

Chapter 4

Multiple Choice/Fill in the Blank

2. The California Assembly contains _____ members, whereas the California Senate contains _____ members.

- a. fifty; one hundred
- b. fifty; fifty
- c. eighty; forty
- d. forty; eighty

3. How long is an Assembly term?

- a. one year
- b. two years
- c. four years
- d. five years

4. How long is a state Senate term?

- a. two years
- b. four years
- c. six years
- d. eight years

5. What is the maximum number of years that a person can serve in the Assembly?

- a. four years
- b. eight years
- c. twelve years
- d. sixteen years

6. What is the maximum number of years that a person can serve in the Senate?

- a. four years
- b. eight years
- c. twelve years
- d. sixteen years

8. Lawmakers elected after 2012 are allowed to serve:

- a. as many terms as they want; there are no restrictions on service
- b. six years in the Assembly, and six years in the Senate
- c. a total of 12 years in one or both houses
- d. 14 years in either house, and after they take a break for six years, they can restart the clock and serve another 14 years

14. Which of the following is NOT an outcome directly attributed to term limits?

- a. Assembly members, often from the same party, vie for the same Senate seat, creating intraparty competition.
- b. Annual budgets are delayed because legislators are term-limited out before final votes on the budget are taken.

- c. Legislators in their last terms are less accountable to their constituents, because the electoral connection has been severed.
- d. Incumbents still have huge advantages and nearly always win reelection.

20. What is NOT true of staff members?

- a) They vote on bills when the legislators are absent.
- b) They handle the work that lawmakers would not be able to do alone, including constituency communication and casework, and meeting with the many special interest groups and lobbyists that want to discuss pending legislation.
- c) They help run the offices in the district and Capitol.
- d) They write bills, research legislation, write bill analyses, and make recommendations about how to vote.

22. Which body has been referred to as the “eyes and ears of the legislature,” performing in-depth research on programs, bills, and the budget?

- a. The Chief Clerk of the Assembly
- b. The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO)
- c. The Speaker’s Office
- d. The Legislative Counsel

23. The organization that acts as an in-house law firm, crafting legislators’ proposals into formal bills, rendering legal opinions, and making bill information available to the public electronically is:

- a. The Legislative Counsel
- b. The Legislative Analyst
- c. The Speaker’s Office
- d. The Chief Clerk of the Assembly

24. How many votes are needed to pass most bills?

- a. a simple majority (50 percent + 1)
- b. a supermajority of 55 percent
- c. a supermajority of 2/3
- d. a supermajority of 3/4

25. The majority party usually can ignore the minority party, except when it comes to:

- a. the budget, which must be passed unanimously
- b. the budget, which contains money for every legislator’s “pet projects” for a district
- c. raising taxes or fees, which requires a two-thirds majority
- d. any bill, which must be passed by two-thirds

26. What vote threshold must be met to pass the annual budget?

- a. a simple majority
- b. two-thirds
- c. three-fourths
- d. unanimity

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27. When legislators or their staff respond to constituents' requests for help dealing with the state bureaucracy or "navigating the government system," they are performing:

- a. oversight
- b. policymaking
- c. constituency service
- d. descriptive representation

29. When a Senate committee calls state employees or administrators to testify about the programs they run, or monitors a program to ensure that a law is being carried out according to the legislature's intent, it is performing:

- a. outreach
- b. budgeting
- c. casework
- d. oversight

31. Confirming the governor's appointees to boards and commissions is the responsibility of:

- a. the Office of Personnel
- b. the Assembly and Senate
- c. the Senate only
- d. the Legislative Analyst's Office

32. The "Big Five" is a term that refers to:

- a. the governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, Senate president pro tem, and the minority leaders of both houses
- b. the top five leaders of the Assembly and Senate
- c. the state Supreme Court Chief Justice, the governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, Senate president pro tem, and the state attorney general
- d. the five most important bills that have been passed in a session

39. If a person wants to find out more about a bill being considered by the legislature, the best place to look for information online would be:

