

AP United States Government & Politics

TAKE HOME TEST – Ch. 14, 15 & 16

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- 1) A budget deficit occurs when expenditures exceed
 - A) revenues.
 - B) inflation.
 - C) appropriations.
 - D) borrowing.
 - E) authorizations.

- 2) Which of the following is not one of the major sources of federal revenues?
 - A) Borrowing
 - B) Personal income taxes
 - C) Social insurance taxes
 - D) Corporate income taxes
 - E) Sales taxes

- 3) President Reagan's 1981 tax cuts were most beneficial to
 - A) high-income families.
 - B) low-income families.
 - C) the states.
 - D) the middle class.
 - E) the government.

- 4) Which of the following was NOT a result of the *Tax Reform Act of 1986*?
 - A) The number of tax brackets was greatly reduced.
 - B) The value of many tax deductions were eliminated or reduced.
 - C) Several million low-income individuals were removed from the tax rolls.
 - D) None of the above
 - E) All of the above

- 5) In 1993, Congress agreed to President Clinton's proposal to
 - A) decrease the top corporate income tax rate.
 - B) raise the income tax for families in the highest income brackets.
 - C) cut Social Security expenditures.
 - D) eliminate all energy taxes.
 - E) establish national health insurance.

- 6) The military industrial complex refers to
 - A) the government-owned industries that manufacture military weapons and equipment.
 - B) the global network of bases that the Department of Defense maintains.
 - C) the close relationship between defense officials and the corporations that supply their hardware needs.
 - D) the competition between the military and civilian industries for government dollars.
 - E) the Pentagon and the buildings that surround it.

- 7) Currently, the most expensive part of the federal budget is
 - A) military spending.
 - B) spending on education.
 - C) spending on national health care.
 - D) spending on roads and bridges.
 - E) spending on income security.

- 8) In 1965, _____ was added to the Social Security program to provide health care coverage to the elderly.
 - A) Medicaid
 - B) disability
 - C) Medicare
 - D) Medplan
 - E) unemployment insurance

- 9) How many workers currently support the Social Security benefits for one retiree?
 - A) 10
 - B) 50
 - C) Five
 - D) Three
 - E) 20

- 10) A major feature of incremental budgeting is that it
- A) reduces current budgets by small amounts over successive years.
 - B) reevaluates the budgetary base on which past budgets were built.
 - C) provides small increases in the current budget over the previous year's budget.
 - D) greatly inflates government spending each year.
 - E) fragments the budget into many small items, making it hard to plan for a unified budget.
- 11) Social Security programs, interest on the national debt, and military pensions are examples of
- A) tax expenditures.
 - B) tax loopholes.
 - C) revenue sources.
 - D) incremental expenditures.
 - E) uncontrollable expenditures.
- 12) Policies for which Congress has obligated itself to pay a certain level of benefits based on a certain number of recipients are known as
- A) pork.
 - B) entitlements.
 - C) welfare.
 - D) incremental expenditures.
 - E) earmarks.
- 13) The ultimate power to determine how much the government will tax and spend, and what it will spend taxes for, lies with
- A) the president.
 - B) the Congress.
 - C) the Internal Revenue Service.
 - D) the Treasury Department.
 - E) the federal bureaucracy.
- 14) In the House of Representatives, it is the _____ Committee that writes tax codes, subject to the approval of Congress as a whole.
- A) Appropriations
 - B) Finance
 - C) Ways and Means
 - D) Budget
 - E) Revenue
- 15) What government agency has been established to assist Congress in making budgeting decisions?
- A) The Congressional Budget Office
 - B) The Treasury Department
 - C) The Commerce Department
 - D) The Office of Management and Budget
 - E) The Internal Revenue Service
- 16) Spending bills in Congress originate in
- A) the Expenditures Committees and their subcommittees.
 - B) the Appropriations Committees and their subcommittees.
 - C) the Senate Finance Committee and its subcommittees.
 - D) the House Ways and Means Committee and its subcommittees.
 - E) the Commerce Committees and their subcommittees.
- 17) The heads of executive agencies send their budget requests to the
- A) congressional tax committees.
 - B) House Ways and Means Committee.
 - C) Treasury Department.
 - D) president.
 - E) Office of Management and Budget.
- 18) The task of the Government Accountability Office is
- A) to assist Congress in developing the federal budget.
 - B) to audit, monitor, and evaluate what agencies are doing with their budgets.
 - C) to assist the president in developing the federal budget.
 - D) All of the above
 - E) None of the above

