Institutions Test

1. A President would have to take into account senatorial courtesy for which of the following appointments? a. Secretary of Commerce, b. head of the FDA, c. a District Court judgeship, d. Secretary of Veterans’ Affairs, e. White House Chief of Staff.

2. In terms of advising the president on general policy, the influence of the Cabinet has: a. remained stable over the course of U.S. history, b. been reduced by Supreme Court rulings, c. declined, d. increased since the Nixon presidency, e. been reduced by congressional legislation.

3. Congress can influence the bureaucracy in all of these ways EXCEPT: a. appropriations, b. investigations, c. removing heads of departments, d. confirmation of top personnel, e. hearings.

4. Sunset laws require: a. agencies to justify their existence every seven years, b. bureaucrats to retire at age 6, c. federal employees to refrain from political activity, d. all requests for information to be handled within 10 days, e. most government meetings to be open in public.

5. All of these are true about filibusters EXCEPT: a. they are used to prevent consideration of a bill, b. their threat can result in changes in a bill, c. a vote of cloture can stop them, d. they are not mentioned in the Constitution.

6. All of these exist in the Constitution EXCEPT: a. logrolling, b. Christmas trees, c. reciprocity, d. filibusters, e. executive privilege.

7. Powers of the Chief Justice include all of the following EXCEPT: a. presiding over the Supreme Court, b. choosing the opinion writer if the Chief Justice has voted with the majority, c. writing amicus curia briefs, d. leading conference discussions.

8. All of these are means by which the president can influence Congress EXCEPT: a. threatening to veto a bill, b. claiming the presence of a national emergency, c. patronage, d. use of the media, e. amicus curiae.

9. All of these are criticisms of the bureaucracy EXCEPT: a. excessive waste, b. excessive growth in power, c. excessive duplication, d. tenure of office for its employees, e. excessive experimentation.

10. A bill is passed by Congress on December 8 in a year in which Congress adjourns on December 13. The president neither signs nor votes the bill, which therefore: a. is pocket vetoed, b. becomes law, c. goes back to each house for additional consideration, d. is referred to a conference committee, e. is reported out.

11. Which of these does not have leadership responsibilities in the House? A. Speaker, b. Majority Whip, c. Majority Leader, d. Minority Leader, e. Vice President

12. Assuming that the Republican Party has a majority of seats in both houses of Congress, which of these would be chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee?

13. All of these are true about executive agreements EXCEPT: a. they are made more frequently than treaties, b. they are made by the president, c. they require a 2/3 vote of consent from the Senate, d. they are made with leaders of foreign nations, e. they are not mentioned in the constitution.

14. All these reflect constitutional roles of the president EXCEPT: a. persuading a member of Congress to vote a certain way on a bill, b. signing SALT I with the USSR, c. appointing the Secretary of Defense, d. deciding against the use of nuclear weapons during the Gulf War, e. vetoing a spending bill.

15. All of these are functions of various congressional committees EXCEPT: a. analyzing legislation, b. reconciling different House-Senate versions of a bill, c. conducting investigations, d. conducting oversight of executive branch agencies, e. ratifying constitutional amendments.

16. Most of the work on congressional bills is done: a. on the House floor, b. in committees and subcommittees, c. on the Senate floor, d. informally by the top House party leaders, e. by the top Senate party leaders.

17. Which of these does not require congressional confirmation? A. White House Chief of staff, b. ambassadors, c. Secretary of Commerce, d. Court of Appeals judge, e. CIA Director

18. A Vice President can become Acting President under any of these circumstances EXCEPT: a. the president dies, b. the president suffers a major stroke, c. the president becomes mentally incompetent, d. the president undergoes major surgery.

19. Which of these shows the correct order (from lowest to highest) of federal courts? A. District, Supreme, Circuit; b. Appeals, District, Supreme; c. Circuit, Appeals, Supreme; d. District, Appeals, Supreme.

20. Critics of judicial activism assert that: a. legislatures cannot be counted on to promote equality, b. courts are now making law rather than simply interpreting law, c. states have exceeded their authority, d. presidents have tried to “pack” the court with judges of like minds, e. courts are not doing enough to promote social and economic equality.