- a. the Secretary of State's office (www.sos.ca.gov)
- b. a site maintained by the Legislative Counsel's Office (leginfo.legislature.ca.gov)
- c. the Legislative Analyst's office (www.lao.ca.gov)
- d. the Sergeant of Arms of the Assembly (<http://www.assembly.ca.gov/sergeant/>)

44. What is the approximate, average size of an Assembly district?

- a. 100,000
- b. 250,000
- c. 450,000
- d. 900,000

45. What is the approximate, average size of a Senate district?

- a. 100,000
- b. 250,000

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- c. 450,000
- d. 900,000

Type: F

48. _____ is in charge of drawing boundaries for Assembly and state Senate districts.

- a. The Citizens Redistricting Commission

49. Who is in charge of drawing congressional district boundaries?

- a. the Assembly and Senate
- b. the governor
- c. Congress
- d. the state's Citizens Redistricting Commission

52. Which party is opposed to raising taxes on principle?

- a. Republican Party
- b. Democratic Party
- c. neither party
- d. both parties

53. Which party supports social safety net programs and is opposed to cutting them on principle?

- a. Republican Party
- b. Democratic Party
- c. neither party
- d. both parties

54. Who is Willie Brown?

- a. the current Speaker of the Assembly
- b. a former governor of California, known for his anti-taxation policies
- c. former Speaker of the Assembly who became the "poster child" for term limits
- d. the only person to have held the posts of Assembly Speaker, president pro tem, and attorney general

55. Approximately how many bills are introduced during a two-year legislative session?

- a. 10,000
- b. 5,000
- c. 1,000
- d. 500

57. "Descriptive representation" is a term that refers to

- a. how well legislators can describe their duties
- b. the quality of journalists' coverage of the legislature
- c. how well a legislature reflects the demographic characteristics of a district, usually in terms of ethnicity, gender, and other background factors
- d. how well a legislator can translate constituents' needs, interests, and values into policy

58. “Substantive representation” is a term that refers to

- how well legislators can describe their duties
- the quality of journalists’ coverage of the legislature
- how well a legislature reflects the demographic characteristics of a district, usually in terms of ethnicity, gender, and other background factors
- how well a legislator can translate constituents’ needs, interests, and values into policy

63. A bill that contains the designation “AB” means that the bill:

- is preferred by the governor
- originated in the state Senate
- was audited by the Attorney General
- originated in the Assembly

64. A bill that contains the designation “SB” means that the bill:

- is preferred by the governor
- originated in the state Senate
- was preapproved by the Secretary of State
- originated in the Assembly

65. Another word for a “law” is

- resolution
- statute
- bill
- caucus

67. Which party or parties has/have held majorities almost continuously in both the Assembly and Senate for about forty years?

- Republican
- Democratic
- neither; power shifts regularly
- it doesn’t matter because parties share power in both houses, so majority party status is irrelevant

71. Who is the highest ranking member of the state Assembly?

- the President Pro Tem
- The Majority Leader
- The Speaker
- The Speaker Pro Tempore

72. What is a “constituent”?

- a person who resides in a representative’s district
- a person who serves in an elected capacity
- another name for senior-level committee members
- lobbyists

75. When either the Assembly or Senate holds a floor session, who presides over the proceedings on a typical day?

- a. Chiefs of Staff to the leaders
- b. Speaker Pro Tem or a Senator who acts as President Pro Tem
- c. Sergeant at Arms for either chamber
- d. the actual Speaker and President Pro Tem of the Senate

76. Regular bills require how many votes to pass?

- a. 41 in the Assembly, 21 in the Senate
- b. 50 in the Assembly, 50 in the Senate
- c. the same number of votes in the Senate as in the Assembly
- d. a total of 100 votes

78. The California legislature is considered a(n) _____ legislature because _____.

- a. amateur; it is full of low-paid, citizen legislators.
- b. amateur; it meets part-time.
- c. professionalized: it is full of highly-paid legislators who meet year-round.
- d. professionalized; most lawmakers are career politicians who have spent decades enjoying the advantages of incumbency.

