

Chapter 11 - The Congress

1. Which term refers to a Congress consisting of two chambers?
 - a. bicameral judiciary
 - b. bicameral legislature
 - c. bicameral cabinet
 - d. bipartisan filibuster
 - e. bipartisan caucus
2. 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 a smaller number of senators to smaller states than to larger states.
3. What is true about seats in the House of Representatives?
 - 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.
4. Who does the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands send to the House of Representatives?
 - a. polling officers
 - b. election commissioners
 - c. heads of state
 - d. nonvoting delegates
 - e. voting resident commissioners
5. Which territory has a self-governing possession of the United States and is represented by a nonvoting resident commissioner?
 - a. Puerto Rico
 - b. New Mexico
 - c. Delaware
 - d. Vermont
 - e. New Jersey
6. Which of the following is a difference between senators and representatives?
 - a. Senators mirror the views of their constituents, regardless of their opinions, whereas representatives follow their own ideals.
 - b. Senators are elected to represent all of the people in a state, whereas representatives are elected by the voters of a particular area.
 - c. Senators are elected every second year by popular vote, whereas representatives are elected every six years by popular vote.
 - d. Senators must be at least twenty-five years of age, whereas representatives must be at least thirty years of age.

Chapter 11 - The Congress

- e. Senators need not be residents of the state from which they are elected, whereas representatives must be legal residents of the state from which they are elected.
7. In 1842, Congress passed an act that required all states to send representatives to Congress. Where do these representatives come from?
- public districts
 - state-held districts
 - representative districts
 - anonymous-member districts
 - single-member districts
8. How many Representatives serve in the House?
- 535
 - 100
 - 335
 - 435
 - 150
9. By default, the lines of the congressional districts are drawn by which group?
- state legislatures
 - standing committees
 - Judiciaries
 - independent regulatory committees
 - executive agencies
10. Which of the following requirements must be met by a state in drawing congressional district boundaries?
- 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.
 - Districts in a given state must not be geographically compact.
 - Larger districts in a state must have a greater number of voters than smaller districts.
 - Districts in a given state must have contiguous boundaries.
 - The task of redistricting must always be handled by independent commissions instead of state legislatures.
11. 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. What is this a characteristic of?
- pigeonholing
 - gerrymandering
 - filibustering
 - logrolling
 - lobbying
12. In the context of gerrymandering, what makes congressional races less competitive?
- packing and cracking
 - filibustering and cloture
 - pigeonholing and lobbying

Chapter 11 - The Congress

- d. pocket veto and line-item veto
 - e. authorization and appropriation
13. Which of the following statements represents the view of the proponents of racial gerrymandering?
- a. Minority-majority districts have played no role in increasing the number of African Americans holding political office.
 - b. Minority-majority districts are necessary to ensure equal representation of minority groups.
 - c. Race-based districting is unconstitutional.
 - d. Race-based districting violates the equal protection clause.
 - e. Congress has a right to determine who benefits from government spending.
14. Opponents of racial gerrymandering argue that race-based districting is unconstitutional because it violates the which clause?
- a. equal protection
 - b. equal participation
 - c. equal appropriation
 - d. equal apportionment
 - e. equal representation
15. A senator from a nation is in favor of environmental regulations that forbid industries from disposing of chemical wastes in rivers, despite the fact that many companies in the nation might come under scrutiny for the violation of such regulations. This scenario illustrates which view of representation taken by Congress members?
- a. The trustee view of representation
 - b. The instructed-delegate view of representation
 - c. The special-interest view of representation
 - d. The bipartisan view of representation
 - e. The partisan view of representation
16. 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
17. How often does the U.S. Constitution require 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.
18. What does the constitution require for a person to be a member of the House of Representatives?
- a. He or she must have been a citizen of the United States for at least five years before his or her election.
 - b. He or she must have a master's degree in law.

