Chapter 12: The Presidency

Multiple Choice

1. The__________to the U.S. Constitution states that when the president believes that he or she is incapable of performing the duties of the office, he or she must inform Congress in writing of this fact.
   a. Fifth Amendment
   b. Twenty-fifth Amendment
   c. Nineteenth Amendment
   d. Twenty-seventh Amendment
   e. Fourth Amendment

2. Article II of the Constitution states that the executive power shall be vested in the__________.
   a. chief justice of the United States
   b. the Supreme Court of the United States
   c. President of the United States
   d. United States Congress
   e. United States Army

3. As chief executive, the president of the United States has the power to:
   a. make secret agreements with other countries.
   b. grant reprieves, pardons, and amnesties.
   c. call special sessions of Congress.
   d. make pacts with other heads of state, without Senate approval.
   e. veto a bill passed by Congress.

4. Identify a true statement about the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).
   a. The OMB assists the president in preparing the proposed annual budget.
   b. The director of the OMB is appointed by the vice president.
   c. The OMB is an influential unit of the White House Office.
   d. The duty of the director of the OMB is to support the Senate's views on the budget.
   e. The OMB implements the annual budget.

5. The War Powers Resolution of 1973 requires the president to:
   a. take the prior approval of the Senate before signing any executive agreement.
   b. obtain a two-thirds vote of the Senate before declaring war.
   c. notify Congress within forty-eight hours of deploying troops.
   d. declare war without congressional approval if it is deemed necessary.
   e. inform Congress within sixty days of making an executive agreement.

6. In addition to the powers explicitly granted by the Constitution, the president also has _____ that are necessary to carry out the specific responsibilities of the president as set forth in the Constitution.
   a. legislative powers
   b. executive powers
   c. supremacy powers
   d. inherent powers
Chapter 12: The Presidency

e. hereditary powers

7. Identify a true statement about the formal cabinet of the United States.
   a. The use of the cabinet by the president is not discretionary.
   b. At present, the cabinet consists of only four officials.
   c. The president always relies heavily on the advice of the formal cabinet.
   d. The Constitution requires the president to consult with the cabinet.
   e. The president selects the members of the cabinet.

8. According to Article II, Section 1, of the Constitution, to become the president of the United States, a person must:
   a. have attained the age of forty-five years.
   b. be a Protestant by birth.
   c. have been a resident of the United States for a minimum of fourteen years.
   d. have been born to parents who are natural born citizens of the United States.
   e. be a Roman Catholic.

9. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty aimed at prohibiting:
   a. secret international agreements with other countries.
   b. the testing of nuclear weapons.
   c. genetic testing on humans.
   d. research studies based on animal testing.
   e. the misuse of presidential power.

10. In the context of American political history, which of the following statements is true of the religion of presidential candidates?
    a. For most of American history, presidential candidates were Greek Orthodox Christians.
    b. Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis was a member of the Latter-Day Saints, commonly called the Mormons.
    c. In 1928, Democrat Al Smith became the first Protestant to run for president on a major-party ticket.
    d. In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy was elected as the first Catholic president.
    e. In 2012, two of the top three finishers in the Republican primaries were Protestants.

11. The press secretary of the White House Office__________.
    a. handles the president's legal matters
    b. directs the operations of the presidential staff
    c. holds news conferences for reporters
    d. supervises the staff of the president's spouse
    e. manages foreign relations

12. As chief diplomat of the United States, the president:
    a. handles national emergencies during peacetime.
    b. calls special sessions of Congress.
    c. deploys the nation's armed forces.
    d. negotiates and signs treaties with other nations, with Senate approval.
Chapter 12: The Presidency

e. suggests a budget to Congress and submits the annual economic report.

13. Which of the following statements is true of a treaty?
   a. The president has the sole power to negotiate and sign a treaty with another country.
   b. A treaty is a formal agreement between the president and Congress.
   c. If a treaty is approved by the House of Representatives, it becomes law.
   d. A treaty is effective only with a hundred percent vote from the president's political party.
   e. A treaty can only be approved by the chief justice of the United States.

