

Chapter 5

Multiple Choice/Fill in the Blank

3. Elected state executive officials are subject to which term limits?
- one four-year term
 - two four-year terms, but they can run for the same office after a six-year break
 - two four-year terms, and they can never run for the same office again
 - none; they are not subject to term limits
5. The length of an executive office's term is:
- one year
 - two years
 - four years
 - six years
6. California has a _____ executive, in which power is _____.
- plural; split among several Constitutional officers
 - unitary; concentrated in the governor alone
 - singular; split between the governor and the department heads he appoints
 - none of the above
17. Which organization within the executive branch is responsible for proposing and shaping the annual budget?
- Legislative Counsel
 - Treasurer's Office
 - Controller's Office
 - Department of Finance
- Type: F
18. 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
23. The attorney general is also known as
- the state's chief law enforcement officer
 - head of the judicial branch
 - secretary of justice
 - the lieutenant governor
26. The state constitutional officer who oversees all aspects of federal and state elections is the:
- State Clerk
 - County Elections Clerk
 - Secretary of State
 - Attorney General

27. 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

28. 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

29. 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

30. The Board of Equalization consists of _____ members who are responsible for standardizing the tax systems in the state, as well as collecting sales and use fees, and excise taxes.

- a. three
- b. five
- c. ten
- d. twenty

36. 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

Type: F

38. The three constitutional executive offices dedicated to managing the state's money and finances are _____, _____, and _____.

- a. Treasurer, Controller, State Board of Equalization

39. Which state executive(s) oversee the standardization of tax systems in the state, and also collect sales, use, and excise taxes?

- a. the controller and treasurer
- b. all 12 of them

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- c. the state board of equalization
- d. the controller only

41. Approximately how many public employees comprise the state bureaucracy?

- a. 120,000
- b. 230,000
- c. 500,000
- d. 1 million

42. Who is responsible for appointing members to the more than 320 boards and commissions that share regulatory authority with the governor?

- a. the governor
- b. the secretary of state
- c. the voters
- d. the Assembly

43. To whom are the constitutional executives accountable?

- a. the people of California
- b. the governor
- c. the Attorney General
- d. no one

45. 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 policy making and planning.

50. 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

51. All state executives have the duty to

- a. write laws
- b. run elections and campaigns
- c. carry out laws and policies
- d. all of the above

52. Which officials form the governor's cabinet?

- a. secretaries of the superagencies and other large departments
- b. only members of independent agencies

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- c. the other eleven elected state officials
- d. all members of the state's commissions and boards

53. 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 eleven elected state officials
- d. state boards and commissions

56. 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

Type: F

58. Because there are nine separately elected executives, California has a "_____ " executive, meaning that power is split among several Constitutional officers.

- a. Plural

59. 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

Type: F

60. Next to the governor, which executive officer possesses the most power?

- a. the attorney general

(NOTE: this question also appears in Chapter 2)

61. Jerry Brown has been allowed to serve a record four terms as governor of California because:

- a. he served his first two terms before term limits were enacted
- b. the term limits law was changed recently to allow governors to serve four terms
- c. term limits don't apply to the governor's office
- d. he switched political parties

65. How many times per year do the twelve elected executive officers meet together to strategize and coordinate policy?

- a. once a week
- b. once a month

- c. twice a year
- d. never

67. 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

68. 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

69. 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

70. 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

Essay or Short Answer Questions

Type: E

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

- a. Governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, controller, treasurer, superintendent of public instruction, insurance commissioner, board of equalization

Type: E

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

- a. 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).

Type: E

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

a. Varies. Under term limits, the constitutional officers may serve two four-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."

Type: E

10. Describe the governor's responsibilities.

a. 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, s/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, acts as commander in chief of the state's National Guard.

Type: E

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

a. Varies. The governor is charged with "executing" or carrying out California's laws, and s/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.

Type: E

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

a. 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).

Type: E

13. What are the governor's budgeting responsibilities?

a. The governor proposes an annual state budget and submits it to the legislature on or before January 10th every year. The Dept. 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.

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

a. The 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; s/he can pardon individuals or commute sentences, but must report all reprieves and the reasons for them to the legislature.

Type: E

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

a. 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.

Type: E

31. What are the responsibilities of the lieutenant governor?

a. The "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.

Type: E

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

a. The 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.

Type: E

33. What are the responsibilities of the attorney general?

a. The 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."

Type: E

34. What does the insurance commissioner's job entail?

a. collecting and disclosing all insurance company campaign donations to state politicians
b. reviewing and pre-approving 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

Type: E

35. Explain what the superintendent of public instruction does.

a. As 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. S/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.

Type: E

44. Explain what is meant by "plural executive."

a. In California, the executive branch is headed by not just one, but twelve 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.

Type: E

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

a. There 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 four to sixteen smaller agencies (refer to the organizational chart on pages 74-75). 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; California Transportation Commission.

Type: E

55. Why are several agencies called "superagencies"?

a. Superagencies act as umbrella organizations for the smaller departments, boards, and

commissions nested within them (anywhere from five to sixteen entities within them).

Type: E

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

a. 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 s/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.

Type: E

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

a. 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 s/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 eight years.

True or False Questions

1. The governor resembles the U.S. President in that s/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.

- a. True
- b. False

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

- a. True
- b. False

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

- a. True
- b. False

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

- a. True
- b. False

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

- a. True
- b. False

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

- a. True
- b. False

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

- a. True
- b. False

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

- a. True
- b. False

24. 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.

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- a. True
- b. False

25. 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.

- a. True
- b. False

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

- a. True
- b. False

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

- a. True
- b. False

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

- a. True
- b. False

47. All state elected executives earn the same salary: \$133,100.

- a. True
- b. False

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

- a. True
- b. False

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

- a. True
- b. False

(NOTE: this question also appears in Chapter 2)

62. Unless the term limits law is changed again, Jerry Brown will be the only person in state history to have served four terms as governor.

- a. True
- b. False

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

- a. True
- b. False

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64. Like legislators, the governor employs personal staff who analyze and research bills.
- a. True
 - b. False

66. Civil service laws protect almost 99 percent 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).
- a. True
 - b. False