Chapter 11 - The Congress

- c. He or she must own property in the United States.
 - d. He or she must be at least twenty-five years of age.
 - e. He or she must have been a member of the Senate for at least two years.
19. 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.
 - 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.
20. Which of the following is a common requirement that must be met by a person to either become a member of the House of Representatives or be elected to the Senate?
- a. In both cases, the person must have a master's degree in law.
 - b. In both cases, the person must be a legal resident of the state from which he or she is to be elected.
 - c. In both cases, the person must have been a citizen of the United States for at least five years before his or her election.
 - d. In both cases, the person must own property in the United States.
 - e. In both cases, the person must be at least twenty-five years of age.
21. Which of the following is a downside of incumbency advantages?
- a. Limited access to media
 - b. Suppression of voter turnout
 - c. Withdrawal of powers related to the formulation of law
 - d. Lack of professional staffs
 - e. Less recognition
22. How often does a "new" Congress convene?
- 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.
23. 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.
24. What determines the leadership and organization in both chambers of Congress?
- a. the provisions in Article II of the Constitution.

Chapter 11 - The Congress

- b. the "one person, one vote" rule.
 - c. membership in the two major political parties.
 - d. political gerrymandering.
 - e. the rules established by the federal judiciary.
25. Who acts as the presiding officer in the House of Representatives?
- a. vice president.
 - b. Speaker of the House.
 - c. resident commissioner.
 - d. president pro tempore.
 - e. House delegate
26. What is true 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.
27. Under the House rules, when is the only time the Speaker of the House must vote?
- a. a filibuster occurs.
 - b. the president pro tempore is absent.
 - c. there is a tie.
 - d. the president vetoes a bill.
 - e. a cloture is invoked.
28. What occurs when the Speaker of the House creates a tie by choosing to vote?
- a. the voting will take place again
 - b. the president pro tempore will be asked to cast a vote
 - c. the Speaker's vote will be considered invalid
 - d. whips will decide how to break the tie
 - e. the proposal will be defeated
29. What member 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
30. Who serves as the presiding officer of the Senate in the absence of the vice president?
- a. resident commissioner
 - b. minority leader

Chapter 11 - The Congress

- c. president pro tempore
 - d. Speaker of the House
 - e. majority leader
31. 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.
32. What type of committee is the Homeland Security Committee?
- a. standing committee
 - b. joint committee
 - c. conference committee
 - d. special committee
 - e. select committee
33. 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
 - 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
34. what occurs if the leadership in either chamber of Congress believes that an acceptable compromise with the other chamber is impossible?
- a. it can block legislation simply by refusing to appoint members to a conference committee.
 - b. it can directly send a bill to the White House to be signed into law.
 - c. it can block legislation only in the case of bills associated with the federal budget resolution.
 - d. it can approach relevant interest groups and administrative agencies for their views.
 - e. the president can interfere and make a decision on behalf of both the chambers.
35. What is a difference between House members and Senate members?
- a. House members have a term of six years, whereas Senate members have a term of two years.
 - b. House members are elected by state legislatures, whereas Senate members are always elected by voters.
 - c. House members are chosen from local districts, whereas Senate members are chosen from the entire state.
 - d. House members can convict federal officials of impeachable offenses, whereas Senate members can indict federal officials.
 - e. House members have more prestige, whereas Senate members have less prestige.
36. Which of the following is a true statement about the House of Representatives and the Senate?
- a. House members are chosen from the entire state, whereas the Senate members are chosen from local districts.

Chapter 11 - The Congress

- b. The House has only 100 members, whereas the Senate has 435 voting members.
 - c. The House has fewer rules and restrictions, whereas the Senate has more formal rules.
 - d. The House permits limited debate, whereas the Senate permits extended debate.
 - e. The House is characterized by national leadership, whereas the Senate is characterized by local leadership.
37. 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.
38. What is true 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.
 - 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.
39. Which committee 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
40. How many senator signatures are required on a petition, under Senate Rule 22, to request cloture?
- a. Twenty
 - b. Ten
 - c. Fifteen
 - d. Eighteen
 - e. Sixteen
41. 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.
42. When a committee chairperson sets a bill aside to ignore it rather than to send it to a subcommittee, what is said of the bill?
- a. pigeonholed
 - b. vetoed

Chapter 11 - The Congress

- c. marked up
- d. reported
- e. referred

43. The Senate Appropriations Committee on Defense convenes to expand a clause in its proposed bill on military assistance for counter-terrorism operations in the United States. In this case, what is the Senate Appropriations Committee on Defense doing?