21. All of these are checks on judicial power EXCEPT: a. changing the number of seats on the Supreme Court after the death of a justice, b. Senate confirmation of judges, c. impeachment and removal of judges, d. stare decisis, e. congressional lowering of judges’ salaries.

22. The regulatory commission that sets monetary policy through manipulation of interest rates is the: a. Federal Communications Commission, b. OMB, c. Federal Trade Commission, d. Interstate Commerce Commission, e. Federal Reserve Board.

23. OMB: a. is a national security advisory board, b. prepares foreign policy analyses for the president, c. is an agency that regulates the media, d. gives the president advice on his media image, e. proposes an annual federal budget.

24. All of these are true about impeachment proceedings EXCEPT: a. conviction requires a 2/3 vote, b. the House determines the charges against the accused, c. the Senate tries the case, d. conviction can be overturned by the president, e. the procedure is stated in the constitution.

25. All of these court actions are clear examples of judicial activism EXCEPT: a. declaring a state’s death penalty law unconstitutional, b. declaring state – sponsored school prayer unconstitutional, c. refusing to hear a case accusations of jury bias, d. requiring that states provide lawyers for accused people who are poor.

26. All these account for the rise of presidential power in the 20th century EXCEPT: a. foreign policy emergencies, b. the unity of Congress, c. congressional delegation of authority to the executive branch, d. development of the mass media, e. economic crisis.

27. All of these are key influences on congressional voting EXCEPT: a. nominating conventions, b. political party affiliation, c. ideology, d. PACs, e. public opinion.

28. Written opinions of the Supreme Court are important because they do all of these EXCEPT: a. establishes precedents, b. provide a means of communicating with the public, c. provide means of communicating with lower courts, d. provide guidance for lower courts, e. establish guidelines that may not be later reversed.

29. A writ of certiorari is the means by which: a. a President can make arguments before the Supreme Court, b. a majority opinion is written, c. minority opinion is written, d. the Supreme Court issues a decision on a case, e. a case can get a Supreme Court hearing.

30. Critics of the imperial presidency cite all of these as abuses of presidential power EXCEPT: a. excessive use of treaties, b. war making powers, c. emergency powers, d. executive privilege, e. excessive use of executive agreements.

31. The ‘revolving door” involves: a. members of Congress who travel extensively between Washington and their home states, b. officials in the executive branch who alternate between jobs in the public sector and private sector, c. presidents who travel extensively to foreign nations, d. diplomats who engage in “shuttle diplomacy,” e. constant changes in foreign and domestic policy.

32. The Seniority system is most associated with which of the following? A. Committee votes in Congress, b. appropriations, c. filibusters, d. committee chairmanship in Congress, e. logrolling.

33. When Congressional district boundary lines are redrawn, districts must be: a. as near equal in geographical area as possible, b. as near equal in population as possible, c. acceptable to the constituents of the state, d. acceptable to the president, e. acceptable to the local government.

34. Critics of the “Imperial Congress” cite as examples of congressional abuse of power all of these EXCEPT: a. use of the independent counsel, b. use of the special prosecutor, c. excessive use of impeachment, d. excessive oversight of the executive branch.

35. Which of these is a consequence of gerrymandering? A. Smaller congressional districts, b. less competitiveness for House seats, c. better representation, d. less voter apathy, e. more of a chance for independence to be elected to House seats.

36. The number of congressmen to which a state is entitled is determined by: a. the gerrymandering effects of the party in control of the state, b. rulings by state courts, c. its legislature, d. rulings by appeals courts, e. its population.

37. Which House committee establishes a legislative calendar and regulations for debate procedures? A. Ways and Means, b. Appropriations, c. Rules, d. Steering and Policy, e. Ethics.

38. Which of these best explains the growth in power of the bureaucracy in the past 40 years? A. The large increase in the number of its employees, b. the merit system, c. its discretionary authority, d. the “Imperial Congress,” e. judicial activism.

39. Several Supreme Court Justices have timed their retirement to: a. ensure a replacement by a president sharing their views, b. increases their retirement benefits, c. allow fresh ideas to be brought to the Court, d. avoid ruling in cases in which they have a conflict of interest.