- 19) The deadline by which time Congress is to have agreed on the total size of the budget is
- the first day of the new fiscal year.
 - the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
 - the first Monday in February.
 - the fifteenth of April.
 - the first of the calendar year.
- 20) A budget resolution
- sets limits on expenditures based on revenue projections.
 - resolves the differences between House and Senate versions of the budget.
 - must be passed to actually fund programs established by authorization bills.
 - revises program authorizations to achieve required savings.
 - is an act of Congress that establishes a discretionary government program or an entitlement.
- 21) What does budget reconciliation involve?
- The president negotiating with the heads of executive agencies over budget requests
 - Executive agencies submitting their budget requests to the president
 - The congressional process through which program authorizations are revised to achieve savings
 - All of the above
 - None of the above
- 22) An authorization bill
- allocates funding for particular programs.
 - establishes new taxes, or sources of borrowed revenue, to pay for programs.
 - establishes, continues, or changes a discretionary government program or an entitlement.
 - revises spending proposals in order to achieve required savings.
 - allows agencies to spend at the level of the previous year.
- 23) To actually fund a program, Congress must pass an _____ bill.
- expenditure
 - impoundment
 - omnibus
 - appropriations
 - authorization
- 24) Failing to meet its own budget timetable, Congress frequently resorts to _____, which are laws that allow agencies to spend at the previous year's level.
- continuing resolutions
 - reconciliations
 - retrenchments
 - revenue extensions
 - appropriations
- 25) The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act called for the president to order _____, if Congress failed to meet specific deficit-reduction goals.
- defunding directives
 - continuing resolutions
 - reconciliations
 - sequestrations
 - reauthorizations
- 26) Which of the following is **not** true about taxes?
- Individuals are taxed on their income.
 - A tax loophole is also known as a tax break.
 - Tax expenditures result when donations are made to a charitable organization.
 - Complaints about taxation are as old as the Boston Tea Party.
 - Income tax revenue is lower than corporate tax revenue.
- 27) Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution permitted the federal income tax?
- Tenth
 - Eighteenth
 - Fourteenth
 - Sixteenth
 - Fifteenth

- 28) A tax system where those with more taxable income not only pay more taxes but also higher rates of taxes is known as
- A) progressive.
 - B) regressive.
 - C) unfair.
 - D) socialism.
 - E) communism.
- 29) The fastest growing source of federal revenue has been
- A) Social Security taxes.
 - B) corporate income taxes.
 - C) borrowing.
 - D) fees for services.
 - E) personal income taxes.
- 30) Which federal agency was created in order to collect the federal income tax?
- A) The Auditors General
 - B) The General Accounting Office
 - C) The Treasury Department
 - D) The Congressional Budget Office
 - E) The Internal Revenue Service
- 31) Corporations today pay
- A) no income taxes.
 - B) income taxes, which account for most federal revenue.
 - C) income taxes, which account for more federal revenue than individual income taxes.
 - D) income taxes, which account for much less federal revenue than individual income taxes.
 - E) capital gains taxes and property taxes instead of income taxes.
- 32) Who pays Social Security taxes?
- A) Employers only
 - B) Employers and employees
 - C) Employees only
 - D) Employers and Social Security recipients
 - E) Employees and Social Security recipients
- 33) The government borrows money principally by
- A) maintaining numerous credit card accounts.
 - B) selling bonds.
 - C) obtaining loans from foreign governments.
 - D) printing more currency.
 - E) obtaining loans from the Federal Reserve.
- 34) The federal debt
- A) is money owed to foreign nations by the United States government.
 - B) is the difference between the amount of annual tax receipts and government expenditures.
 - C) consists of all the money borrowed over the years by the national government that is still outstanding.
 - D) is money owed by taxpayers to the United States government, but never paid.
 - E) is all money borrowed over the years by the federal government and owed to state governments.
- 35) An example of a tax expenditure is
- A) the Social Security system.
 - B) a tax deduction for the mortgage interest paid by homeowners.
 - C) direct government support of charities.
 - D) a lower tax rate for lower income families.
 - E) the purchase of a Stealth Bomber by the Pentagon.

