

## Chapter 03

### Multiple Choice

1. Which statement most accurately describes France?
  - a. It is about the size of New Jersey.
  - b. It is very populous but has a low population density.
  - c. It is very populous and has a high population density.
  - d. Its capital is not its largest city.
2. The Edict of Nantes was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. agreement that united various principalities into the country of France
  - b. decree issued by Henry IV that granted Protestants limited religious liberty
  - c. law passed by Charlemagne that divided France among his sons
  - d. founding document of the *ancien régime*
3. What was the *Ancien Régime*?
  - a. The established monarchy that existed before the current governmental system
  - b. A system created by Louis XIV that consisted of the Catholic Church, and a system of taxes that burdened peasants, urban workers, and the middle class
  - c. The military in premodern times
  - d. A system created by Charlemagne that consisted of an absolutist state, the Catholic Church, and a system of taxes and feudal princes that burdened peasants, urban workers, and the middle class
4. Which of the following is NOT correct about the French Revolution?
  - a. It inspired national uprisings elsewhere in Europe.
  - b. It replaced the monarchy with a republic.
  - c. It was an international revolution.
  - d. It was bloodless.
5. Which characteristic is shared by both the *Ancien Regime* and the regimes that followed the French Revolution?
  - a. The state was powerful.
  - b. The state championed the values of liberty, equality, and fraternity.
  - c. The Catholic Church was a strong supporter of the regime.
  - d. France was ruled by a parliament.
6. France experienced a slow decline following Napoleon's defeat until World War II for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:
  - a. Political instability
  - b. Protectionist trade policies
  - c. Rapid population growth
  - d. A powerful parliament and a weak executive
7. The Vichy Regime
  - a. was actively resisted by most French, resulting in one of the bloodiest civil wars in 20<sup>th</sup> century European history.

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- b. was the only political regime in Western Europe not directly under German occupation to actively support the Nazi regime, sending 76,000 Jews to German concentration camps.
  - c. developed a strong economy that became a model for postwar France.
  - d. was an authoritarian puppet regime based in northern France.
8. Which of the following accurately characterizes the relationship of the Fourth and Fifth Republics?
- a. In comparison to the Fifth Republic, the Fourth Republic's political institutions were more effective in facilitating strong executive leadership.
  - b. In comparison to the Fourth Republic, the Fifth Republic's political institutions were more effective in facilitating strong executive leadership.
  - c. Fewer political parties were represented in the parliament of the Fourth Republic than that of the Fifth Republic.
  - d. The legislature is much stronger in the Fifth Republic than in the Fourth Republic due to the one term limit applied to the presidency.
9. Proportional representation is a system
- a. in which most of the seats in the legislature are distributed to the party that receives the majority of votes.
  - b. in which seats in the legislature are allotted to parties in proportion to the number of votes that a party receives.
  - c. in which all parties participating in an election are guaranteed a certain number of seats.
  - d. that is inherently unfair because it hinders minor parties.
10. Policies that aim to transfer some governmental decision-making power from higher to lower levels of government are called
- a. conservative.
  - b. decentralization.
  - c. referendum.
  - d. authoritarian.
11. The Fourth Republic
- a. was dominated by a strong executive
  - b. is another name for the Vichy Regime
  - c. fell because of its inability to resolve a crisis in Algeria
  - d. fell because of its inability to resolve a crisis in Vietnam
12. The year 2005 marked an important step in the relationship between France and the European Union because
- a. French voters rejected a referendum proposing a revised draft of the EU constitution.
  - b. French citizens voted to withdraw from the European Union.
  - c. It was the first time that a French citizen became the president of the European Union.
  - d. France announced it would no longer accept the rulings of the European Court of Justice.
13. When observers say that there was another French Revolution in the post-World War II period, they are referring to
- a. the creation of the Fifth Republic.
  - b. economic and social modernization that upset the moral foundations and social equilibrium of the country.