40. Vice President Al Gore’s 1993 “Performance Review” that called for “reinventing government” included all of these EXCEPT: a. reducing the number of federal employees, b. eliminating useless programs, c. eliminating agency duplication, d. empowering lower-level workers to take initiatives, e. reducing congressional powers.

41. In creating the Congress, the Framers: a. envisioned a Senate that would provide stability, b. envisioned a House that would reflect the popular will, c. envisioned a bicameral legislature that would respond quickly to changing times, d. envisioned a bicameral legislature that moderated partisanship.

42. All of these are generally true of federal civilian employees EXCEPT: a. they work in Washington D.C., b. they are mostly white collar workers, c. large numbers of them work in the Defense Department and Postal Service, d. they include sizable numbers of women and minorities.

43. Who draws boundary lines when a state’s House seats are redistricted? a. the house, b. the Senate, c. the governor, d. the state legislature, e. the state attorney general.

44. If a supreme court agrees with a majority decision but differs on the reasoning, he might file: a. a concurring file. b. a dissenting opinion. c. writ of mandamus. d. injunction. e. amious curia

45. An authorization bill: a. provides funding for a program, b. allows for the creation of a program, c. requires a ¾ vote in either house, d. can be line-item vetoed by the president, e. is subject to a legislative video.

46. Which of these is the permanent type of congressional committee? a. Joint, b. select, c. conference, d. special, e. standing

47. The “rule of four” provides that the approval of four justices is needed to: a. adjourn the court, b. grant a Supreme Court hearing, c. decide who shall prepare written opinions, d. declare a quorum, e. constitute a majority.

48. Presidential methods of influencing Congress include: a. the claim of a mandate from the people, b. the “rule of four”, c. legislative vetoes, d. calling for new elections, a. dissolving Congress.

49. “One man, one vote,” Baker v. Carr, and Wesberry v. Sanders are all associated with the concept of: a. the “revolving door”, b. gerrymandering, c. pork barrel, d. logrolling, e. the Senate.

50. The basic organizational issue facing Congress throughout its history has been: a. democracy v. republicanism, b. party v. conscience, c. centralization v. decentralization, d. realities v. ethics, e. Democrat v. Republican.

51. Which type of congressional committee reconciles different House and Senate versions of a bill? a. Conference, b. joint, c. select, d. standing

52. A President has the power to do all of these EXCEPT: a. create a Cabinet department, b. grant diplomatic recognition of a foreign nation, c. refuse to grant diplomatic recognition to a foreign nation, d. send to troops to an area where hostilities are imminent, e. fire a Cabinet official.

53. The American public’s attitude toward the bureaucracy is: a. overwhelmingly positive, b. overwhelmingly negative, c. positive in the general, but negative in the specific, d. negative in the general, but positive in the specific.

54. Statistically speaking, which of these would have the best chance of election to Congress? a. A popular mayor, b. an experienced state legislator, c. a famous woman astronaut, d. an incumbent congressman, e. a state governor.

55. According to Roosevelt’s prerogative theory: a. the Congress has the prerogative of overturning presidential vetoes, b. the president has the right to exercise great powers during times of crisis, c. the Congress loses its powers at the beginning of a president’s term of office, d. the president can exercise great power only with the consent of Congress.

56. The legislative veto was ruled unconstitutional because it violated the principle of: a. federalism, b. judicial review, c. separation of powers, d. common law, e. limited government.

57. In the House, a pigeonholed bill can be forced to the floor for consideration through use of: a. cloture, b. discharge petition, c. habeas corpus, d. certiorari, e. a filibuster.

58. Which of these has the Supreme Court ruled most strongly against? A. Gerrymandering to benefit one particular political party, b. gerrymandering that “dilutes” members of a political party into many different districts, c. racial gerrymandering, d. gerrymandering that “concentrates” members of a political party onto a few districts, e. gerrymandering that results in congressional districts with equal populations.

59. The U.S. Supreme Court: a. has original jurisdiction in cases involving states and ambassadors, b. has appellate jurisdiction only, c. has original jurisdiction, d. is required to hear court cases that come from state supreme courts, e. is required to hear cases from federal courts of appeals.