- 36) Which of the following statements about bureaucracies is FALSE?
- A) Bureaucracies are scarcely hinted at in the Constitution.
 - B) How to manage and control bureaucracies is a central problem of democratic government.
 - C) Bureaucratic power extends to every corner of American economic and social life.
 - D) Nothing better illustrates the complexity of modern government than its massive bureaucracies.
 - E) Each bureaucratic agency is created by the president.
- 37) According to surveys, most Americans
- A) are generally satisfied with the help they receive from bureaucrats.
 - B) would like to work for a bureaucracy.
 - C) dislike bureaucrats.
 - D) describe most bureaucrats as unwilling to serve their clients' interests.
 - E) actually like bureaucracies.
- 38) As a percentage of America's total workforce, federal government employment has
- A) created private sector jobs.
 - B) been shrinking not growing.
 - C) been relatively stable.
 - D) eliminated private sector jobs.
 - E) been growing not shrinking.
- 39) Federal government employment accounts for about _____ percent of all civilian jobs.
- A) 10
 - B) 3
 - C) 15
 - D) 20
 - E) 30
- 40) As a whole, the permanent federal bureaucracy is
- A) now employing 15 percent of the American work force.
 - B) dominated by white males.
 - C) more broadly representative of the American people than the rest of the federal government.
 - D) composed of an American elite.
 - E) less diverse in terms of the type of jobs than the private sector.
- 41) Which president claimed, "to the victors belong the spoils"?
- A) John F. Kennedy
 - B) Abraham Lincoln
 - C) Franklin D. Roosevelt
 - D) Andrew Johnson
 - E) Andrew Jackson
- 42) Patronage is a hiring and promotion system based on
- A) talent and skill.
 - B) civil service exams.
 - C) knowing the right people.
 - D) the merit principle.
 - E) the Pendleton Act.
- 43) The _____ Act was passed partly as a memorial to the memory of President James Garfield, who was assassinated in 1881.
- A) Hatch
 - B) Pendleton Civil Service
 - C) Treason
 - D) Voting Rights
 - E) Interstate Commerce
- 44) _____ systems are designed to hire and promote members of the bureaucracy on the basis of merit and to create a nonpartisan government service.
- A) Civilian
 - B) Civil service
 - C) Patronage
 - D) Hatch
 - E) Military

- 45) The Hatch Act, passed in 1940,
- A) established the federal civil service.
 - B) established the patronage system for federal employment.
 - C) required the publication of the plum book.
 - D) prohibited the president from firing the heads of independent executive agencies.
 - E) prohibits federal civil service employees from active participation in partisan politics.
- 46) The schedule for federal employees ranging from GS 1 to GS 18, by which salaries are keyed to rating and experience is called the
- A) Spoils System
 - B) Federal Register
 - C) General Schedule
 - D) Hatch Register
 - E) Merit Schedule
- 47) The elite cadre of approximately 9,000 federal government managers established by the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, including primarily career officials and some political appointees who do not require Senate confirmation is called the
- A) General Schedule Service
 - B) Civil Service
 - C) Civil Executive Service
 - D) Civil General Service
 - E) Senior Executive Service
- 48) According to *Government in America*, which of the following is a legitimate criticism of the federal civil service?
- A) Too many federal civil servants are actively involved in partisan politics.
 - B) Workers are not protected against political firings.
 - C) It does not operate on the merit principle.
 - D) Firing incompetents is extremely difficult.
 - E) All of the above
- 49) Which of the following statements about plum book appointees is FALSE?
- A) Presidents often consider sex, religion, and race in making plum book appointments.
 - B) Most presidents seek appointees with sympathy for similar policy positions.
 - C) Ambassadorship appointments often go to large campaign contributors.
 - D) Plum book appointees are often instrumental in changing and reforming their agencies.
 - E) none of the above
- 50) There are _____ cabinet departments headed by a secretary chosen by the president and approved by the Senate.
- A) 25
 - B) 10
 - C) five
 - D) 20
 - E) 15
- 51) The largest federal agency based on dollars spent is the
- A) Department of Justice.
 - B) Social Security Administration.
 - C) State Department.
 - D) Department of Health and Human Services.
 - E) Department of Defense.
- 52) The General Services Administration and the National Aeronautical and Space Administration are examples of
- A) government corporations.
 - B) independent regulatory agencies.
 - C) independent executive agencies.
 - D) cabinet departments.
 - E) presidential administrative agencies.

