism

10. What is the purpose of a 'writ of certiorari' issued by the US Supreme Court?

- A) To order a lower court to deliver its record in a case for review
- B) To summon a witness to testify before Congress
- C) To command an executive official to perform a duty
- D) To declare an act of Congress unconstitutional

11. In the Australian Parliament, what is a 'double dissolution' event?

- A) The simultaneous resignation of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition
- B) The dissolution of both the House of Representatives and the Senate
- C) The removal of two High Court justices
- D) A vote of no confidence occurring twice in one session

12. Which concept describes the 'powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively'?

- A) Expressed powers
- B) Implied powers
- C) Reserved powers
- D) Inherent powers

13. What is the primary function of the 'Whip' in a parliamentary party?

- A) To lobby for international interests
- B) To manage the party's legislative discipline and voting attendance
- C) To control the budget of the party
- D) To serve as the party's official spokesperson

14. The 'Great Compromise' (Connecticut Compromise) at the 1787 Constitutional Convention resolved the dispute over:

- A) The method of electing the President
- B) Representation in the legislature
- C) The abolition of the slave trade
- D) The creation of a national bank

15. Which document is historically considered the foundational document for the rule of law in English-speaking governance?

- A) The Magna Carta
- B) The Bill of Rights 1689
- C) The Petition of Right
- D) The Statute of Westminster

16. What is a 'referendum' in a democratic political system?

- A) A vote by legislators on a proposed bill
- B) A general vote by the electorate on a single political question
- C) A decision made solely by the executive branch
- D) A judicial ruling on the constitutionality of a law

17. Which international organization was founded in 1945 to promote international cooperation and prevent future conflicts?

- A) League of Nations
- B) United Nations
- C) North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- D) World Trade Organization

18. In political science, what is 'gerrymandering'?

- A) The process of filibustering a bill
- B) The manipulation of electoral district boundaries to favor one party
- C) The funding of political campaigns by corporations
- D) The formal impeachment of a public official

19. What is the 'Separation of Powers' doctrine primarily intended to prevent?

- A) The rise of political parties
- B) The concentration of authority in one branch of government
- C) The involvement of the military in politics
- D) The federal government from taxing the states

20. Which case established the precedent of 'judicial review' in the United States?

- A) Marbury v. Madison
- B) McCulloch v. Maryland
- C) Gibbons v. Ogden
- D) Dred Scott v. Sandford

21. What does the term 'proportional representation' mean in an electoral system?

- A) Each district elects only one representative
- B) Parties gain seats in proportion to the number of votes they receive
- C) Candidates are selected by lottery
- D) The head of government is directly elected by the population

22. Which branch of government is responsible for the 'power of the purse'?

- A) The Judiciary
- B) The Executive
- C) The Legislature
- D) The Bureaucracy

23. What is the term for a system of government where the head of state is a monarch, but powers are limited by a constitution?

- A) Absolute monarchy
- B) Constitutional monarchy
- C) Autocracy
- D) Theocracy

24. The 'Supremacy Clause' in the US Constitution establishes that:

- A) The President is supreme over Congress
- B) The Constitution is the supreme law of the land
- C) State laws always supersede federal laws
- D) The Supreme Court is the highest authority in the executive branch

25. What is a 'bicameral' legislature composed of?

- A) Two different political parties
- B) Two separate legislative chambers
- C) Two distinct judicial systems
- D) Two executive leaders