60. The most influential and powerful position in the senate is held by the: a. vice president, b. President Pro Term, c. Majority Leader, d. Speaker, e. Minority Leader

61. Which of these occurred in the Congress during the 1960’s and 1970’s? a. The number of subcommittees was reduced, b. The seniority system was strengthened, c. The number of staffers increased, d. the power of subcommittee chairmen was reduced, e. the Rules Committee was abolished

62. A 2/3 vote from the senate is needed to: a. ratify a treaty, b. fire an appointed executive department official, c. pass a bill, d. confirm a Secretary of Health and Human Services, e. continue on with a filibuster

63. A “hold” is associated with all of these EXCEPT: a. the Senate, b. delay of a bill, c. delay of a presidential nomination, d. committee of the whole, e. tradition

64. The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill was designed to: a. reduce presidential control over the congress, b. bring about a balanced budget, c. curb the authority of OMB, d. reduce the practice of impoundment

65. Which of these is an argument of Alexander Hamilton in Federalist #78? A. Courts have the power of the “sword”, b. courts have the power of the “purse”, c. the judiciary is the least powerful branch of the government, d. judicial review is dangerous to American democracy, e. judges should be given as little independence as possible.

66. In comparing the constitutional powers granted to the Congress and the president, which of the following generalizations is true? A. Congressional powers are more vague, presidential powers are more specifically detailed, b. presidential powers are more vague, congressional powers are more specifically detailed, c. both are described in vague terms, d. both are described in detail.

67. Amendment 17 provided for: a. black suffrage, b. cloture, c.an income tax, d. women’s suffrage, e. direct election of senators.

68. All of these were supported by Hamilton in Federalist #78 EXCEPT: a. life tenure for federal judges, b. judicial independence, c. “periodic appointments of judges, d. judicial review.

69. Whistle-blowers are: a. bureaucrats who expose waste and mismanagement, b. interest group members who expose corruption, c. judges who expose corruption, d. congressmen who are upset with court decisions, e. presidents who expose corruption.

70. Congress has tried to restrict the CIA through all of these EXCEPT: a. oversight committees, b. investigations, c. appropriations, d. hearings, e. impeachment.

71. All of these are true EXCEPT: a. pocket vetoes may be utilized at the end of a term of Congress, b. Congress has overridden only a small minority of presidential vetoes, c. 2/3 of both houses of Congress are needed to override a presidential veto, d. many governors have the line-item veto, e. the veto has been an ineffective presidential tool.

72. Riders: a. make it difficult to bring the federal budget under control, b. are unconstitutional, c. may be introduced by the house only, d. may be introduced in either house by a majority vote, e. may be removed by a vote of cloture.

73. Justices on the Supreme Court by necessity make law for all reasons EXCEPT: a. they have to apply broad statutes to concrete situations, b. the language of the constitution is general, c. they readily know what the intent of the Founders was, d. they face situations that possess only some of the features of past similar cases.

74. The president is required to do all of these as a result of the War Powers Resolution EXCEPT: a. withdraw troops after a 60-90 period, b. notify Congress that he is sending troops to an area where hostilities are imminent, c. negotiate with Congress about military tactics, d. consult with Congress if troops are to be used in battle.

75. Incumbency advantages for members of Congress include all of these EXCEPT: a. Patronage, b. PAC money, c. greater expertise in social welfare policy, d. name recognition, e. the franking privilege.

76. Executive privilege occurs when the President refuses to: a. sign a congressional bill into law, b. spend funds that have been appropriated by Congress, c. appoint someone to office who is backed by a key member of Congress, d. implement a treaty that was signed by a predecessor, e. disclose a conversation that he had a White House staff member.

77. Which of the following is a current unconstitutional check on the president? A. A limitation of two terms in office, b. political parties, c. congressional confirmation of appointments, d. congressional override of a veto, e. four year term of office.

78. Which of these illustrates a constitutional power of the president? A. Determining military strategy in time of war, b. declaring a law to be unconstitutional, c. impeaching a federal official, d. appropriating funds for education, e. persuading members of Congress on a key note.

79. A line- item veto works against the concept of: a. presidential power, b. federalism, c. constitutionalism, d. judicial review, e. separation of powers.

80. Which of the following requires judges to generally abide by precedent? A. Certiorari, b. stare decisis, d. judicial activism, d. amicus curia, e. habeas corpus.