Essay or Short Answer Questions

Type: E

1. In what ways does the California legislature resemble the U.S. Congress? In what major ways does it differ?

- a. California's legislature resembles the U.S. Congress in both structure and function. Both are bicameral lawmaking bodies (divided into two houses) designed to check each other through staggered terms (two years in the lower house; four in the California Senate and six in the U.S. Senate), though both of the states' houses are based on population. State and Congressional districts are huge, numbering in the hundreds of thousands. Both types of legislatures meet year-round, are "professionalized" bodies supported by thousands of staff members, and their members are well paid (over \$100,000 per year). Unlike members of the U.S. Congress, California legislators are term-limited, and there are far fewer members than in the U.S. Congress (120 versus 535 total).

Type: E

9. Describe term limitations (or "term limits") for California legislators.

- a. A legislator may serve up to 12 years in the Assembly alone, in the Senate alone, or the Assembly and Senate combined; this is a lifetime ban, meaning that once a person has hit the maximum of 12 years, s/he may not serve in that office again. These new limits apply to legislators who were newly elected in 2012. (For those who were first elected prior to 2012, they may serve two four-year terms in the Senate, and three two-year terms in the Assembly, lifetime ban.)

Type: E

13. Describe the effects of term limits on the California state legislature.

a. Varies. The effects discussed in the book range across four types of changes: electoral, membership (demographic), institutional, and behavioral. Depending on one's perspective, many can be evaluated either positively or negatively. Among the electoral changes: competition for offices at all levels has increased; open seat primary elections occur with regularity and are competitive; incumbents still have huge advantages and almost all are reelected; intraparty competition has risen as members of the same party become candidates for the next office. Among the changes in membership: higher numbers of ethnic minority members; higher numbers of women candidates (though not much higher percentages in the legislature overall); more Democratic women in leadership and the state Senate. Institutional changes: newer legislators have recently experienced the effects of laws; "institutional memory" has drained away; many long-term staff with institutional knowledge have also left and staff positions turn over quickly; legislators' understanding of how state systems/programs interrelate is poorer; the Senate contains more experienced legislators than the Assembly, though this will change as legislators elected for the first time in 2012 (and after) will choose to stay in the Assembly for up to twelve years; some lobbyists and administrative branch officials have become more influential because they know subject areas better than legislators; oversight of the executive branch is difficult. Among the behavioral changes: "lame duck" legislators lack accountability to their current districts; long-term, comprehensive lawmaking suffers, while short-term, district projects thrive; there is a sense that "everyone is running for the next office" (this will lessen somewhat as more Assembly members stay beyond the previous limit of six years; they are now able to stay up to twelve years in one house).

Type: E

15. In 2012 voters approved Prop 28, a modification to the term limits law for state legislators. What are some of the issues or concerns that Prop 28 is supposed to address that were raised by Prop 140, the original term limits law?

a. Varies. Voters approved a change to the term limits law in 2012 with Proposition 28, reducing the total number of years that a lawmaker can serve (from 14 to 12), but allowing a lawmaker to serve all 12 years in one house or a combination of both. Proponents aimed to reduce the membership turnover that was caused by the previous term limits rule that Assembly members could only serve three terms, or a maximum of six years, in that chamber. Such strict limits created the impression that "everyone's running for the next office," meaning that many members left when a more attractive office became available – often before they had served all six years. The six-year limit also created higher numbers of "lame ducks" who did not face another election to keep them accountable to their constituents. Such steep membership turnover and large classes of inexperienced freshmen reduced the Assembly's effectiveness in comparison to the Senate. Senators, with more expertise, "institutional memory," and experience, currently have longer-term perspectives and more experienced staff. As Assembly members accumulate more experience, the differences between the chambers will lessen.

Type: E

16. What are the major activities of state legislators?

a. The major categories of a state legislator's activities include: lawmaking and

policymaking; annual budgeting; constituency service, casework, and outreach; and executive branch oversight.