- 53) Independent regulatory agencies have
- A) no real enforcement power any more, and remain today as part of the federal government only in a ceremonial role.
 - B) complete independence from the president, but their policymakers are appointed by Congress.
 - C) governing commissions composed of long-time federal Civil Service employees.
 - D) no formal ties to either the president or the Congress.
 - E) powerful rule-making, dispute-settling, and enforcement authority.
- 54) Amtrak and the United States Postal Service are examples of
- A) government corporations.
 - B) independent regulatory agencies.
 - C) Cabinet departments.
 - D) executive commercial agencies.
 - E) independent executive agencies.
- 55) Once a policy decision has been made, such as by passing a legislative act or issuing an executive order, the bureaucracy is responsible for
- A) its ratification.
 - B) judging its merits.
 - C) its implementation.
 - D) its deregulation.
 - E) funding it.
- 56) _____ is the authority of administrative actors to select among various responses to a given problem.
- A) Administrators' disposition
 - B) Deregulation
 - C) Executive power
 - D) Administrative discretion
 - E) Standard operating procedure
- 57) The 96 agencies that are all involved in issues of nuclear proliferation constitute an example of _____ within the bureaucracy.
- A) lack of resources
 - B) general schedule
 - C) fragmentation
 - D) standard operating procedures
 - E) discretion
- 58) The use of government authority to control or change some practice in the private sector is known as
- A) oversight.
 - B) executive review.
 - C) regulation.
 - D) public administration.
 - E) socialism.
- 59) Whatever strategy Congress permits a regulatory agency to use, all regulation contains the following elements EXCEPT
- A) an incentive system to maximize performance by those regulated.
 - B) some means of enforcing compliance.
 - C) a set of rules and guidelines by the regulatory agency itself.
 - D) a grant of power and set of directions from Congress.
 - E) none of the above
- 60) One proposed solution to the "problem" of the proliferation of regulatory agencies and policies has been
- A) standard operating procedures.
 - B) budget cuts.
 - C) deproliferation.
 - D) deregulation.
 - E) the incentive system.
- 61) In the _____ system, marketlike strategies are used to manage public policy.
- A) incentive
 - B) General Schedule
 - C) fragmentation
 - D) command-and-control
 - E) merit

