MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. In a parliamentary system, the head of government (usually called the prime minister) is
   a. selected by direct popular vote.
   b. selected by indirect election through bodies such as an electoral college.
   c. usually the leader of the party with the most seats in the legislature.
   d. whomever the head of state chooses to help run the government.
   e. the person who came in second during the presidential election, with the top vote-getter
      becoming the president.

2. A coalition government is generally needed when
   a. no party has a majority in the legislature.
   b. one house of a bicameral legislature is controlled by one party and the other house is
      controlled by another party.
   c. the executive branch is controlled by one party and the legislative branch is controlled by
      the other.
   d. the executive and legislative branches are controlled by the same party.
   e. the president and legislative branches are controlled by different parties.

3. The abbreviated term that refers to a member of parliament is
   b. Barrister.
   c. Common.
   d. MP.
   e. Commoner.

4. In forming a coalition for governing, typically one seeks to have
   a. about ten percent over the number needed for a simple majority so there is a cushion for
      absenteeism and defection.
   b. a super-majority of two-thirds of the seats in the legislature.
   c. twice as many seats as the parties outside of the coalition.
   d. only as many other parties as is necessary to control a bare majority of the parliament’s
      seats.
   e. the second largest party join with the largest party.

5. A minister without portfolio is
   a. the leader of the opposition party.
   b. someone included in the cabinet without heading a ministry or other government
      department.
   c. members of the opposition party who would be chairs of important committees if their
      party assumed control of the legislature.
   d. a person who used to head a ministry or government department and advises the current
      minister of that department.
   e. an informal adviser to the chief executive who has no official government position.

6. A grand coalition occurs when
   a. both houses of a bicameral legislature are controlled by the same party.
b. the executive and legislative branches are controlled by the same party.
c. one party has a clear majority and basically forms a coalition with itself.
d. the executive and legislative branches are controlled by different parties.
e. two or more of the largest parties work together, giving the coalition control over a large majority of seats.

7. Which best describes the head of state in a parliamentary system?
   a. It is the same person as the head of government.
   b. It is largely ceremonial, with little role in actual governing.
   c. It is the person in charge of running the day-to-day operations.
   d. It refers to someone who administers a level of government below the central government.
   e. Parliamentary systems do not have a head of state.

8. The head of state of Canada is
   a. the prime minister.
   b. the president.
   c. the chancellor.
   d. the chief justice of the Canadian Supreme Court.
   e. the British monarch.

9. With a vote of confidence,
   a. the head of state confirms his or her faith in the government.
   b. the opposition sponsors a motion that usually forces the government to resign if it passes.
   c. the public votes in a referendum on whether to approve a law passed by the legislature.
   d. the government itself picks a particular vote and states that it will resign and call for new elections if it loses the vote.
   e. a parliamentary system immediately triggers a recall election.

10. In a parliamentary system, a shadow government is
    a. a group of informal advisers to the chief executive who have no official government position.
    b. a set of MPs who would replace the current government ministers if the opposition party or parties were to win the next election.
    c. members of the opposition party who would be chairs of important committees if their party assumed control of the legislature.
    d. people included in the cabinet without heading a ministry or other government department.
    e. the chief bureaucrats (unelected officials) who are second-in-command to the elected ministers in a government.

11. Which of the following is a distinguishing feature of a presidential system?
    a. The chief executive is chosen by direct popular vote.
    b. The selection of the chief executive depends on the outcome of legislative elections.
    c. Legislative and executive power is separated.
    d. The head of state and head of government are different individuals.
    e. Turnover in office often occurs because of early elections.

12. Divided government is a situation in which
    a. cabinet posts are split between different parties.
    b. one political party controls one house of a bicameral legislature and another controls the other house.
c. no party has a majority in the legislature.
d. the executive and legislative branches are controlled by different parties.
e. two or more of the largest parties work together, giving the coalition control over a large majority of seats.

13. The process of removing the chief executive in a presidential system is termed
a. recall election.
b. ombuds activities.
c. vote of confidence.
d. vote of no confidence.
e. impeachment.

