

## Chapter 5: The Executive Branch

### Test Bank

#### Multiple Choice

1. Elected state executive officials are subject to which term limits?
- A. one 4-year term
  - B. two 4-year terms, but they can run for the same office after a 6-year break
  - C. two 4-year terms, and they can never run for the same office again
  - D. none; they are not subject to term limits

Answer Location: California's Plural Executive

2. The length of an executive office's term is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. 1 year
  - B. 2 years
  - C. 4 years
  - D. 6 years

Answer Location: California's Plural Executive

3. California has a \_\_\_\_\_ executive, in which power is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. plural; split among several Constitutional officers
  - B. unitary; concentrated in the governor alone
  - C. singular; split between the governor and the department heads he appoints
  - D. none of these

Answer Location: California's Plural Executive

4. Which organization within the executive branch is responsible for proposing and shaping the annual budget?
- A. Legislative Counsel
  - B. Treasurer's Office
  - C. Controller's Office
  - D. Department of Finance

Answer Location: Budgeting Power

5. The attorney general is also known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the state's chief law enforcement officer
  - B. head of the judicial branch
  - C. secretary of justice
  - D. the lieutenant governor

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

6. The state constitutional officer who oversees all aspects of federal and state elections is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. state clerk
  - B. county elections clerk
  - C. secretary of state
  - D. attorney general

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

7. The state constitutional officer tasked with paying the state's bills and monitoring the state's financial condition is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. controller
  - B. member of the Board of Equalization
  - C. secretary of state
  - D. treasurer

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

8. The state constitutional officer who acts as the state's investment banker and bond manager is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. secretary of state
  - B. controller
  - C. member of the Board of Equalization
  - D. treasurer

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

9. Which constitutional executive officer is responsible for managing the state's debt by selling and repaying bonds to investors, attempting to secure acceptable credit ratings, and maintaining the state's financial assets?
- A. treasurer
  - B. controller
  - C. Member of the Board of Equalization
  - D. secretary of state

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

10. The Board of Equalization consists of \_\_\_\_\_ members who are responsible for standardizing the tax systems in the state, as well as collecting excise taxes.
- A. 3
  - B. 5
  - C. 10
  - D. 20

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

11. Which state constitutional officer's job is officially nonpartisan?
- A. all of them are nonpartisan
  - B. attorney general
  - C. insurance commissioner
  - D. superintendent of public instruction

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

12. What does the insurance commissioner's job entail?
- A. collecting and disclosing all insurance company campaign donations to state politicians
  - B. reviewing and preapproving rates for car and homeowner insurance
  - C. disbursing checks to all state employees who sell goods and services to the state
  - D. sitting on the Tax Franchise Board and setting tax rates for insurance companies

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

13. Which state executive(s) equalize property taxes and collect excise taxes on alcohol?
- A. the controller and treasurer
  - B. all 12 executive officers
  - C. the State Board of Equalization
  - D. the controller only

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

14. Which executive office was gutted in 2017 by having most of its tax collection duties and 90% of its staff reassigned to new Department of Tax and Fee Administration?
- A. the controller and treasurer
  - B. the treasurer
  - C. the State Board of Equalization
  - D. the controller only

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

15. Approximately how many public employees comprise the state bureaucracy?
- A. 120,000
  - B. 210,000
  - C. 550,000
  - D. 1.1 million

Answer Location: Administrators and Regulators

16. Who is responsible for appointing members to more than 300 boards and commissions that share regulatory authority with the governor?

- A. the governor
- B. the secretary of state
- C. the voters
- D. the Assembly

Answer Location: Chief Executive | Administrators and Regulators

17. To whom are the constitutional executives accountable?

- A. the people of California
- B. the governor
- C. the attorney general
- D. no one

Answer Location: Figure 5.2 Organization Chart of California's Executive Branch

18. What is fair to say about California's plural executive?

- A. Cooperation among the executive officers is regular, and coordination among them is smooth.
- B. State executives have big incentives to set aside their ideological differences.
- C. Splintering authority among many offices provides checks against the concentration of power, but obscures accountability.
- D. Despite their differences, a plural executive produces coherent, consistent policymaking and planning.