- 62) A regulation originating from the executive branch is called a(n)
- A) pocket veto.
 - B) law.
 - C) bill.
 - D) veto.
 - E) executive order.
- 63) Congress tries to control the bureaucracy through each of the following EXCEPT
- A) issuing congressional orders.
 - B) influencing the appointment of agency heads.
 - C) rewriting legislation.
 - D) holding hearings.
 - E) both A and B
- 64) An "iron triangle" consists of
- A) the president, the head of a relevant congressional committee, and the head of any regulatory agency.
 - B) those favoring regulation X, those opposing regulation X, and the regulatory agency in charge of overseeing X.
 - C) a bureaucratic agency, an interest group, and a congressional committee or subcommittee.
 - D) the metal stamp used to certify that the president has approved a new regulation and it now takes legal effect.
 - E) representatives of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the government.
- 65) During oral arguments at the Supreme Court, each side is permitted _____ to present its case.
- A) 30 minutes
 - B) one hour
 - C) two hours
 - D) three hours
 - E) four hours
- 66) There are _____ federal courts of appeal, a Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and _____ federal district courts.
- A) 12; 91
 - B) 91; thousands of
 - C) Two; 91
 - D) One; 91
 - E) Thousands of; 91
- 67) Litigants are
- A) the plaintiff and the defendant.
 - B) plaintiffs.
 - C) the plaintiff and the plaintiff's attorney.
 - D) the attorneys.
 - E) the defendant and the defendant's attorney.
- 68) Standing to sue refers to
- A) the requirement that plaintiffs have a serious interest in case.
 - B) demonstrated financial harm or injury.
 - C) legal prerogative.
 - D) the principle of precedent.
 - E) *habeas corpus*.
- 69) Class action suits
- A) permit a small number of people to sue on behalf of all other people similarly situated.
 - B) may only be filed if all of those with a standing to sue agree to participate.
 - C) are filed by students seeking to force a school district to offer additional sections of perpetually overenrolled courses.
 - D) are routinely filed by teachers groups to prepare the way for legal strikes.
 - E) are those that have to do with constitutional issues, thus broadening the standing to sue.
- 70) The requirement that cases must be capable of being settled as a matter of law rather than on other grounds is known as
- A) *amicus curiae*
 - B) *stare decisis*
 - C) *writ of mandamus*
 - D) precedent
 - E) justiciable disputes

- 71) The Constitution specifically provided that there would be a Supreme Court
- A) but left it up to the individual states to establish lower federal courts of general jurisdiction.
 - B) and established a system of lower federal courts throughout the nation.
 - C) but left it to the discretion of Congress to establish lower federal courts of general jurisdiction.
 - D) and granted the president the power to establish any lower federal courts he deemed necessary.
 - E) but left it up to the Supreme Court itself to establish lower federal courts of general jurisdiction.
- 72) Courts with appellate jurisdiction
- A) determine the facts about a case.
 - B) review the legal issues involved in a case.
 - C) have no original jurisdiction.
 - D) hear only civil cases.
 - E) hear only criminal cases.
- 73) The entry point for most litigation in the federal courts is in one of the _____ courts.
- A) superior
 - B) appellate
 - C) municipal
 - D) district
 - E) legislative
- 74) _____ courts determine the facts of a case, whether it's a criminal charge or a civil suit.
- A) Appellate
 - B) Legislative
 - C) Original
 - D) Supreme
 - E) Trial
- 75) Which one of the following is NOT true about the federal district courts?
- A) They hear appeals from municipal, county, and state courts.
 - B) They are the only federal courts in which trials are held, and juries may be impaneled.
 - C) They are the entry points for most litigation in the federal court system.
 - D) Each district has between two and 28 judges, with one judge usually presiding alone over most cases.
 - E) All federal district court judges are appointed by the president and confirmed by Congress.
- 76) About 98 percent of all criminal cases in the United States are heard in
- A) state and local court systems.
 - B) legislative courts.
 - C) the Supreme Court.
 - D) appellate courts.
 - E) federal district courts.
- 77) What kind of case would be brought before a diversity of citizenship court?
- A) A civil suit between citizens of different states.
 - B) A criminal court appeal.
 - C) A case against the government.
 - D) A case where bias was charged against one citizen by another.
 - E) A civil suit where the matter in question exceeds \$75,000.
- 78) The United States government is represented in civil cases in district courts by a
- A) district judge.
 - B) federal magistrate.
 - C) United States attorney.
 - D) United States marshal.
 - E) none of the above
- 79) Each court of appeals normally hears cases in panels consisting of _____ judges.
- A) 3
 - B) 12
 - C) 7
 - D) 6
 - E) 9