14. A semi-presidential system
a. exists when the president’s political party is different from the political party that controls the legislative branch.
b. is a group of political parties that agree to share cabinet seats and other important positions in government ministries and work together to pass legislation in a parliament.
c. increasingly concentrates power in the hands of the president, and leads the legislature to become little more than a rubber stamp.
d. combines basic characteristics of both parliamentary and presidential systems.
e. has a legislature with two houses.

15. Which country uses a semi-presidential system?
a. France  
b. Brazil  
c. Germany  
d. India  
e. Iran

16. The increasing concentration of power in the hands of the chief executive over time is called
a. creeping authoritarianism.
b. shadow government.
c. vital center.
d. majoritarian democracy.
e. bureaucratic authoritarianism.

17. Ombuds activities often involve
a. power becoming increasingly concentrated in the hands of the president.
b. members of the government advocating on behalf of an individual with government bureaucrats.
c. crafting and approving tax policies.
d. authorizing the government to spend money on specific programs.
e. oversight by the legislative branch of the executive branch’s implementation of laws.

18. Which type of legislative activity is Question Time in the United Kingdom an example?
a. Ombuds activities  
b. Selection, approval, and removal of government officials  
c. Authorizing government spending  
d. Oversight of the executive  
e. Passing laws
19. A legislature with two houses is called
   a. a hybrid system.
   b. bicameral.
   c. a coalition government.
   d. a divided government.
   e. dualarchy.

20. Unicameral legislatures make the most sense in countries
   a. with federal systems.
   b. where there is a need to have members of the government represent different regions at the national level.
   c. concerned with separation of powers.
   d. eager for efficient lawmaking.
   e. trying to maximize the number of veto points.

21. The cabinet of a government typically consists of
   a. the head of the legislature and the leaders of the major committees in the legislature.
   b. the leaders of both parties in the legislature, and the leaders and ranking opposition members of the major committees.
   c. the chief executive and most important ministers.
   d. the head of the legislature, the leaders of the major committees in the legislature, and the chief executive and most important ministers.
   e. the leaders of both parties in the legislature, and the leaders and ranking opposition members of the major committees as well as the chief executive and most important ministers.

22. Which of the following do legislatures create to deal with specific important problems that do not easily fit into the existing permanent parts of the legislature’s structure?
   a. Ombudsmen
   b. Ad hoc committee
   c. Coalition
   d. Standing committee
   e. Conference committee

23. Which institution or office in the British political system is considered dominant over the others?
   a. Prime Minister
   b. House of Lords
   c. House of Commons
   d. Monarchy
   e. Judiciary

24. What power does the House of Lords have in the British political system?
   a. It can delay, but not prevent, legislation from passing.
   b. It can veto legislation from passing if it votes against it by a greater margin than the House of Commons voted for it.
   c. It must approve legislation before it can become law, but, it cannot initiate legislation.
   d. It must approve legislation before it can become law and it can initiate legislation.
   e. It can rule laws passed by the House of Commons to be unconstitutional.
25. Party government theory argues that
   a. the extent to which the rules of an institution allow the majority party to control the institution’s actions drives the political outcomes emanating from the institution.
   b. party unity is based largely on individual party members’ preferences.
   c. presidential systems encourage political conflicts without providing the means to resolve them.
   d. some features of presidential systems can enhance political stability compared to certain parliamentary approaches.
   e. party discipline is higher in parliamentary systems than in presidential systems.

26. A constructive vote of no confidence
   a. is a slow process by which power becomes increasingly concentrated in the hands of the president. This leads the legislature to become little more than a rubber stamp.
   b. is called for by the sitting government in a parliamentary system and if it fails, the government is forced to resign and new parliamentary elections may be held.
   c. is sponsored by the opposition and results in the formation of a new government or the holding of new parliamentary elections if it passes.
   d. requires that there be an agreed-upon replacement for the current head of government before a vote of no confidence brings down the government.
   e. brings formal impeachment proceedings against the chief executive.

27. A suspensive veto is
   a. a power, often given to the upper house of a bicameral legislature, to delay enactment of legislation but not prevent it.
   b. the requirement that bills must pass both house of a bicameral legislature to become law.
   c. the ability of one house of the legislature to adjourn without acting on legislation passed by the other chamber, preventing that legislation from passing.
   d. the ability of a chief executive to disband the legislature before it passes a bill the executive does not want.
   e. the ability of a chief executive to not sign a bill passed by the legislature, which, if it occurs after the legislature adjourns, kills the bill.