Answer Location: California's Plural Executive | The Constitutional Executive Officers

19. After the 2016 elections, all but \_\_\_\_\_ of the constitutional executive officers were Democrats.

- A. zero
- B. two
- C. six
- D. eight

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

20. Edmund "Jerry" G. Brown Jr. has served in what statewide elected office(s)?

- A. only governor (twice)
- B. treasurer and twice as governor
- C. secretary of state, attorney general, and twice as governor
- D. state senator and twice as governor

Answer Location: Sources of Power | Photo Caption

21. All state executives have the duty to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. write laws
- B. run elections and campaigns

- C. carry out laws and policies
- D. any of these

Answer Location: California's Plural Executive

22. Which officials form the governor's cabinet?
- A. secretaries of the superagencies and other large departments
  - B. only members of independent agencies
  - C. the other 11 elected state officials
  - D. all members of the state's commissions and boards

Answer Location: Chief Executive

23. Which entities are primarily responsible for establishing, clarifying, and changing the rules that regulate the activities of people and businesses in the state?
- A. the department secretaries
  - B. the governor's executive office
  - C. the other 11 elected state officials
  - D. state boards and commissions

Answer Location: Administrators and Regulators

24. What is true of the seven "superagencies" in the state bureaucracy?
- A. They are independent, so they do not answer to the governor.
  - B. They are designed to help all the constitutional officers execute the law, and so their secretaries answer to all of the state executives.
  - C. They help organize the state's administrative boards and agencies, and the governor appoints the secretaries who head them.
  - D. Their administrators can be recalled from office by the voters.

Answer Location: Administrators and Regulators

25. The office that analyzes the budget for the legislature is the \_\_\_\_\_, whereas the organization that prepares the budget for the governor is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO); the Controller's Office
  - B. the State Treasurer's Office; the Controller's Office
  - C. the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO); the Department of Finance
  - D. the Senate Office of Research; the Department of Finance

Answer Location: Budgeting Power

26. How many times per year do the 12 elected executive officers meet together to strategize and coordinate policy?
- A. once a week
  - B. once a month
  - C. twice a year

D. never

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

27. If a sitting U.S. Senator dies or leaves office, which constitutional executive officer has the power to name a temporary replacement?

- A. the secretary of state
- B. the governor
- C. the attorney general
- D. a majority vote of all elected executive officers

Answer Location: Chief Executive

28. Who has the power to appoint judges?

- A. the governor
- B. the governor, attorney general, and chief justice of the state Supreme Court
- C. no one in the executive branch
- D. the legislative leaders: Assembly speaker and senate president pro tem

Answer Location: Chief Executive

29. Who assumes virtually all the powers of the governor when the sitting governor leaves the state's borders?

- A. attorney general
- B. lieutenant governor
- C. the secretary of state
- D. the speaker of the assembly

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

30. Which constitutional executive officer is responsible for implementing rules relating to lobbying, including the reporting and disclosure of related financial activities?

- A. attorney general
- B. lieutenant governor
- C. the secretary of state
- D. the speaker of the assembly

Answer Location: California's Plural Executive

31. Which state executive official is considered to be "first among equals?"

- A. treasurer
- B. attorney general
- C. governor
- D. secretary of state

Answer Location: California's Governor

32. Who has the ability to call a state of emergency after a natural disaster has struck?
- A. governor
  - B. attorney general
  - C. treasurer
  - D. any of these

Answer Location: California's Governor

33. The governor plays a significant role in the legislative process by \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. monitoring bills as they move through the legislative process
  - B. calling special sessions of the legislature to address pressing issues
  - C. setting policy priorities through the budget
  - D. any of these

Answer Location: Legislative Powers

34. About how many bills did Governor Brown sign into law in 2016?
- A. 50
  - B. 200
  - C. 900
  - D. 2,000

Answer Location: Legislative Powers

35. The most important information-gathering body that works directly for the governor is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Department of Finance
  - B. Legislative Analyst
  - C. Senate Office of Research
  - D. Department of Education

Answer Location: Budgeting Power

36. Which of these constitutional officers is responsible for certifying the state election results?
- A. superintendent of Public Education
  - B. governor
  - C. attorney general
  - D. none of these

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

### **True/False**

1. The governor resembles the U.S. President in that she/he appoints every other state

executive (such as attorney general and secretary of state), as well as department heads to help carry laws into effect.

Answer Location: California's Plural Executive | The Constitutional Executive Officers

2. Under term limits, executive officers in California may only be elected to two 4-year terms.

Answer Location: California's Plural Executive

3. Under term limits, an individual may only run for one type of statewide office in his or her lifetime.

Answer Location: California's Plural Executive

4. Unlike the U.S. president, California's governor has the power of the line-item veto.

Answer Location: Legislative Powers

5. Like the U.S. president, the governor may issue executive orders.

Answer Location: Chief Executive

6. Next to the governor, the executive officer with the most power is the attorney general.

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

7. The lieutenant governor takes temporary control of the governorship whenever the governor leaves the state on official or unofficial business.