- 80) The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- A) decides which cases will and will not be heard by the Supreme Court.
 - B) is responsible for determining the constitutionality of laws passed by Congress.
 - C) screens all cases going to the Supreme Court, from which the Supreme Court decides which cases to take.
 - D) consists of judges who hear appeals in specialized cases such as those regarding patents, copyrights, etc.
 - E) consists of the Supreme Court itself.
- 81) Who is the third ranking official in the Department of Justice in charge of the appellate court litigation of the federal government?
- A) The appellate judge.
 - B) The solicitor general.
 - C) The attorney general.
 - D) The appellate general.
 - E) The appellate attorney.
- 82) How long is the term of a federal judge or justice?
- A) 15 years
 - B) 10 years
 - C) Four years
 - D) Two years
 - E) They serve lifetime positions.
- 83) The United States Supreme Court's jurisdiction includes
- A) only appellate jurisdiction.
 - B) original jurisdiction only in cases involving foreign diplomats.
 - C) original jurisdiction in cases involving citizens from one state only if it involves a federal question.
 - D) appellate jurisdiction from both state and federal courts.
 - E) all of the above
- 84) Senators have dominated the selection of judges for the federal district courts through
- A) their power over court jurisdictions.
 - B) the custom of senatorial courtesy.
 - C) their control of the budget.
 - D) the influence of the Senate Judiciary Committee.
 - E) all of the above
- 85) _____ opinions are those offered by one or more Supreme Court justices not only to support a majority decision, but also to stress a different Constitutional or legal basis for the judgment.
- A) Dissenting
 - B) Differential
 - C) *Amicus curiae*
 - D) Adjunct
 - E) Concurring
- 86) All courts rely heavily upon _____, the way similar cases were handled in the past, as a guide to current decisions.
- A) *amicus curiae*
 - B) *writs of certiorari*
 - C) *writs of mandamus*
 - D) precedent
 - E) original intent
- 87) Which Supreme Court justice faced charges that he had sexually harassed Anita Hill?
- A) William Rehnquist
 - B) Clarence Thomas
 - C) Thurgood Marshall
 - D) Douglas Ginsburg
 - E) Robert Bork

- 88) President Eisenhower's selection of Earl Warren and William Brennan to the Supreme Court is an example of
- A) the importance of partisanship in the selection of justices.
 - B) the Senate majority's tendency to reject nominees of the opposing political party.
 - C) how a president can mold the Court to his ideology.
 - D) how presidents can become disappointed with their selections.
 - E) how religion and region were once important selection criteria.
- 89) If _____ Supreme Court justices agree to grant review of a case, it can be scheduled for oral argument or decided on the basis of the written record already on file with the Court.
- A) six
 - B) two
 - C) four
 - D) seven
 - E) nine
- 90) In a typical year, the Supreme Court issues _____ formal written opinions that could serve as precedent, and thus as the basis of guidance for lower courts.
- A) fewer than 100
 - B) between 150 and 500
 - C) more than 500, but less than 1,000
 - D) fewer than 10
 - E) more than 1,000
- 91) A _____ is a Supreme Court ruling without explanation that resolves an immediate case but has no value as precedent because the Court does not offer reasoning that would guide lower courts in future decisions.
- A) *per curiam* decision
 - B) *writ of mandamus*
 - C) *writ of certiorari*
 - D) concurring opinion
 - E) *stare decisis*
- 92) Those who are interested in the outcome of a case, but are not formal litigants, sometimes submit _____ briefs, raising points of view and presenting information that they hope will influence the Supreme Court's decision.
- A) concurring
 - B) *stare decisis*
 - C) *per curiam*
 - D) *amicus curiae*
 - E) *certiorari*
- 93) The concept of original intent holds that
- A) the Founders intended judges to interpret the Constitution but make new law when necessary.
 - B) the Founders intended judges to use discretion.
 - C) judges and justices should determine the intent of the Framers of the Constitution regarding a particular matter and decide cases in line with that intent.
 - D) the Founders embraced general principles that are open to interpretation.
 - E) it is necessary to adapt the principles in the Constitution to the demands of each era.
- 94) A judicial philosophy in which judges make bold policy decisions, even charting new constitutional ground, is called
- A) strict constructionism
 - B) precedent.
 - C) *stare decisis*.
 - D) judicial restraint.
 - E) judicial activism.
- 95) The judicial interpretation of an act of Congress is called
- A) judicial activism.
 - B) *writ of mandamus*.
 - C) *stare decisis*.
 - D) statutory construction.
 - E) judicial restraint.