THE HISTORY AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

1. According to natural rights philosophy, the main purpose of government is to
   a. create a democracy.
   b. protect individual rights.
   c. create a system of separation of powers.
   d. promote the rights of the ruling class.

2. To say that the rights to life, liberty, and property are unalienable means that they
   a. cannot be given up or taken away.
   b. belong only to citizens.
   c. are subject to governmental approval.
   d. are protected by the Constitution.

3. Which of the following statements describes a constitution?
   a. A list of obligations of citizens.
   b. A priority for achieving particular policies.
   c. A plan that sets forth the structure and powers of government.
   d. A compilation of statutes that have been in effect at least fifty years.

4. One major issue left unresolved by the Philadelphia Convention in 1787 was
   a. the power of the states to coin money.
   b. the power of the House to initiate revenue bills.
   c. the definition of national citizenship.
   d. the power of the national government to regulate commerce with the Indian tribes.
5. Civic virtue is best defined as
   a. giving authority to government in exchange for protection of natural rights.
   b. putting the common good above individual interests.
   c. giving up some natural rights to create a strong government.
   d. separating power among groups to maintain balanced government.

6. The Founders believed that the separation of powers was important to
   a. make the government more efficient.
   b. allow more people to hold office.
   c. prevent the misuse of power.
   d. provide for legislative supremacy.

7. In comparison with the Greek and Roman ideals of civic virtue, the Judeo-Christian tradition
   a. advocates enlightened self-interest.
   b. emphasizes the common good.
   c. stresses the dignity and worth of each individual.
   d. reduces the importance of individual rights.

8. The Enlightenment inspired America’s Founders by
   a. endorsing executive supremacy.
   b. making society more rigidly structured.
   c. justifying divine right of kings.
   d. emphasizing what could be achieved through the exercise of human reason.

9. The distribution of powers between the national government and the states in the U.S. is known as
   a. federalism.
   b. feudalism.
   c. separation of powers.
   d. delegation of powers.

10. The Magna Carta included the important constitutional principle that established
    a. freedom of religion.
    b. equal rights for all citizens.
    c. government based on the rule of law.
    d. the supremacy of Parliament.
11. The purpose of a writ of habeas corpus is to protect the individual against
   a. accusation of treason.
   b. unlawful detention.
   c. cruel and unusual punishment.
   d. self-incrimination.

12. In colonial America, the right to vote most often depended on a person's gender and
   a. national origin.
   b. social class.
   c. ancestry.
   d. property ownership.

13. The Declaration of Independence asserted that
   a. a "candid world" would emerge from the American revolution.
   b. the colonies were now free and independent states.
   c. Parliament had oppressed the colonies through the Townsend Acts.
   d. American independence respected "the opinions of mankind."

14. The idea that political power is derived from the people is called
   a. popular sovereignty.
   b. judicial review.
   c. unitary government.
   d. executive supremacy.

15. Many of the first state constitutions included
   a. unrestricted voting rights.
   b. the right of initiative and referendum.
   c. executive supremacy.
   d. bills of rights.

16. Some Founders believed that majority rule could be a threat to
   a. states' rights.
   b. local self-government.
   c. individual rights.
   d. constitutional government.
17. A major weakness of the national government under the Articles of Confederation was its
   a. lack of authority to regulate interstate trade.
   b. unequal representation of the states.
   c. power to violate individual rights.
   d. plural executive.

18. The delegates to the Philadelphia Convention were authorized to
   a. draft treaties governing international trade.
   b. write a new constitution for the nation.
   c. amend the Articles of Confederation.
   d. develop a plan for admitting new states to the union.

19. In the debate over representation in Congress, the Virginia Plan advocated
   a. equal representation of the states.
   b. proportional representation.
   c. bipartisan representation.
   d. limited representation.

20. According to the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution, "supreme law of the land" refers to
   a. acts of the president.
   b. decisions of the Supreme Court.
   c. the Constitution, laws enacted by Congress, and treaties.
   d. laws passed by state legislatures.

21. The right of the Senate to ratify or reject a treaty made by the president is an example of
   a. the "general welfare" clause.
   b. checks and balances.
   c. proportional representation.
   d. federalism.

22. The Framers adopted the Electoral College method of choosing the president because
   a. they wanted to assure a wise consideration in the choice of president.
   b. they were afraid women would vote.
   c. the colonies had used that system.
   d. it was used successfully in the French system.
23. Anti-Federalists objected to the proposed Constitution because they believed that it
   a. placed too much power in the national government.
   b. established the supremacy of Congress.
   c. enumerated individual rights in too many places.
   d. authorized the Supreme Court to exercise judicial review.