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- c. the development of a practice of judicial review in the country.
  - d. the country's increasing integration with the European Union.
14. Indicative planning refers to
- a. the state establishing a national plan identifying desirable priorities for economic and social development
  - b. the state selecting particular, or "indicated," industrial and financial firms that were privately owned to take over in an attempt to pursue economic modernization
  - c. the practice of the French president indicating his economic preferences in an annual speech to the parliament so that it might plan its activity accordingly
  - d. the common practice of governments indicating their preferences before an international summit
15. The pattern of state economic guidance that prevailed in France since the end of World War II has been called
- a. statism.
  - b. communitarianism.
  - c. neoliberalism.
  - d. nationalization.
16. Industrial policy refers to
- a. the use of state resources to promote the development of particular economic sectors.
  - b. the state setting goals for particular industries.
  - c. the state purchasing stock in particular industries.
  - d. regulating competition between large industrial firms.
17. The French philosopher and novelist who published "The Second Sex" after World War II, that analyzed the social processes assigning woman to a secondary role in society, is:
- a. Simone de Beauvoir
  - b. Katherine Pancol
  - c. Margaret A Simons
  - d. Jeanne-Elizabeth Schmahl
18. Since 1983, France has generally pursued neoliberal economic strategies, including
- a. sharply cutting social spending and erecting trade barriers to protect domestic industries.
  - b. privatization and deregulation.
  - c. liberalization and nationalization.
  - d. inviting greater foreign capital investment but also erecting trade barriers.
19. Which of the following does NOT explain why France is consistently ranked low in terms of its economic competitiveness?
- a. It devotes fewer resources to technological innovation than other advanced economies.
  - b. It has a high level of public debt.
  - c. Elements of statism persist.
  - d. The percentage of its GDP that comes from imports and exports is very low.
20. Social programs in France include all of the following EXCEPT:

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- a. Guaranteed income levels for all French citizens
  - b. Universal health coverage
  - c. Extensive educational benefits from preschool through university
  - d. Public housing, rent subsidies, and five weeks of paid vacation
21. One result of France's extensive social programs is
- a. that citizens are immigrating to other countries in order to avoid intrusive government interference in their private lives.
  - b. increased public support for the European Union.
  - c. immigration to France is strictly limited in order to avoid a large influx of persons wanting to take advantage of such programs.
  - d. that social spending accounts for one third of French GDP.
22. In order to qualify for a high-level position, one must graduate from an elite educational establishment called
- a. grande école.
  - b. grand corps.
  - c. Cour de cassation.
  - d. Conseil d'État.
23. The decline in the French executive's power in recent years can be explained by all of the following factors EXCEPT
- a. a constitutional amendment that proclaims the organization of the French state to be decentralized.
  - b. the reduced role of the state in economic affairs.
  - c. the transfer of power to subnational governments.
  - d. the passage of laws that have resulted in stronger committees in the French parliament.
24. In France, the impeachment procedure
- a. has been used quite often during the Fourth and Fifth Republic.
  - b. does not exist, and only a vote of no confidence can be used to remove the executive.
  - c. exists but has never been used.
  - d. triggers new parliamentary and presidential elections if successful
25. The governmental system used in France today is called a
- a. presidential system.
  - b. parliamentary system
  - c. hybrid system.
  - d. semi-presidential system.
26. Which one of the following features is found in the French semi-presidential system, but not in a classic presidential system like the United States?
- a. There is a dual executive.
  - b. Parliament can force the president to resign.
  - c. The president is elected by the entire country by universal suffrage.
  - d. The legislature can defeat legislation proposed by the government.

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27. Cohabitation is the
- a. practice of the president and prime minister both taking up residence at Elysee Palace
  - b. fusion of executive and legislative branches
  - c. merging of French and European Union law
  - d. situation in which the president leads one political coalition and a rival coalition controls the National Assembly
28. Why do French call the social programs a social fracture?
- a. Access to many social programs is unequal.
  - b. Social programs are very popular.
  - c. Unemployment is lower, but benefits are also less.
  - d. Pensions are handsome for the elderly.
29. Which of the following men expanded the power of the French presidency?
- a. François Mitterrand
  - b. Jacques Chirac
  - c. Georges Pompidou
  - d. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing
30. The two-ballot system used in presidential elections means that
- a. citizens vote for the president and prime minister on separate ballots.
  - b. if no candidate wins a majority on the first ballot, a run-off election is held between the top two candidates.
  - c. citizens vote for the president and the National Assembly on separate ballots.
  - d. citizens vote for the individual on one ballot and the party on another.
31. The powers of the president include all of the following EXCEPT
- a. naming the prime minister and other high-level government officials.
  - b. directing the armed forces and controlling the country's nuclear forces.
  - c. dissolving the National Assembly and calling for new elections.
  - d. Appointing three of the nine members of the Constitutional Council
32. The roles of the prime minister during unified control include all of the following EXCEPT
- a. providing the president with parliamentary support for government policies.
  - b. assuring the execution of laws.
  - c. being responsible for national defense.
  - d. assuming direct responsibility for policy-making and policy implementation.
33. The last experience of cohabitation (1997–2002) produced what reform?
- a. Run-off elections would be held until the same coalition holds both the presidency and the National Assembly.
  - b. The president's term was reduced to five years, and elections for the president and National Assembly would be held at the same time.
  - c. The National Assembly would be dissolved, and new elections called in the event of cohabitation.
  - d. The president was permitted to reject the initial nominee for prime minister in the event of cohabitation, but would have to accept the subsequent choice.