- a. making a floor vote
- b. holding an authorization debate
- c. holding a markup session
- d. filibustering
- e. invoking a cloture

44. How does the Senate bring a bill to the floor?

- a. by using the nuclear option.
- b. by unanimous consent.
- c. by invoking a cloture.
- d. by filibustering.
- e. by exercising a pocket veto.

45. Which organization's most important function 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

46. 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

47. Congress has the power of impeachment over whom?

- a. an opinion leader
- b. a governor
- c. the president
- d. the members of interest groups
- e. party supporters

48. 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.

Chapter 11 - The Congress

- 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.
49. 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.
50. What is another term for the constitutional option?
- a. apportionment option
 - b. earmark option
 - c. nuclear option
 - d. veto option
 - e. bicameral option
51. What 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
52. 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
53. Which of the following is an example of an entitlement program?
- a. The Civil Rights Act
 - b. The Patriot Act
 - c. Military spending
 - d. Obamacare
 - e. Earmarks
54. What is passed when Congress is unable to pass a complete budget by the beginning of the fiscal year, and needs to enable the executive agencies to keep on doing whatever they were doing the previous year with the same amount of

Chapter 11 - The Congress

funding?

- a. continuing resolutions
- b. Referendums
- c. tax increase bills
- d. nuclear option resolutions
- e. outlays and obligations bills

55. What occurs 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
- 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

56. What is it called when, in the past, members of Congress often took advantage of the vote to raise the debt ceiling to show off their opposition to federal spending?

- a. cloture
- b. filibuster
- c. caucus
- d. grandstand
- e. apportion

57. Explain the process for a bill to be enacted into law if the president vetoes the bill.

58. Explain the impeachment process for the president.

59. Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution states that the president may appoint certain officers of the United States "with the Advice and Consent of the Senate." Explain the "advice and consent" process.

60. Define appropriations in the budgeting process.

61. Explain the budgeting process in the legislature.

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

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

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

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

66. In the context of the budgeting process, explain authorization.

67. What is the division of seats in the House based on population in the states called?

- a. appropriation
- b. apportionment

Chapter 11 - The Congress

- c. filibustering
- d. cloture
- e. voting

68. In addition to the requirement for contiguous boundaries, what else is required of districts to ensure requirement to ensure equal representation in the House of Representatives?

- a. districts must be geographically compact
- b. districts must be politically unified
- c. districts must be politically monolithic
- d. districts must be malapportioned
- e. districts must represent one party

69. Under which view would a legislator act according to her or his conscience and perception of national needs?

- a. Trustee
- b. Instructed-delegate
- c. Opinion leader
- d. Whip
- e. Politico

70. On legislative issues, there are times when members of Congress are very attentive to the wishes of the party leadership. What type of representation is this?

- a. Social-mirror view
- b. Trustee view
- c. Instructed-delegate view
- d. Partisan view
- e. Politico view

71. Under Article I, Section 4, of the Constitution, who controls the "Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representative?"

- a. the appellate courts
- b. the town mayors
- c. the state legislatures
- d. the state governors
- e. the Supreme Court

72. What is someone called who is already in office and running for reelection?

- a. nominee
- b. partisan
- c. incumbent
- d. sophomore
- e. senior

73. The Supreme Court has ruled that state-level attempts to impose what on members of the U.S. House or Senate is unconstitutional?

- a. age limits

Chapter 11 - The Congress

- b. term limits
- c. cloture limits
- d. participation limits
- e. background checks

74. What is unlimited debate in the Senate to obstruct legislation called?

- a. gerrymandering
- b. overriding
- c. filibustering
- d. impeaching
- e. redistricting

75. Once cloture is invoked, each senator may speak on a bill for no more than one hour before a vote is taken, and a final vote must take place within how many hours?

- a. Seventy-five
- b. One hundred
- c. Two hundred
- d. Fifty
- e. Twenty-four