Type: E

17. How do legislators make law? Explain how they contribute to the lawmaking process at each stage.

a. Varies. Legislators work on their own bills and those of others. To do both, they need to research issues and participate in all aspects of the lawmaking process. They write and introduce bills. As committee members they hear testimony from witnesses, amend (i.e. change the language of) proposed legislation, and deliberate and vote on bills. They help form coalitions around issues, meet with constituents and stakeholders who desire to influence proposed legislation, talk informally with their colleagues to promote bills, and debate issues further on the Senate or Assembly floor where they will vote on bills.

Type: E

18. Outline the major steps in the lawmaking process.

a. A bill is introduced and then referred to committee. After the committee holds hearings, the bill is voted on and then sent to the entire chamber for consideration (if a majority votes for it). After the bill is debated and voted upon, it will be sent to the other house for similar action (committee will hear the bill and vote on it, and it will then be considered by the whole house and voted upon by all members). If the two versions are the same, the bill is sent to the governor, who can sign or veto the measure. If the two houses produce a different bill, they will consider the other's version [or produce a compromise version, a point that is not made explicit in the book] which must be voted upon and then sent to the governor. Bills usually take effect on January 1st of the following year.

Type: E

21. Describe the work that staff members perform.

a. Staff assist legislators with virtually all aspects of the representative's job. Thousands of staff members working in legislators' offices (in the capital and in the district) and for committees assist with scheduling, constituent and community relations (including casework), research, and expert legislative analysis.

Type: E

28. What is constituency service?

a. Activities dedicated to helping constituents (the members of a legislator's district) with their individual problems that often stem from state laws, policies, or regulations. Providing help for individual "cases" might also be called "casework."

Type: E

30. What is "oversight" and why is it important for the legislature to perform it?

a. Students should state that the legislature monitors executive branch activities to determine whether the laws (or programs and/or policies) are being carried out according to legislative intent. Stated more elaborately, through law the legislature creates programs and establishes policies that are carried out by the administration – a collection of

departments, agencies, and bureaus otherwise known as “the state bureaucracy.” Through reviews and monitoring, which would include studies, investigations, reports, and hearings or testimony from executive officials, the legislature can determine whether the laws are being carried out or are being implemented as intended. The legislature has the right to determine whether the laws it created are being “faithfully executed.” (However, in reality, there is little time and few resources to carry out the regular reviews and monitoring needed to perform oversight well.)

Type: E

33. Which people form the “Big Five,” and what are their primary tasks?
a. The governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, Senate president pro tem, and the minority leaders of both houses together are referred to as the “Big Five.” These leaders from the executive branch and the legislative branch speak for the members of their parties, and are responsible for cobbling together last-minute political bargains that typically resolve disputes over budgeting (items in the annual budget) or guarantee the signing of big bills.

Type: E

34. Which people form the “Big Three,” and why are they more important today than in previous years when the Big Five were in charge?
a. The governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, and Senate president pro tem are the “Big Three” who negotiate deals on bills and the budget. At the beginning of 2016, those persons were Governor Jerry Brown, Speaker Anthony Rendon, and Senate Pres. pro tem Kevin DeLeon – all Democrats. Because (Republican) minority party votes are no longer needed to pass the budget (now only a simple majority is required), the top two Democratic leaders and the Democratic governor do not need to consult with the Republican minority leaders for their consent or input on the final version of the budget bill.

Type: E

35. Describe the responsibilities of a legislative leader.
a. A leader’s job is to keep his or majority in power or to regain majority status. Nonstop fund-raising, policymaking, rule-making, and deal-making all serve that overarching objective. Party leaders oversee their caucus and help shape the electorate’s understanding of what it means to support their respective parties. Leaders also negotiate budgets, bills, and policies, make themselves available to the press, and help cultivate a distinct culture within the houses they lead. They raise campaign funds and distribute them to their fellow party members as rewards or withhold them as punishments. The Speaker and President Pro Tem appoint committee chairs and make committee assignments. (Leaders of the Assembly are the Speaker and the Assembly minority leader; in the Senate, it is the President Pro Tem and the Senate minority leader.)