81. Which function of Congress was demonstrated by the Iran/ Contra hearings? A. Legitimization, b. representation, c. consensus- building, d. lawmaking, e. investigation.

82. In Federalist #78, Hamilton argued that federal judges should be: a. considered part of the strongest branch of government, b. subject to presidential removal, c. subject to the recall procedure, d. free from political pressure, e. confirmed by state legislatures.

83. Impoundment involves the presidential refusal: a. approve treaties, b. sign a bill, c. approve executive agreements, d. spend funds that have been appropriated by Congress, e. obey a Supreme Court ruling.

84.Which is true about the membership of Congress? a. it includes a fairly representative cross-section of the U.S., b. minorities have made no gains in recent years, c. members are generally white, male and Catholic, d. members are generally white, male and Protestant, e. members are generally white, male and Jewish.

85. The 1939 Hatch Act prohibits: a. Congressmen from making donations to colleagues’ campaigns, b. federal civil servants from getting excessively involved in election campaigns, c. the President from endorsing candidates for Congress, d. federal judges from participating in election campaigns, e. bureaucrats from voting in federal elections.

86. All of these are current congressional checks on presidential power EXCEPT: a. the legislative veto, b. the power to override a veto, c. control of appropriations, d. the power to investigate the executive branch, e. impeachment and removal.

87. In emergencies: a. judicial power increases, b. presidential power tends to increase more than congressional power, c. congressional power tends to increase more than presidential power, d. congressional and presidential powers remain about the same, e. judicial power tends to increase more than presidential power.

88. The chief basis for making judicial decisions is: a. rule of 4, b. public opinion, c. the party in power, d. checks and balances, e. precedent.

89. Judicial review was established in the case of: a. Marbury v. Madison, b. McCulloch v. Maryland, c. Fletcher v. Peck, d. Plessy v. Ferguson.

90. All of these are true about independent regulatory commission dictators EXCEPT: a. they do not report directly to the president, b. they perform quasi-judicial functions, c. they perform quasi-legislative functions, d. they may be fired at the president’s discretion.

91. Which of these headlines illustrates the concept of pork barrel? A. “Clinton Meets With Christopher to Discuss Russia,” b. “Congress Appropriates $4.3 Billion for Flood Control Project,” c. “Congress Investigates Presidential Abuses,” d. “Supreme Court Rules on Abortion,” e. “Bureaucracy Cut by 100,000 Workers.”

92. In general, the American public thinks that the bureaucrats: a. are too experimental, b. are too numerous, c. are underpaid, d. have too little job security.

93. All of these are major sources of conflict between the Congress and the president EXCEPT: a. different constituencies, b. checks and balances, c. separation of powers, d. different terms of election, e. reapportionment.

94. All of the following are associated with the Pendleton Act EXCEPT: a. Civil Service, b. merit system, c. federal employment, d. competitive exams, e. iron triangles.

95. A closed rule prohibits: a. bureaucrats from blocking specifically-stated congressional policy, b. amendments to a bill on the House floor, c. senators from ending a filibuster without the required number of votes, d. the president from the vetoing specific parts of an appropriations bill.

96. Which of these statements about congressional committee members is true? A. Assignment to committees is a nonpartisan affair, b. the minority party is represented roughly in in proportion to its membership in the chamber, c. members usually try to change their committee assignments each term, d. newer members get more desirable assignments than incumbents.

97. Cloture is most associated with: a. honoraria, b. logrolling, c. closed rule, d. reciprocity, e. filibuster.

98. According to the “imperial Congress” thesis, Congress has: a. not paid enough attention to the confirmation process, b. excessively “micromanaged” the federal government, c. excessively blocked presidential use of military force, d. delegated too much authority to the president, e. delegated too much authority to the states.

99. An example of congressional reassertion of authority in the 1970’s was the: a. Gramm-Rudman Act, b. Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, c. passage of a Balanced Budget Amendment, d. Budget and Impoundment Control Act, e. Boland Amendment.

100. Which of these is true about the Senate? A. Revenue bills must begin there, b. tax bills must begin there, c. it is a more informal body than the House, with less need for strict procedures, d. it shares appointment confirmation powers with the House, e. it shares treaty ratification powers with the House.