14. Identify a true statement about the White House Office.
   a. All of the White House staff members are also members of the president's official cabinet.
   b. The White House Office consists of an informal group of unofficial advisers to the president.
   c. The White House staff screens the questions, issues, and problems that people present to the president.
   d. The White House Office excludes the staff of the president's spouse.
   e. Of all the executive staff agencies, the White House Office has the least contact with the president.

15. Identify a true statement about the ratification of a treaty.
   a. A treaty can only be negotiated and signed by Congress.
   b. A treaty can only be approved by the president of the United States.
   c. A treaty is effective only with a hundred percent vote from the president's political party.
   d. A treaty needs to be approved by a fifty percent vote of the Senate.
   e. A treaty becomes law when it is approved by the Senate and signed by the president.

16. _____ is the personal office of the president of the United States.
   a. The White House Office
   b. The Presidential Townhouse
   c. The Executive Residence
   d. Camp David
   e. The Office of Administration

17. Which of the following is a duty of the president of the United States as political party leader?
   a. Electing a Senate member as the de facto leader of his or her party
   b. Submitting the annual economic report to Congress
   c. Appointing a fund-raiser in chief to assist in raising funds for his or her party
   d. Choosing the vice president from his or her party
   e. Appointing members only from his or her party to form the cabinet

18. In the context of presidential age, which of the following statements is true?
   a. The Constitution states that anyone who is twenty-five years of age or older can become president.
   b. The oldest person elected president was John F. Kennedy.
   c. The youngest person to hold the office of president was William McKinley, who was forty-two when he became president.
   d. The youngest person elected president was Ronald Reagan, who assumed the presidency at the age of forty-three.
Chapter 12: The Presidency

e. The average age at the presidential inauguration has been fifty-five.

19. Which of the following duties is performed by the president as the nation's chief diplomat?
   a. Handling national emergencies during peacetime
   b. Suggesting a budget to Congress and submitting the annual economic report
   c. Leading the nation's armed forces
   d. Serving as the ceremonial head of the government
   e. Recognizing and interacting with foreign governments

20. Which of the following statements is true of an executive order?
   a. It is also called a pocket veto.
   b. It is issued by Congress with the approval of the president.
   c. It is not an inherent power of the president.
   d. It is rarely issued by the president.
   e. It has the force of law.

21. The youngest person elected president was _____, who assumed the presidency at the age of forty-three.
   a. Jimmy Carter
   b. Abraham Lincoln
   c. John F. Kennedy
   d. William McKinley
   e. Ronald Reagan

22. Critics of the Obama administration believe that the czar system:
   a. is more suited to a socialist system of government.
   b. results in the loss of leverage of Congress.
   c. increases government expenditure.
   d. reduces governmental transparency.
   e. is against the Constitution's cabinet formation policies.

23. The president's power to grant a pardon serves as a check on _____.
   a. gubernatorial power
   b. executive power
   c. legislative power
   d. bureaucratic power
   e. judicial power

24. Which of the following amendments addresses the question of how the president should fill a vacant vice presidency?
   a. The Twenty-third Amendment
   b. The Twenty-fifth Amendment
   c. The Twenty-fourth Amendment
   d. The Tenth Amendment
   e. The Twentieth Amendment
Chapter 12: The Presidency

25. A pocket veto results if:
   a. the president does not send a bill back to Congress within ten congressional working days.
   b. the president sends a bill back to Congress after rejecting just one item in the bill on the grounds of constitutionality.
   c. Congress overrides a presidential veto with a two-thirds vote by the members present in each chamber within ten congressional working days.
   d. the president refuses to sign a bill and Congress adjourns within ten working days after the bill has been submitted to the president.
   e. Congress revises a bill after a presidential veto and the president approves the revised bill within ten congressional working days.

26. Which of the following statements is true of the president's veto power?
   a. If the president does not send a bill back to Congress after ten congressional working days, the bill is killed for that session of Congress.
   b. Congress can override a presidential veto with a two-thirds vote by the members present in each chamber.
   c. The president can override a congressional veto by a two-thirds majority vote from his or her political party.
   d. If the president signs a bill within ten congressional working days after the bill is submitted, the result is a pocket veto.
   e. The result of a presidential veto override by Congress is that the bill is reintroduced in the next session of Congress.