Type: E

37. Lawmakers are often accused of being lazy, incompetent, greedy, and/or incapable of crafting laws that solve the state’s pressing problems. Take the legislator’s viewpoint, and explain why it is difficult to accomplish one’s job in today’s political environment. What conditions complicate the job of legislating?

a. Varies; students might approach this question in several ways, but answers should focus on the institutional and political factors that frustrate the kind of quick action and responsiveness that many citizens might expect of their representatives. Some of the conditions to consider include: term limits (legislators today may not have a comprehensive understanding of state programs or the process itself but are responsible for chairing committees, for example, and many are either in a learning curve or looking for their next office); the volume of issues with which they must deal; the electoral process (expensive races and relatively short election cycles pressure legislators to continually campaign and raise funds from those interests for and about whom they write bills); constraints imposed through the initiative process (budgetary rules, for example); the involvement of many interests in the process and the basic need to reconcile competing interests (the need to compromise among “hyperdiverse” interests, and the inability to please everyone); the existence of rules that thwart compromise (rules imposed through initiatives, such as the rule that 2/3 of the legislature must approve an increase in taxes or fees); and partisanship (rigid ideological positioning and an unwillingness to compromise).

Type: E

38. What is the function of the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO)?

a. The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office is the so-called “conscience” and “eyes and ears” of the legislature. Since 1941 it has provided fiscal and policy advice based on ongoing, in-depth research of programs, bills, and the annual budget. It remains one of the premier sources of expert information about state programs and the budget.

Type: E

43. What is the purpose of a legislature?

a. Varies. In a system of separated powers, different branches assume different responsibilities for governing. According to the state constitution, which mirrors that of the U.S. Constitution, the legislature holds the power to make laws or set policies. Their actions are also subject to the approval of the governor, and if challenged in a court of law, their decisions may be reviewed by state judges or justices of the state Supreme Court. In a very broad sense, they are supposed to solve problems that arise from the economic, social, and political conditions of about 39 million people who must work and live with each other. With the help of the governor and other members of the executive branch, they decide who gets what, when, and how.

Type: E

50. With respect to lawmakers, why did Gov. Jerry Brown state that “Republicans appear to have no power”?

a. Varies. The Republicans’ votes are not needed to pass bills, because the Democrats have a strong majority in both houses, and members generally vote along party lines. Republicans’ votes aren’t needed to pass the budget either, because as of 2010, only a simple majority is required. When Gov. Brown made this statement, the Democrats held a supermajority in both houses (attained in 2012 but lost after subsequent special elections) and the Republicans’ votes weren’t needed to raise taxes or fees.

Type: E

51. What is a party caucus?

a. In the book, the term refers to “all the members of a party in one house ” who “help shape the electorate’s understanding” of what it means to support a Democratic or Republican agenda. More generally speaking, a caucus is a group of like-minded members of a legislative body who coordinate their actions in pursuit of similar goals.

Type: E

56. What conditions or factors affect how a bill is shaped?

a. Varies. Several factors are quickly mentioned in the book, while others are alluded to (but are not pointed out explicitly). There are many individual elements that condition the final shape of a bill. This question could solicit a long or short answer. Some of the relevant factors include: 1. The mix of “players” or participants, including interest groups and their lobbyists, individual legislators, citizens, administrators, staff members, other elected officials, and so forth. 2. Personal relationships among the members, which could help facilitate coalitions or compromise (or hinder them). 3. Reputations of members as specialists or experts in their field. 4. Rules, such as whether a simple majority or a supermajority is required for passage, or those imposed by initiatives (such as devoting almost 40 percent of the budget to education spending). 5. Timing, such as whether the bill has been introduced before and support for it has been building over time, or whether there is a new governor who is opposed to it or sympathetic to it, or whether it addresses a pressing problem or recent crisis. 6. The governor’s ideological, practical, or political concerns, and whether those have been communicated to the bill’s author or committee chairperson. 7. Public opinion, or interest levels expressed by certain constituencies or groups. 8. Fiscal costs (long-term, short-term) and available funds. 9. Political costs (how will a vote affect the representative’s chances for reelection?). 10. Compromise, meaning the extent to which the provisions accommodate participants’ concerns. 11. Anticipated outcomes and analyses provided by staff or outside groups. 12. Party leaders’ concerns, or the position of the party caucus. 13. The values, beliefs, and goals of the legislators working on the bill. 14. Wider environmental or institutional factors, such as: which party is in charge (who is in the majority), whether the same majority party is in both houses, the strength of the majority party, and whether the governor shares the partisanship of the majority party in both or either house.