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34. Why is the *grand corps* so powerful?

- a. The Constitution delegates them important policy-making powers.
- b. They can veto the government's policy proposals.
- c. They control the nominating process for the president.
- d. They fill top executive positions in the private sector and often go on to elected positions in government.

35. Which of the following statements is TRUE about judicial review in France?

- a. The power of judicial review is limited to the State Council.
- b. The power of judicial review in France rests with the Senate.
- c. Within the French judicial system, the Constitutional Council has the exclusive power of judicial review, meaning that it alone can rule on the legality of a law.
- d. The Constitutional Council only has one month to review a law for its constitutionality after that law has been passed.

36. Members of the Constitutional Council

- a. have always been lower court justices prior to their appointment.
- b. continue to play only a marginal role when compared to the legislative and executive branches
- c. are typically male.
- d. perform the role of proactive judicial review, in that they review bills before they are voted upon in the National Assembly.

37. What is the main purpose of the State Council?

- a. To settle disputes between France's central and subnational governments
- b. To supervise the actions of the French executive
- c. To mediate disputes between French public employees and the French government
- d. To advise the French president on national security matters

38. All of the following are powers the executive branch has over the parliament EXCEPT the

- a. Executive branch can issue legally binding decrees in areas outside of parliament control.
- b. government has control over the legislature's agenda.
- c. president can appoint deputies to the parliament.
- d. government can call for a single vote on all or a portion of a bill.

39. What happens when the National Assembly votes on a motion of no confidence or censure of the government?

- a. The government must publicly apologize.
- b. The government must call new legislative elections.
- c. The government must introduce new legislation along the lines demanded by parliament.
- d. The government must resign.

40. Which of the following statements about the National Assembly is INCORRECT?

- a. Its members are elected through a two-ballot, single-district procedure.
- b. It is the stronger chamber of parliament.
- c. It can censure the government.
- d. It is called the upper house because it is the stronger chamber of parliament.

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41. Which of the following is a major difference in the law-making process used in France and that used in the United States?

- a. In both countries, most bills are introduced by the executive branch, therefore, there is no major difference.
- b. In both countries, bills must be passed in identical forms by both chambers of the legislature, therefore, there is no difference.
- c. In France, a bill must be scrutinized by the State Council to determine its impact on subnational governments; such a process does not exist in the United States.
- d. In France, it is possible that a bill, once passed, can be submitted to the Constitutional Council for judicial review; such a process is not possible in the United States.

42. Which organization has exploited the combination of economic stagnation, high unemployment, and terrorist attacks to fan the flames of anti-immigrant sentiment?

- a. FN
- b. National assembly
- c. Senate
- d. French trade unions

43. Which of the following statements about the French Senate is INCORRECT?

- a. It is called the upper chamber because it is the more powerful chamber of parliament.
- b. It usually has a conservative political orientation.
- c. Its approval is needed for constitutional amendments.
- d. Its members are elected by an electoral college.

44. Which movement was in part provoked by the opposition of young French people to what they regarded as hierarchical, conservative values?

- a. The May 1968 upheaval
- b. The Philosophical movement
- c. The Resistance movement
- d. The Algerian independence movement

45. Which of the following statements about the *Socialist Party* (PS) is INCORRECT?

- a. It first came to power with François Mitterrand in 1981.
- b. It is a center-left party.
- c. It was formerly known as the Communist Party of France, but changed its name in the late 1970s.
- d. It put forward the first female presidential candidate.

46. Which of the following statements about the *Front National* is INCORRECT?

- a. It has consistently been hostile to Muslims.
- b. Its members have been invited to join the cabinet in conservative UMP-led governments.
- c. It has become popular in part because of the convergence of center-right and center-left parties.
- d. In recent years, it has downplayed its anti-Semitic and homophobic themes in an attempt to attract younger voters.