27. Identify a true statement about the president's power to influence the country's economy.
   a. The president's ability to control the level of economic activity is not subject to any limits.
   b. The president must go public to influence the economy of the country.
   c. Each year, the president sends Congress a suggested budget about the amounts of money the government will need for its programs.
   d. The president sends the President's Finance Report, which recommends ways to improve the nation's economy, to Congress.
   e. Every two years, the president sends a suggested budget report that presents the current state of the nation's economy to his political party.

28. Identify a perk associated with the presidency of the United States.
   a. The president can start his or her own for-profit ventures.
   b. The president need not pay for the tuition of his or her children.
   c. The president is exempt from paying federal taxes.
   d. The president need not pay for his or her personal expenses.
   e. The president enjoys the use of the White House.

29. Of all of the executive staff agencies, the__________has the most direct contact with the president.
   a. White House Office
   b. National Security Council
   c. Office of Management and Budget
   d. Office of Administration
   e. Central Intelligence Agency
Chapter 12: The Presidency

30. As _____, the president of the United States can veto a bill passed by Congress and can call special sessions of Congress.
   a. chief diplomat
   b. head of state
   c. commander in chief
   d. chief legislator
   e. chief executive

31. The War Powers Resolution of 1973 is intended to check the president's power to_______.
   a. pass legislation and appropriate the military budget
   b. raise and maintain the country's armed forces
   c. sign peace treaties to end wars with other nations
   d. involve the nation in a war without the consent of Congress
   e. create trade agreements with other nations

32. Elected officials often indulge in the practice of patronage because they:
   a. need money to pay national debts.
   b. are beholden to the party members who put them in office.
   c. are required to appoint Congress members from the members of the winning team.
   d. prefer to be diplomatic in their approach.
   e. are the de facto leaders of their political parties.

33. Which of the following statements is true of executive privilege?
   a. It is nontransferable to successors in a particular executive post.
   b. It is described explicitly in the Constitution of the United States.
   c. It protects the privacy of the Senate.
   d. It gives the president the power to refuse to appear before the courts.
   e. It is claimed by members of Congress.

34. In the context of the American system of government, which of the following statements is true of the president and members of Congress?
   a. Both have a common national focus.
   b. Both face different election cycles.
   c. Both have similar constituencies.
   d. Neither has the power to appropriate budgetary money.
   e. Neither has the power to set foreign policies.

35. As _____, the president of the United States enforces laws and federal court decisions, along with treaties approved by the United States.
   a. chief legislator
   b. commander in chief
   c. chief executive
   d. head of state
   e. chief diplomat
Chapter 12: The Presidency

36. Which of the following statements is true of the constitutional provisions of war powers in the United States?
   a. The president, as commander in chief of the armed forces, has the power to declare war.
   b. Congress has the sole power to deploy the armed forces.
   c. Congress has the power to raise and maintain the country's armed forces.
   d. The president is required to notify Congress within twenty-four hours of deploying troops.
   e. Congress has the power to commit troops for up to fifty days in response to a military threat.

37. The U.S. president travels at all times with a briefcase called the "football." Which of the following best describes the contents of the "football"?
   a. The presidential plans to deal with an emergency
   b. The codes used to launch a nuclear attack
   c. The details of America's most-wanted criminals
   d. The passwords of highly confidential presidential accounts
   e. The treaties signed with other nations

38. Identify a true statement about a pardon.
   a. It partially restores a person's rights and privileges of citizenship.
   b. It is not applicable to cases of impeachment.
   c. It is a monetary reward given to prisoners for good behavior in prison.
   d. It serves as a check on the federal legislature.
   e. It empowers Congress to regulate the powers of the president.

