Chapter 11: The Congress

Multiple Choice

1. States must meet certain requirements in drawing district boundaries. Identify one of these requirements.
   a. A person's vote in the largest district of a state must have only half the value of a person's vote in the smallest district.
   b. Each district must have contiguous boundaries.
   c. Larger districts in a state must have more number of voters than smaller districts.
   d. Districts must not be compact.
   e. The task of redistricting must always be handled by independent commissions instead of state legislatures.

2. Which of the following is an oversight body for the U.S. Congress?
   a. The Office of Management and Budget
   b. The Congressional Committee on Rules and Administration
   c. The Congressional Judiciary
   d. The Joint Congressional Committee on Standards and Conduct
   e. The Congressional Budget Office

3. Congress exercises jurisdiction over the impeachment of _____.
   a. an opinion leader
   b. a governor
   c. the president
   d. the members of interest groups
   e. party supporters

4. Today, under Senate Rule 22, _____ senators must sign a petition requesting cloture.
   a. twenty
   b. ten
   c. fifteen
   d. eighteen
   e. sixteen

5. In the context of the bicameral legislature of Congress, the framers of the U.S. Constitution:
   a. created the House of Representatives to represent the people.
   b. fixed the membership of the Senate at 435.
   c. fixed the membership of the House of Representatives at 100.
   d. created an independent committee to serve as a check on the powers of the House and the Senate.
   e. assigned less number of senators to smaller states than the larger states.

6. Opponents of racial gerrymandering argue that race-based districting is unconstitutional because it violates the _____ clause.
   a. equal protection
   b. equal participation
   c. equal appropriation
   d. equal apportionment
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e. equal representation

7. The _____ normally proposes time limits on debate for any bill.
   a. House Rules Committee
   b. House Ways and Means Committee
   c. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee
   d. House Appropriations Committee
   e. House Budget Committee

8. The _____ serves as the presiding officer of the Senate in the absence of the vice president.
   a. resident commissioner
   b. minority leader
   c. president pro tempore
   d. Speaker of the House
   e. majority leader

9. The Constitution provides for the________ of House seats among the states on the basis of their respective populations.
   a. appropriation
   b. apportionment
   c. filibustering
   d. cloture
   e. veto

10. When Congress is unable to pass a complete budget by the beginning of the fiscal year, it usually passes _____, which enable the executive agencies to keep on doing whatever they were doing the previous year with the same amount of funding.
    a. continuing resolutions
    b. referendums
    c. tax increase bills
    d. nuclear option resolutions
    e. outlays and obligations bills

11. In 1842, Congress passed an act that required all states to send representatives to Congress from _____.
    a. public districts
    b. state-held districts
    c. representative districts
    d. anonymous-member districts
    e. single-member districts

12. In the context of gerrymandering, _____ make congressional races less competitive.
    a. packing and cracking
    b. filibustering and cloture
    c. pigeonholing and lobbying
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d. pocket veto and line-item veto
e. authorization and appropriation

13. In the context of congressional elections, which of the following is true of term limits?
   a. There is no limit on the number of terms a senator or representative can serve.
   b. The president can serve only one term in office.
   c. A senator or representative can serve for no more than two terms in office.
   d. The Supreme Court has ruled that state-level attempts to impose term limits on members of the U.S. House or Senate are constitutional.
   e. A senator can serve a two-year term, whereas a representative can serve a six-year term.

14. Which of the following statements is true of the advice and consent powers of the Senate?
   a. The vice president appoints ambassadors of the United States with the advice and consent of the Senate.
   b. The Senate is obliged to confirm the president's nominees for the post of ambassadors.
   c. Nominees for the secretary of state first appear before the Judiciary Committee.
   d. The Senate has a somewhat freer hand with judicial appointments, because federal judges are expected to be loyal to the president.
   e. Senate confirmation is required when the president appoints justices of the Supreme Court.

15. Where a party's voters are scarce, the boundaries of a district can be drawn to include as many of the party's voters as possible. This is a characteristic of______.
   a. pigeonholing
   b. gerrymandering
   c. filibustering
   d. logrolling
   e. lobbying

16. Which of the following is an example of an entitlement program?
   a. The Civil Rights Act
   b. The Patriot Act
   c. TexCare
   d. Obamacare
   e. PeachCare

17. Which of the following requirements must be met by a state in drawing congressional district boundaries?
   a. A person's vote in the largest district of a state must have only half the value of a person's vote in the smallest district.
   b. Districts in a given state must not be geographically compact.
   c. Larger districts in a state must have more number of voters than smaller districts.
   d. Districts in a given state must have contiguous boundaries.
   e. The task of redistricting must always be handled by independent commissions instead of state legislatures.

18. Which of the following is a requirement that must be met by a person in order to be elected to the Senate?
   a. The person must have been a member of the House of Representatives for at least two years.
   b. The person must have a master's degree in law.
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c. The person must own property in the United States.
d. The person must be at least twenty-five years of age.
e. The person must have been a citizen of the United States for at least nine years.