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

8. The state's chief law enforcement officer is the lieutenant governor.

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

9. The state's chief law enforcement officer is the attorney general, who is charged with supervising all sheriffs, policy chiefs, and state agencies to enforce the law adequately and uniformly.

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

10. The attorney general's office is considered a stepping stone to the governor's office, as many former attorneys general have become candidates for governor.



Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

11. All the constitutional officers meet as a governing board a minimum of four times per year to coordinate the implementation of state policy.

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

12. Only the secretary of state may call a special election.

Answer Location: Legislative Powers

13. All elected state officials serve 4-year terms (4 years at a time), unless they are elected through a special election.

Answer Location: California's Plural Executive

14. All state elected executives earn the same salary: \$146,854.

Answer Location: Box 5.1 FAST FACTS on California's Plural Executive

15. The governor earns a higher salary than all other executive branch officials.

Answer Location: Box 5.1 FAST FACTS on California's Plural Executive

16. Under term limits, it is common for assembly members and state senators to run for statewide office, such as secretary of state or treasurer.

Answer Location: Figure 5.1 California Executives and Musical Chairs, 2017

17. Of the nine governors elected since World War II, more of them have been Republicans than Democrats.

Answer Location: Table 5.1 Modern-Era California Governors by Party Affiliation

18. Like legislators, the governor employs personal staff who analyze and research bills.

Answer Location: Legislative Powers

19. Civil service laws protect almost 99% of the state's employees, who are hired on the basis of merit rather than nepotism (family ties) or patronage (reward for one's party loyalty).

Answer Location: Chief Executive

20. A new Department of Tax and Fee Administration has assumed almost all of the tasks that the Board of Equalization performed prior to 2017.

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

21. Governor Jerry Brown is the only state executive who has “stood up” to the Trump Administration and refused to conform to federal policies; the others have complied willingly.

Answer Location: California’s Plural Executive

22. Attorney General Xavier Becerra was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown when former AG Kamala Harris was elected to the U.S. Senate.

Answer Location: Figure 5.1 California Executives and Musical Chairs, 2017 | The Constitutional Executive Officers

23. A governor has the power to reduce the penalties associated with a crime, so that a formerly convicted person might regain certain rights, such as gun ownership.

Answer Location: Chief of Security

24. Few if any of the constitutional executive officers have either served as state legislators or in more than one constitutional office.

Answer Location: Figure 5.1 California Executives and Chairs, 2017

25. The governor and his or her aides (staff) monitor bills at all stages of the legislative process.

Answer Location: Legislative Powers

### **Short Answer**

1. The expert staff of the \_\_\_\_\_ construct the state’s budget, providing information and advice to the governor about the state’s ever-changing financial and demographic status.

Department of Finance

Answer Location: Budgeting Power

2. The three constitutional executive offices dedicated to managing the state’s money and finances are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Treasurer; Controller; State Board of Equalization

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

3. Because there are nine separately elected executives, California has a “\_\_\_\_\_” executive, meaning that power is split among several Constitutional officers.

Ans: plural

Answer Location: California's Plural Executive

4. Next to the governor, which executive officer possesses the most power?  
he attorney general (AG)

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

## Essay

1. Name the nine elected, constitutional executive offices in California.

Ans: Governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, controller, treasurer, superintendent of public instruction, insurance commissioner, and board of equalization.

Answer Location: Box 5.1 FAST FACTS on California's Plural Executive | The Constitutional Executive Officers

2. What are the political consequences of a plural executive?

Ans: Varies. Governing power is both divided and shared among many offices in California, and although different officers are tasked with separate responsibilities, they may choose to implement laws differently based on their own interpretation of the law. Officers are accountable to the voters, and even the governor cannot tell them what to do. A fragmented power structure works against the production of consistent government policy and counteracts accountability. Under term limits, California's executives are potential or actual rivals for the same offices. Relative anonymity may also be considered a consequence (with 12 individual executives carrying out a variety of tasks, few except the governor capture enough media attention to become well-known).

Answer Location: California's Plural Executive

3. What are the consequences of term limits on California's executive branch?

Ans: Varies. Under term limits, the constitutional officers may serve two 4-year terms. Because many of them prefer to stay in politics after their terms end, often California's executives are (or become) potential or actual rivals for the same or "next" offices as they move from office to office as in a game of "musical chairs."