Type: E

60. What factors complicate lawmaking, and render it a difficult process? What conditions make lawmaking particularly difficult in California?

a. Varies. Generally speaking, the bicameral (two-chambered) structure of the legislature reflects the U.S. Founders’ desire to build “checks and balances” into the system, so that tyranny of the majority (or a minority) cannot prevail. Two houses share responsibility for considering the same pieces of legislation, and many legislators (120) share responsibility for passing each bill. The governor’s participation in the process (signing and vetoing bills) adds another hurdle to the process. The involvement of many entities means that the solutions to a problem will rarely be agreed upon by competing interest groups, stakeholders, and fellow lawmakers, and the legislator’s personal decision making process is further influenced by a host of factors, including ambition, values, and

perceptions (such as how important an issue is to powerful groups). Sometimes hard choices must be made between serving one's district or constituents and serving the entire state's citizenry, all of which tend to be "hyper-diverse" in California. Direct democracy also conditions lawmakers' responses to issues (they know that citizens can and do turn to the initiative process to solve problems) and voters can use direct democracy to impose restrictions on legislators, such as requiring certain vote thresholds for passing certain kinds of bills (such as 2/3 to raise taxes and fees).

Type: E

61. Briefly, what do committees do?

a. Varies. Committees deal with bills, and occasionally they exercise oversight over administrative bodies in the executive branch by conducting hearings or investigations. Led by chairpersons who have discretion over which bills to bring up for consideration, mainly committees shape (reword) or amend bills after holding hearings at which witnesses who will be affected by potential changes provide testimony, predictions, and complaints about what's being proposed. Committee members deliberate over the merits and possible effects of a proposed law, and ultimately vote on it; if a majority on the committee vote for it at this stage, they are recommending that the bill be considered and voted on by the whole chamber. The majority party members outnumber minority party members on every committee, so the majority party steers the discussions and shapes the legislation to reflect their policy preferences.

Type: E

62. What is a resolution?

a. An official statement that expresses the legislature's position on an issue, voted on by the membership.

Type: E

68. How does the work of paid, legislative staff members differ from that of lobbyists?

a. Varies. Staff members who work on legislation are usually responsible for helping to draft bills, talk with stakeholders (people and entities affected by potential laws or changes to existing laws) and incorporate changes based on their concerns, analyze potential outcomes, estimate costs, and help build coalitions or support for bills by convincing others that the potential law (or changes to it) are necessary. These duties are almost identical to those performed by lobbyists, but the two groups differ in one major respect: lobbyists work for a client, usually a private interest with narrow "self-interested" goals, whereas a staff member is employed by the state of California and is hired to help a legislator serve the people of a district, and promote the public's interest over private ones. To do so, a staff member has greater incentives to construct a "bigger picture" by gathering more viewpoints and perspectives than might be presented by a lobbyist, who instead might be more inclined to provide a narrower frame (one that is most beneficial to his or her client) through which to view an issue.

Type: E

74. How does the legislature "check" the governor and executive branch?

a. Varies. The “separation of powers” structure of state government provides a system of checks and balances so that one branch does not dominate. The legislature is composed of representatives from every part of California, and they bring their own districts’ concerns to state government, whereas the governor generally looks out for the interests of the entire state. Together, they are expected to write laws and establish policies that balance these competing perspectives. Bills also reflect research that is performed by legislative staff (personal and committee), and their perspectives help counterbalance the perspectives of those who serve in the administration, especially career civil servants. Certain rules also help the legislature to “check” the executive branch. The legislature may override a gubernatorial veto of a bill and line-item vetoes (but overrides are a rarity). The Senate has the right to confirm (or not confirm) the governor’s appointees to administrative positions, and legislative leaders have the right to appoint directly some high-level officials to important boards and commissions. The legislature has the responsibility of passing the state budget bill, which is based on the governor’s version but is amended throughout the process to reflect the legislature’s (possibly competing) priorities. Together, the two branches must compromise to produce a final version. Finally, the legislature may actively exercise “oversight” by holding hearings at which administrative branch officials must testify about their activities, ordering agencies to report on their activities, threatening to reduce (or actually reducing) the budgets of government agencies, including reducing the number of positions in an agency.

