Civics and Government Firsts

Civics & Government · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which ancient civilization is credited with creating the world's first known democracy?

A) Ancient Egypt
B) Ancient Greece
C) Ancient Rome
D) Ancient China

2. What is the name of the 1215 document that first established that the King of England was subject to the law?

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

3. Which country was the first to grant women the right to vote in national elections in 1893?

A) New Zealand
B) Australia
C) United States
D) United Kingdom

4. The first written set of laws in history, known for the concept 'an eye for an eye,' is called what?

A) The Ten Commandments
B) The Code of Hammurabi
C) The Roman Twelve Tables
D) The Napoleonic Code

5. In which city did the world's first modern parliamentary democracy begin to take shape through the 'Althing'?

A) Oslo
B) Stockholm
C) Copenhagen
D) Reykjavik

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6. Who was the first woman to serve as a Prime Minister in any country, elected in 1960?

A) Margaret Thatcher
B) Indira Gandhi
C) Sirimavo Bandaranaike
D) Golda Meir

7. The first official written constitution of the United States went into effect in what year?

A) 1776
B) 1789
C) 1800
D) 1791

8. Which nation was the first to adopt a written constitution in 1791?

A) Poland
B) France
C) United States
D) Germany

9. The 'Great Law of Peace' is the oral constitution of which indigenous confederacy, considered one of the oldest participatory democracies?

A) Inca
B) Aztec
C) Iroquois
D) Maya

10. Which country became the first to introduce a secret ballot system in 1856?

A) Canada
B) Australia
C) Switzerland
D) Belgium

11. The first international organization established to maintain world peace after World War I was called what?

A) The United Nations
B) The League of Nations
C) The European Union
D) NATO

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12. Which country was the first to appoint an Ombudsman to protect citizens against government abuse?

A) Sweden
B) Norway
C) Finland
D) Denmark

13. The first universal declaration of human rights adopted by the United Nations occurred in what year?

A) 1945
B) 1948
C) 1950
D) 1960

14. Which was the first country to establish a secular government, separating church and state by constitutional law?

A) United States
B) France
C) Turkey
D) Mexico

15. The first parliament in the world to meet on a regular basis was established in which country?

A) England
B) Spain
C) Iceland
D) Italy

16. Which country was the first to officially recognize the rights of nature in its constitution in 2008?

A) Ecuador
B) Costa Rica
C) New Zealand
D) Brazil

17. The first head of government to be democratically elected through universal suffrage in Africa was who?

A) Nelson Mandela
B) Kwame Nkrumah
C) Jomo Kenyatta
D) Patrice Lumumba

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18. What was the first country to grant full voting rights to all citizens, regardless of gender or race, at its inception?

A) New Zealand
B) Norway
C) Finland
D) Australia

19. The first written code of laws for the Roman Republic is known as the what?

A) The Justinian Code
B) The Twelve Tables
C) The Edict of Milan
D) The Roman Statutes

20. Which country became the first to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide in 2001?

A) Denmark
B) Netherlands
C) Belgium
D) Canada

21. The first President of the United States was inaugurated in which year?

A) 1776
B) 1783
C) 1789
D) 1791

22. The first international treaty to establish rules for the treatment of prisoners of war is known as the what?

A) Geneva Convention
B) Treaty of Versailles
C) Vienna Convention
D) Hague Convention

23. Which country was the first to implement a nationwide system of public education funded by the government?

A) Prussia
B) United Kingdom
C) Japan
D) United States

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24. The first country to officially adopt the metric system for government use was which?

A) Germany
B) France
C) Italy
D) Russia

25. Which international court was the first permanent institution created to prosecute individuals for genocide and war crimes?

A) International Court of Justice
B) International Criminal Court
C) Nuremberg Tribunal
D) European Court of Human Rights

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