Answer Location: Figure 5.1 California Executives and Musical Chairs, 2017

4. Describe the governor's responsibilities.

Ans: Varies. The governor is "first among equals" and is vested with supreme executive power by the state constitution. That person acts as head of state: appears at official events, delivers the "State of the State Address," receives officials, and represents the state to other governors and to federal officials. As chief executive, she/he indirectly controls the bureaucracy through appointments, makes appointments to boards and commissions, and can name a replacement to fill a vacant U.S. Senate seat. The governor's legislative duties include setting policy priorities, calling special legislative sessions, and calling special elections. The governor can sign or veto legislation, has line-item veto power, and may issue executive orders. The governor takes a large role in proposing and shaping the annual budget and acts as commander in chief of the

state's National Guard.

Answer Location: California's Governor | Head of State | Chief Executive | Legislative Powers | Budgeting Power | Chief of Security

5. Describe the governor's duties and responsibilities as "chief executive."

Ans: Varies. The governor is charged with "executing" or carrying out California's laws, and she/he has the power to appoint assistants, advisors, secretaries, and administrators to help him or her with this main duty. Through top-level appointees, the governor oversees the state administration and their implementation of his or her policies (the state Senate must confirm the highest-level administrative appointees). The governor also makes appointments to approximately 300 boards and commissions that help administer state laws and rules across a wide range of subjects, from elections to business licensing. Governors influence the judiciary by filling vacancies on courts (by appointing judges) and have the power to fill U.S. Senate seat vacancies. The governor may issue executive orders that direct state employees in how to perform their duties.

Answer Location: Chief Executive

6. What are the governor's duties with respect to legislating?

Ans: Varies. The governor's legislative powers or duties include setting policy priorities through policy, laws, and the annual budget. The governor may call legislative sessions and special elections. The governor employs assistants to help monitor bills, and propose and negotiate bill language and funding levels for programs and proposals. The governor can veto or sign legislation, and has the power of the line-item veto. Budgeting power is also a type of legislative responsibility (though students may not immediately recognize that budgets are bills).

Answer Location: Legislative Powers

7. What are the governor's budgeting responsibilities?

he governor proposes an annual state budget and submits it to the legislature on or before January 10 every year. The Department of Finance helps construct the budget and revise it when tax receipts are tallied later in May. The governor expresses his or her values and priorities in the budget, which must be signed into law and will represent a compromise between the legislature's and the governor's priorities.

Answer Location: Budgeting Power

8. Describe the governor's responsibilities as "chief of security."

he governor promotes security as commander in chief of the state's National Guard, as well as the State Military Reserve, including the California Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The governor has the power to offer clemency to convicted criminals; she/he can pardon individuals or commute sentences, but must report all reprieves and the reasons for them to the legislature.

Answer Location: Chief of Security

9. What are the formal and informal sources of the governor's power?

Ans: Varies. Generally, sources of power are institutional and personal, or formal and

informal. Institutional sources of a governor's power include the constitution, which vests the office with "supreme executive power"; whether the governor is a member of the same political party as the majority party in one or both houses of the legislature; numerical strength and cohesiveness of fellow partisans in the legislature (such as majority or supermajority status, and they vote as a solid bloc or are factionalized). Power can also stem from a governor's popularity, personal powers of persuasion and/or charisma; style and personal qualities such as experience; the (possible) perception of having a mandate; strategic use of the media. Note that this is not a question about the governor's duties.

Answer Location: Sources of Power

10. What are the responsibilities of the lieutenant governor?

he "governor-in-waiting" has few formal duties, but must be ready to assume the governor's office (should the governor resign, retire early, die, become disabled, be impeached, or leaves the state). The LG is technically in charge when the governor is not present in the state of California. The LG sits as a voting member on several state regulatory and advisory boards, such as the California State University Board of Trustees.

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

11. What responsibilities belong to the secretary of state's office?

he state's chief elections officer oversees all aspects of federal and state elections, including registering voters, distributing ballot pamphlets, printing ballots, and certifying voting machines. The secretary of state also compiles election results and publishes them. The Political Reform Division in the Secretary of State's office implements rules relating to proper disclosure of lobbying and campaign activity and makes the information available to the public. As keeper of official historical records, the secretary of state also charters corporations and nonprofits, maintains business filings, and safeguards the state archives.

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

12. What are the responsibilities of the attorney general?

he state's chief law enforcement officer is head of the Department of Justice, which employs district attorneys to help represent the state of California in court cases and provide legal counsel to state officials. The AG supervises all sheriffs, policy chiefs, and state agencies to enforce state law "adequately and uniformly."

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

13. Explain what the superintendent of public instruction does.

s head of the Department of Education, this nonpartisan state constitutional officer's job entails advocating for student achievement throughout the state's education systems. The superintendent is the point person for testing and reporting, including high school exit exams and student achievement testing. She/he collects data on a range of education related issues, such as drop-out rates, and education funding levels. The office is responsible for implementing the No Child Left Behind Act and other federal programs or mandates.