Type: E

77. What legislative actions require a supermajority threshold?

a. A supermajority vote is any threshold above a simple majority. Two-thirds is the most popular threshold in legislative proceedings. Raising taxes or fees requires a two-thirds supermajority; a veto override also requires two-thirds assent of both chambers. (Bills that require money or take effect immediately also require a two-thirds vote, but the book does not discuss this.)

Type: E

79. Why is the California legislature considered to be “professionalized”?

a. The answer lies in the three “s’s” that were discussed in Chapter 2: high salary (legislators make over \$100,000 per year); staff support (there are hundreds of staff who assist legislators in their capitol and district offices, in committees, and through leadership; and long sessions (legislators meet year-round, or full-time).

Type: E

80. Besides legislators, who typically participates in the lawmaking process?

a. Varies. Members of the public can voice their concerns about proposed laws by calling or meeting with their representatives or testifying at hearings. Certain segments of the public are also represented by lobbyists, who more typically represent government entities, interest groups, or corporations—virtually anyone who has a stake in the outcome of a bill; they would be considered “stakeholders.” Staff do research on bills, analyze bills for their bosses, and help shape the language of legislation throughout the process. Administrators and others from the executive branch also weigh in, often providing advice and information to help legislators understand the possible effects of a

bill's implementation. The governor and his staff also help shepherd some bills (budget bills in particular) through the process, participating at the end by signing or vetoing legislation.

True or False Questions

7. The term limits law restricts legislators to serving a total of 12 years in one house alone or both houses combined, which means that a person can serve all 12 years in the Assembly, all 12 in the Senate, or some combination in both houses.

- a. True
- b. False

10. The term limits law in California allows a person to hold an office for a given period of time, and then run again later for the same office after "rotating out" for six years or more.

- a. True
- b. False

11. The term limits law imposes a lifetime ban, meaning that once a legislator serves the maximum number of years allowed, that person may not serve in the legislature ever again.

- a. True
- b. False

12. Since term limits were enacted, California state senators typically have had more than twice as much legislative experience as their counterparts in the Assembly.

- a. True
- b. False

19. Committees consider virtually every bill that is referred to them by holding hearings for each one, and the majority of bills successfully pass out of committee.

- a. True
- b. False

36. In the state senate, the president pro tem exerts a great deal of power by chairing the all-powerful Rules Committee.

- a. True
- b. False

40. After the 2014 elections, the state legislature was a near-perfect "portrait in miniature" of California's population, with every major ethnic group represented proportionally by representatives.

- a. True
- b. False

41. Women are approximately 25 percent of the California legislature.

- a. True

b. False

42. Today, whites constitute less than half the state's population, and are proportionally represented in the legislature (fewer than half of legislators are White).

@ Whites now constitute less than half the state's population, but are a clear majority in the legislature.

a. True

b. False

46. The size of a Senate district is double that of an Assembly district.

a. True

b. False

47. California legislators draw their own district boundaries.

a. True

b. False

59. The process of lawmaking is a difficult, messy political process, and it is generally supposed to be that way.

a. True

b. False

66. Under term limits, freshman lawmakers with no prior legislative experience often chair committees.

a. True

b. False

69. The recent modification to the term limits law applied only to legislators, not to executive branch officials.

a. True

b. False

70. Women are approximately 50% of the legislature because term limits have created regular opportunities for them to run for office.

a. True

b. False

73. To counterbalance the governor's power, leaders of the legislature have the privilege of directly appointing some members to California boards and commissions.

a. True

b. False