39. Which of the following duties is performed by the president of the United States as head of state?
   a. Making secret agreements with other countries
   b. Granting reprieves, pardons, and amnesties
   c. Decorating war heroes
   d. Making pacts with other heads of state
   e. Deploying the armed forces

40. Which of the following statements is true of presidential succession in the United States?
   a. The Twenty-second Amendment addresses the question of how the vice president should fill a vacant presidency.
   b. If the president becomes incapable of carrying out necessary duties while in office, the Senate elects a new president from among its members.
   c. In the event of the death or resignation of the president, the president's son or daughter is appointed the next president.
   d. The vice president is in a position to become the nation's chief executive should the president die, be impeached and convicted, or resign the presidential office.
   e. If the vice president temporarily fills the office of president, a hundred percent vote of both chambers of Congress is required for the vice president to remain acting president.

41. The ability to _____ gives Congress an advantage over the president.
   a. grant reprieves and pardons
   b. regulate foreign and interstate commerce
   c. influence public opinions
Chapter 12: The Presidency

d. deal with national crises  
e. make decisions in foreign affairs

42. To be eligible to the office of president, a person must have been a resident within the United States for a minimum of _____ years.
   a. twenty-eight  
b. fifteen  
c. thirty-five  
d. fourteen  
e. twelve

43. The refusal by an official, such as the president of the United States or a state governor, to sign a bill into law is known as a _____.
   a. veto  
b. writ  
c. subpoena  
d. pardon  
e. reprieve

44. The president has the advantage over Congress in:
   a. authorizing legislation.  
b. regulating foreign and interstate commerce.  
c. appropriating budgetary money.  
d. formally declaring war.  
e. influencing public opinion.

45. Which of the following statements is true of executive agreements?
   a. They do not have the same legal status as treaties.  
b. They deal solely with domestic affairs.  
c. They are pacts between the federal government and the state governments.  
d. They enhance presidential power in foreign affairs.  
e. They are used far less than treaties in making foreign policy.

46. Which of the following political offices shapes domestic policy and global developments and is the most powerful and influential political office that any one individual can hold?
   a. Supreme Court Justice  
b. Attorney General  
c. President of the United States  
d. Queen of England  
e. Speaker of the House

47. The most common previous occupation of U.S. presidents is _____.
   a. medical profession  
b. legal profession
Chapter 12: The Presidency

48. In 2008, about _____ percent of Americans told pollsters that they would be willing to support an African American for president.
   a. 15
   b. 30
   c. 68
   d. 90
   e. 99

49. The person who serves as the ceremonial head of a country’s government and represents that country to the rest of the world is known as the ______.
   a. chief legislator
   b. commander in chief
   c. chief executive
   d. head of state
   e. chief diplomat

50. Some make the argument that presidents should not perform the duties of the _____ due to the president’s time constraints.
   a. head of state
   b. commander in chief
   c. chief executive
   d. chief legislator
   e. chief diplomat

51. A person who represents one country in dealing with representatives of another country is known as a(n) ______.
   a. head of state
   b. ambassador
   c. diplomat
   d. chief legislator
   e. patron

52. The 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) was between the United States and _____.
   a. North Korea
   b. China
   c. Turkey
   d. Israel
   e. Russia

53. The presidential power of ____ was ruled unconstitutional in 1998.
   a. veto
Chapter 12: The Presidency

b. line-item veto
c. patronage
d. presidential pardon
e. treaty negotiation

54. A written statement, appended to a bill at the time the president signs it into law, indicating how the president interprets that legislation is known as a(n) _____.
   a. veto
   b. line-item veto
   c. signing statement
   d. presidential suggestion
   e. bill negotiation

55. Which of the following people laid the groundwork for the president’s active role in foreign policy?
   a. William Howard Taft
   b. Franklin D. Roosevelt
   c. Abraham Lincoln
   d. Alexander Hamilton
   e. George Washington

Essay

56. Discuss the responsibilities of the staff of the White House Office.

57. In the context of the American system of government, describe the advantages Congress has over the president.

58. Explain the roles of the president as commander in chief and head of state in the United States.

59. In the context of presidential and vice-presidential vacancies in the United States, discuss the provisions of the Twenty-fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

60. Discuss the U.S. president's veto power.