28. The upper house of which country’s legislature has suspensive veto power?
   a. Iran
   b. Brazil
   c. Germany
   d. Mexico
   e. Russia

29. Which best describes the outcome of the 2005 Bundestag elections?
   a. A clear majority for the CDU, the mainstream conservative party
   b. A clear majority for the SPD, the mainstream left of center political party
   c. A mix of political parties that gave the CDU the ability to form a center right coalition
   d. A mix of political parties that gave the SPD the ability to form a center left coalition
   e. The vote was so split that the CDU and SPD, traditionally opposed to each other, had to form a grand coalition.

30. In which country is the president limited to one term in office?
   a. Nigeria
b. Brazil  
c. Russia  
d. France  
e. Mexico

31. The theory of parliamentary superiority  
a. suggests the extent to which the rules of an institution allow the majority party to control the institution’s actions drives the political outcomes emanating from the institution.  
b. attacks presidential systems for encouraging political conflicts without providing the means to resolve them.  
c. suggests some features of presidential system can enhance political stability compared to certain parliamentary approaches.  
d. believes presidential systems encourage political conflicts without providing the means to resolve them.  
e. believes party unity is based largely on individual party members’ preferences.

32. The experience of which President casts doubt on the contention of the theory of parliamentary supremacy that it is extremely difficult to get rid of an incompetent president who has lost the confidence of the public?  
a. Ahmadinejad in Iran  
b. Putin in Russia  
c. Fox in Mexico  
d. Collor in Brazil  
e. Obasanjo in Nigeria

33. In which country are ethnic tensions of such concern that it is required that the President and Vice-President be from different regions?  
a. Iran  
b. Brazil  
c. Nigeria  
d. Mexico  
e. India

34. The theory of presidential system design refers to the idea that  
a. presidential systems encourage political conflicts without providing the means to resolve them.  
b. the extent to which the rules of an institution allow the majority party to control the institution’s actions drives the political outcomes emanating from the institution.  
c. presidential systems prevent political conflicts.  
d. party unity is based largely on individual party members’ preferences.  
e. some features of presidential system can enhance political stability compared to certain parliamentary approaches.

35. What is Vladimir Putin’s current governmental position in the Russia?  
a. Secretary General of the Communist Party  
b. Prime Minister  
c. Head of State  
d. President  
e. Retired after being term limited
36. Prime Ministers ordinarily serve at the pleasure of the legislature. In which system is the prime minister more under the control of the president?
   a. Russia
   b. Iran
   c. Germany
   d. France
   e. India

37. Which of the following countries has a unicameral legislature?
   a. Mexico
   b. United Kingdom
   c. Iran
   d. Germany
   e. Brazil

38. Which institution or office in the Iranian political system decides who can run for seats in the legislature?
   a. The president
   b. The Supreme Leader
   c. The legislature
   d. Guardian Council
   e. The Supreme Court

39. The presidency of which of the following countries is the weakest?
   a. Russia
   b. Brazil
   c. Iran
   d. France
   e. Mexico

ESSAY

1. Discuss both the theory of parliamentary supremacy and the theory of presidential design. Pick one topic-in-country with a presidential system and one with a parliamentary system. Analyze whether the countries you picked reflect or refute the conclusions made by the two theories.

2. Discuss the reforms of the British political system that began in the late 1990s. What institutions and power relationships were the foci of these changes? Explain what you think the goals of these changes were.

3. Discuss the political structure of South Africa. Explain which elements of a Presidential System it has and which elements of a Parliamentary system it has. Evaluate whether you believe it should be considered a Presidential, Parliamentary, or Semi-Presidential system.

4. Discuss what an early election is and what circumstances lead to them being called. Explain under what conditions they would most likely occur as well as when they would be least likely to occur.
5. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both parliamentary and presidential systems. Explain which system you believe works better.

6. Explain the advantages of a unicameral legislature and the type of conditions in which they work best. Analyze the degree to which Iran meets those conditions.

7. Discuss the powers of the Council of Guardians in Iran and the effects of these powers on politics in Iran. Explain what purpose you think those who wrote the Iranian constitution thought the council would serve.