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

14. Explain what is meant by “plural executive.”

Ans: In California, the executive branch is headed by not just one, but 12 separately elected officials who are responsible for administering state government, or carrying state laws into effect. There are eight officers plus four members of the Board of Equalization.

Answer Location: California’s Plural Executive

15. Name a superagency and list at least four agencies within it.

here are seven superagencies listed in the book (Transportation Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, Health and Human Services Agency, Labor and Workforce Development Agency; Natural Resources Agency; Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency, plus Government Operations). [Note: the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations has been recategorized as a Department rather than a superagency). Each contains anywhere from 4 to 16 smaller agencies (refer to the organizational chart in Chapter 5, Figure 5.2). For example, the Transportation Agency includes the California Highway Patrol; Department of Motor Vehicles; Department of Transportation; Board of Pilot Commissioners; High Speed Rail Authority; and California Transportation Commission.

Answer Location: Figure 5.2 Organization Chart of California’s Executive Branch

16. Why are several agencies called “superagencies”?

Ans: Superagencies act as umbrella organizations for the smaller departments, boards, and commissions nested within them (anywhere from 5 to 16 entities within them).

Answer Location: Administrators and Regulators

17. Which is more powerful: the governor and the executive branch organizations she/he oversees, or the legislature?

Ans: Varies. Students should draw on the information provided in Chapters 4 and 5 to answer this question. While there is no “correct” answer, students should weigh the relative formal and informal responsibilities of each, as well as their relative political strengths. Some structural conditions tend to favor the governor, such as the fact that she/he answers to no one and is not required to consult with others in making decisions. Also, the relative stability of the state bureaucracy (particularly in information clearinghouses such as the Department of Finance) tends to favor the governor, as term-limited legislators find that overseeing the executive branch agencies and departments depends on information that is sometimes difficult or slow to obtain (instructors should note that this is a point made in Chapter 4); thus, agencies are often free to carry out the laws as the governor intends or interprets them. The line-item veto and veto power tend to help the governor influence the shape of legislation also, and veto overrides occur very rarely. On the other hand, the legislature must create laws, and the governor depends on them to get his agenda passed (unless he can get items passed through the initiative process; Jerry Brown did so when he proposed Prop 30 and voters approved it, a tax increase primarily benefiting education). Term limits affect both branches. The governor is the most visible politician and attracts the most media

attention, but that power does not automatically translate into actual political power, or the power to force the legislature to do his or her bidding. The legislature's power lies in its representative function, its ability to propose many different solutions to a vast number of problems and issues. The governor would not be able to "implement his (or her) vision" without the legislature to make laws that could bring that vision to life. A governor can also be recalled, whereas it would be unlikely that every member (or enough legislators to shift the balance of power) of the legislature would be recalled. A governor's power also sometimes depends on his ability to lead his or her party in the legislature; if a governor is of the opposite party than the Assembly or Senate, it is typically more difficult to achieve his agenda. Legislative partisans tend to support a fellow partisan in the governor's seat.

Answer Location: California's Governor | Administrators and Regulators

18. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a plural executive?

Ans: Varies. Some of the advantages include the division of labor to deal with the multitude of issues that could overwhelm any one person or smaller set of individuals. By focusing on a category of tasks, an executive can concentrate his or her energy on solving problems that she/he can manage well. This structure provides an additional set of checks against the concentration of authority. On the downside, having many executives in charge of administering state law and helping to govern means that accountability is obscured, and no one person is really "in charge." The governor does not have the power to control the decisions other executives make, yet the voters have difficulty discerning who is responsible for decisions. Because all the executive officers (the governor excepted) operate in relative obscurity, voters cannot hold anyone but the governor accountable for the mistakes made by those at the top, even if the governor is not the source of their discontent. Their decision-making is uncoordinated. Finally, members tend to compete for each other's jobs because of term limits, because most of them want to stay in office and they can only occupy one office for a maximum of 8 years.

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers

19. Name two ways in which a constitutional officer has resisted a Trump administration policy.

Ans: Varies. Attorney General Xavier Becerra has filed lawsuits challenging the Trump administration policies on immigration and the environment (i.e., he has sued the EPA), and has filed amicus curiae briefs in court (opposing the Trump administration's positions or actions). Governor Jerry Brown has pushed for and implemented strong pro-environmental (anti-climate change) policies. Secretary of State Alex Padilla refused to submit voter registration data to a presidential commission investigating alleged voter fraud.

Answer Location: The Constitutional Executive Officers | Introduction