19. The _____ of the House of Representatives is elected by the majority-party caucus to act as spokesperson for the party and to keep the party together.
   a. majority whip
   b. majority leader
   c. party trustee
   d. president pro tempore
   e. resident commissioner

20. To be a member of the House of Representatives, a person must:
   a. have been a citizen of the United States for at least five years before his or her election.
   b. have a master's degree in law.
   c. own property in the United States.
   d. be at least twenty-five years of age.
   e. have been a member of the Senate for at least two years.

21. _____, a self-governing possession of the United States, is represented by a nonvoting resident commissioner.
   a. Puerto Rico
   b. New Mexico
   c. Delaware
   d. Vermont
   e. New Jersey

22. _____ is the second part of the budgeting process in which Congress determines how many dollars will actually be spent in a given year on a particular government activity.
   a. Entitlement
   b. Authorization
   c. Appropriation
   d. Adjudication
   e. Apportionment

23. Identify a true statement about the Speaker of the House.
   a. The Speaker cannot ignore a member who wishes to speak.
   b. The Speaker can interpret the outcome of most of the votes taken.
   c. The Speaker can choose to vote on all the bills.
   d. The Speaker is the leader of the minority party.
   e. The Speaker can choose to vote while presiding over the House.

24. Identify a true statement about the Senate.
   a. The Senate has the power of "advice and consent" on presidential appointments and treaties.
   b. Senate members are chosen from local districts for two-year terms by popular vote.
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c. The Senate originates bills for raising revenues.
d. Senate members have less prestige and media attention than House members.
e. The Senate has local or narrow leadership.

25. Which of the following is a spending provision inserted into legislation that benefits only a small number of people?
   a. A fringe benefit
   b. A filibuster
   c. An earmark
   d. A veto
   e. A subpoena

26. The U.S. Constitution requires that senators be elected:
   a. once in five years by popular vote.
   b. every second year by popular vote.
   c. every year by popular vote.
   d. every six years by popular vote.
   e. quarterly by popular vote.

27. Under which of the following programs are Social Security benefits provided to people?
   a. Apportionment programs
   b. Entitlement programs
   c. Beneficial grant programs
   d. Filibustering programs
   e. Debt ceiling programs

28. A "new" Congress convenes:
   a. every five years.
   b. in January of every odd-numbered year.
   c. in November of every odd-numbered year.
   d. every six years.
   e. in March of every even-numbered year.

29. Which of the following statements is true of the House of Representatives?
   a. The House convicts federal officials of impeachable offenses.
   b. The House originates bills for raising revenues.
   c. The House has fewer rules and restrictions than the Senate.
   d. House members are chosen from the entire state for six-year terms.
   e. House members have more prestige and media attention than Senate members.

30. In both the House of Representatives and the Senate, which of the following typically plays a role in determining congressional committee chairpersons?
   a. The number of legislations drafted by a particular committee
   b. The number of issues dealt with by a particular committee
   c. The procedure followed to bring the matter under consideration to a vote
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d. The length of continuous service on a particular committee
e. The duration of a debate held for the purpose of preventing action on a bill

31. The presiding officer in the House of Representatives is the:
   a. vice president.
   b. Speaker of the House.
   c. resident commissioner.
   d. president pro tempore.
   e. House delegate

32. The Supreme Court has ruled that state-level attempts to impose________on members of the U.S. House or Senate are unconstitutional.
   a. age limits
   b. term limits
   c. cloture limits
   d. participation limits
   e. vote limits

33. Which of the following statements is true of impeachment?
   a. After a vote to impeach in the full House, an accused official is tried in the Senate.
   b. The president has the power to impeach and remove from office the members of Congress.
   c. Impeachment involves holding a debate for the purpose of preventing action on a bill.
   d. Only civil officers, such as federal judges, can be removed by impeachment.
   e. An accused official is removed from office only if he or she is convicted by a one-third majority vote of the Senate.

34. As a result of the rule limiting the size of the House of Representatives to _____ members, U.S. congressional districts on average now have very substantial populations.
   a. 535
   b. 100
   c. 335
   d. 435
   e. 150

35. The use of unlimited debate in the Senate to obstruct legislation is called________.
   a. gerrymandering
   b. overriding
   c. filibustering
   d. impeaching
   e. lobbying

36. In any year in which the federal government spends more than it takes in, _____.
   a. the resulting deficit adds to the national debt
   b. Congress raises taxes and issues zero-interest government bonds
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c. U.S. law removes the ceiling on the size of the national debt
d. executives are allowed to exceed the debt ceiling
e. the debt ceiling is modified at a later date to match the excess expenditure

37. The Senate brings a bill to the floor by:
   a. the nuclear option.
   b. unanimous consent.
   c. invoking a cloture.
   d. filibustering.
   e. exercising a pocket veto.

38. The Homeland Security Committee is an example of a _____ in Congress.
   a. standing committee
   b. joint committee
   c. conference committee
   d. special committee
   e. select committee

39. Which of the following is true of the senatorial holds?
   a. They are not anonymous.
   b. They are used to end filibusters.
   c. They are announced publicly.
   d. They are used to delay legislation.
   e. They cannot be lifted by cloture.