47. A crisis of political representation and France's party system is indicated by all of the following EXCEPT

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- a. increasingly unstable voting patterns.
  - b. the challenge of fringe parties like the Front National to mainstream parties.
  - c. declining voter turnout.
  - d. the rise of independent candidates for president.
48. Which of the following accurately describes the dominant French approach to national identity?
- a. National identity is based on the value of multiculturalism, in which the diverse cultures of immigrant groups enrich French culture.
  - b. French national identity embodies universally valid, secular, and republican values.
  - c. French national identity is primarily a result of the country's Catholic heritage.
  - d. National identity is rooted in the shared ethnic ties of most French citizens.
49. The 2004 law banning the wearing of the hijab (headscarf) in public schools
- a. was a rare example of a bill not sponsored by the government becoming law.
  - b. was in response to a terrorist attack.
  - c. was declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Council.
  - d. could be seen as illustrative of the exclusionary aspects of the republican model of French national identity.
50. What has been the most important impact of the gender parity law?
- a. A backlash against female politicians, resulting in a decline in the number of female deputies
  - b. The nomination of a female candidate for president
  - c. An increase of 50 percent in the number of females in the National Assembly
  - d. An increase in women's representation in subnational governments
51. The relationship between interest groups and the French government is
- a. close. The French executive never acts on its own without consulting interest groups.
  - b. contentious. Interest groups are never consulted and thus can only protest to influence policy.
  - c. not as close as it once was.
  - d. distant with the French executive often acting on its own without consulting interest groups.
52. France's trade union movement
- a. has always been strong given the influence of the Socialist and Communist Parties in the countries.
  - b. has traditionally been weak due to de Gaulle's suppression of unions after the May 1968 protests.
  - c. has become weaker with the breakdown of social class and ideology in the country.
  - d. is generally weak, although representatives of the unions serve on boards of public agencies.
53. Which of the following statements about the French tradition of direct protest is NOT true?
- a. The tradition stems from the lack of adequate institutional channels of representation.
  - b. The tradition is centuries old.
  - c. Direct protest is a tactic utilized only by the young and the poor.
  - d. France has one of the highest proportions of citizens who participate in demonstrations in Europe.
54. Globalization opponent José Bové is best known for
- a. attacking a McDonald's construction site.



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- b. coming in second in the 2005 presidential election.
- c. advocating closer integration with the European Union.
- d. starting the World Social Forum, an annual assembly of anti-globalization activists.

55. Which of the following actions is an example of French adaptability and flexibility?

- a. Expansion of the right of citizens to participate in demonstrations
- b. A 1999 law that granted legal rights and benefits to unmarried and gay couples
- c. A law that outlawed "groups dangerous to French national solidarity"
- d. Programs that created jobs for young people

### Essay

56. How and why is the French state's style of economic management changing? To what extent are such changes a reflection of the impact of the European Union? To what extent are they reflective of other factors? How have these changes affected the society and economy of France?

57. What factors have contributed to the political rise of the Front National? What does this suggest about French society and politics?

58. It is often said that the French semi-presidential system combines both the advantages and disadvantages of presidentialism and parliamentarianism. First, describe the major features of the French system. Second, assess its relative strengths and weaknesses, paying particular attention to issues such as the balance of power (both within the executive and between the executive and legislature), representation, accountability, and effectiveness. Finally, assess recent political reforms that affect this system and how these may impact on it.

59. What do you consider the single-most important challenge confronting French politics in the present era and why? To what extent are French political institutions well equipped to deal with this challenge?

60. Discuss the role of women in French politics. What efforts has the French state made to better integrate this group? Assess the relative success of such efforts.

61. What factors help to explain why interest groups are so weak in France? How does this weakness help contribute to the country's tradition of protest politics?

62. Assess the charge that there is a crisis of political representation in the party system of France. What developments have occurred that cause some to make this charge? How important are these developments? What are their consequences?

63. Discuss the charge that the French legislature does not adequately represent the French citizenry and hold the government accountable. Describe two reforms that have been implemented to strengthen the role of the parliament. In light of these, does this charge still hold true?

64. How has France's concepts of its culture and identity been expressed in the country's foreign policy?

65. France was one of the founding members of the European Union (then called the European Community). First, assess the impact that its membership in the European Union has had upon France. Second, discuss how recent events may suggest that French support for European integration may be declining.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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