40. Under the _________ view, a legislator should act according to her or his conscience and perception of national needs.
   a. trustee
   b. instructed-delegate
   c. opinion leader
   d. whip
   e. democratic

41. One of the most important functions of _____ is its oversight of the executive branch and its many federal departments and agencies.
   a. an appellate court
   b. Congress
   c. the Supreme Court
   d. the legislature
   e. the judiciary

42. Leadership and organization in both chambers of Congress are based on:
   a. the provisions in Article II of the Constitution.
   b. the "one person, one vote" rule.
   c. membership in the two major political parties.
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d. political gerrymandering.
e. the rules established by the federal judiciary.

43. The District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands all send _____ to the House of Representatives.
   a. polling officers
   b. election commissioners
   c. heads of state
   d. nonvoting delegates
   e. voting resident commissioners

44. Identify a true statement about the apportionment of House seats.
   a. All states get the same number of House seats irrespective of their populations.
   b. House seats are reapportioned every ten years.
   c. Wyoming has fifty-three representatives in the House.
   d. Puerto Rico has the maximum number of voting delegates in the House.
   e. California has only one representative in the House.

45. Under Article I, Section 4, of the Constitution,__________control the "Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives."
   a. appellate courts
   b. town mayors
   c. state legislatures
   d. state governors
   e. U.S. Senators

46. When a committee chairperson sets a bill aside to ignore it rather than to send it to a subcommittee, the bill has been _____.
   a. pigeonholed
   b. vetoed
   c. marked up
   d. reported
   e. referred

47. In the past, members of Congress often took advantage of the vote to raise the debt ceiling to _____, to show off their opposition to federal spending.
   a. cloture
   b. filibuster
   c. caucus
   d. grandstand
   e. apportion

48. By default, the lines of the congressional districts are drawn by the _____.
   a. state legislatures
   b. standing committees
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c. judiciaries

d. independent regulatory committees

e. executive agencies

49. Which of the following statements is true of a congressional committee?
   a. It provides for specialization, or a division of the legislative labor.
   b. It directs the legislative strategy of the minority party.
   c. It commands the minority party's opposition to the policies of the majority party.
   d. It works independently while creating or amending laws.
   e. It regularly holds hearings to investigate the actions of the judicial branch.

50. A _____ refers to a Congress consisting of two chambers.
   a. bicameral judiciary
   b. bicameral legislature
   c. bicameral cabinet
   d. bipartisan filibuster
   e. bipartisan caucus

51. The constitutional option is also known as the _____.
   a. apportionment option
   b. earmark option
   c. nuclear option
   d. veto option
   e. bicameral option

52. When senators use the chamber’s tradition of unlimited debate to block legislation, it is known as a ______.
   a. bicameral judiciary
   b. bicameral legislature
   c. filibuster
   d. apportionment
   e. malapportionment

53. California’s has fifty-three congressional districts and sends _____ representatives to the House.
   a. two
   b. 106
   c. one
   d. 26
   e. 53

54. When the voting power of citizens in one district is greater than the voting power of citizens in another district it is known as _____.
   a. malapportionment
   b. gerrymandering
   c. earmarking
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d. incumbency
e. voting residency

55. In the early 1990s, the U.S. Department of Justice instructed state legislatures to draw district lines to maximize the voting power of ______.
   a. whites
   b. republicans
   c. democrats
   d. minority groups
   e. immigrants

56. A representative who tries to serve the broad interests of the entire society and not just the narrow interests of his or her constituents is known as a(n) ____.
   a. instructed delegate
   b. trustee
   c. earmark
   d. incumbent
   e. minority leader

57. The U.S. Constitution requires that representatives to Congress be elected every _____ year by popular vote.
   a. fifth
   b. sixth
   c. second
   d. twelfth
   e. third

58. Which of the following statements is true of incumbency?
   a. Incumbency serve to level the playing field of elections.
   b. Incumbency advantages serve to suppress voter turnout.
   c. A disadvantage to incumbency is name recognition.
   d. Incumbents have equal odds of victory as their opponents.
   e. Incumbents raise, on average, ten times as much in campaign funds as their challengers.

59. A member of Congress who assists the majority or minority leader in the House or in the Senate in managing the party’s legislative program is known as the ____.
   a. vice president
   b. Speaker of the House
   c. resident commissioner
   d. whip
   e. House delegate

60. A _____ is formed for the purpose of achieving agreement between the House and the Senate on the exact wording of a legislative act when the two chambers pass legislative proposals in different forms.
   a. filibuster
   b. pro tempore
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c. standing committee
d. subcommittee
e. conference committee

61. A ____ is a special type of power used by the chief executive after the legislature has adjourned.
   a. markup session
   b. pocket veto
   c. cloture
   d. filibuster
   e. nuclear option

Essay

62. In the context of the legislative process, discuss how a bill is referred to committees.

63. Discuss the tasks undertaken by the majority leader and the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

64. In the context of the budgeting process, explain authorization and appropriation.

65. Describe how the power of incumbency works. Also, explain the advantages that incumbents have that can aid their reelection.

66. Explain the trustee and instructed-delegate views of representation. Give an example of each.