24. The “establishment clause” of the First Amendment
   a. prohibits the press from inquiring into government operations.
   b. prohibits Congress from establishing a national religion.
   c. prohibits the government from requiring individuals to house soldiers.
   d. places limits on an individual’s right to free expression.

25. The most persuasive objection to the Constitution by George Mason and other Anti-Federalists was that
   a. the judicial branch lacked sufficient power.
   b. it gave too much power to the House of Representatives.
   c. certain actions required more than a simple majority vote.
   d. it did not contain a bill of rights.

26. In comparison with the executive branch as organized by the First Congress, the executive branch today has
   a. lost much of its original power.
   b. asked Congress to be more active in developing federal regulations.
   c. allowed the cabinet to dominate the presidency.
   d. grown larger and more complex.

27. The primary method Congress uses to consider proposed legislation is
   a. open debate on the floor of the House.
   b. the committee system.
   c. public opinion polls.
   d. executive orders from the president.

28. The Tenth Amendment was included in the Bill of Rights
   a. over the objections of Anti-Federalists.
   b. to protect rights that were not specifically listed.
   c. so that the states could not violate individual rights.
   d. in an effort to reserve powers not specifically stated in the Constitution, to the states or to the people.
29. Which of the following is an example of a “positive right” found in the U.S. Bill of Rights?
   a. The First Amendment, which states, “Congress shall make no law” that violates fundamental rights to freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.
   b. The Sixth Amendment, which guarantees criminal defendants in criminal cases the right to speedy and public trials.
   c. The Third Amendment, which states, “No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.”
   d. The Second Amendment, which requires the government infringing upon the “right of the people to keep and bear Arms.”

30. Congress represents both the people and the states by
   a. gerrymandering electoral districts.
   b. proportional representation in the House and equal state representation in the Senate.
   c. requiring consensus on all bills approved by the House and Senate.
   d. having the power to override presidential vetoes.

31. Political parties in the United States
   a. were created by Article IV of the U.S. Constitution.
   b. are examples of narrow factions and interests.
   c. have their rules approved by the U.S. Supreme Court.
   d. generally reflect broad coalitions of interests.

32. Critics of judicial review claim that it conflicts with principles of
   a. original jurisdiction.
   b. the supremacy clause.
   c. executive supremacy.
   d. legislative supremacy.

33. In the American federal system, the scope of the national government’s authority grew significantly because of the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the
   a. “privileges and immunities” clause.
   b. “free exercise” clause.
   c. “commerce” clause.
   d. “full faith and credit” clause.
34. The Federalists defended the proposed Constitution because it would
   a. be easy to amend.
   b. rely on separation of powers and checks and balances.
   c. provide for a highly educated people.
   d. allow all adult males the right to vote.

35. A fundamental difference between the Articles of Confederation and the Virginia Plan was that
   a. the Articles of Confederation allowed the national government to collect taxes from individuals.
   b. the Virginia Plan called for a strong national government.
   c. the Virginia Plan recommended a weak legislative branch.
   d. the Articles of Confederation called for a strong national government.

36. When Southern states seceded from the Union, they justified their actions by arguing that the United States is a
   a. sovereign nation.
   b. constitutional democracy.
   c. democratic republic.
   d. federation of sovereign states.

37. Black Codes were passed in some states to
   a. help African Americans find employment.
   b. limit the newly won freedoms of former slaves.
   c. help local governments protect African Americans.
   d. deny state citizenship to freed slaves.

38. In the decades immediately following their ratification, the Civil War Amendments did little to protect the rights of African Americans because
   a. freed slaves refused to support the amendments.
   b. U.S. Congress passed laws preventing the amendments from taking effect.
   c. state government officials did little to enforce the provisions of the amendments.
   d. the U.S. Supreme Court declared state civil rights laws unconstitutional.
39. The guarantee of equal protection of the laws in the Fourteenth Amendment means that government
   a. is responsible for seeing that Americans have the same opportunities.
   b. may not unfairly or unreasonably treat people differently.
   c. is responsible for ensuring that people have a decent standard of living.
   d. may not conduct unreasonable searches and seizures of private property.

40. The Fourteenth Amendment changed the Constitution by
   a. defining national and state citizenship.
   b. making national citizenship unavailable to Confederate officials.
   c. defining the period of residence required to become a naturalized citizen.
   d. giving the states exclusive power over citizenship.

41. The power of Congress to investigate is an example of its
   a. delegated powers.
   b. reserved powers.
   c. inherent powers.
   d. implied powers.

42. The leaders of civil rights movements are significantly aided by the Constitution's protection of
   a. freedom to assemble and petition.
   b. the privileges and immunities of citizenship.
   c. property rights.
   d. the separate but equal doctrine.

43. The struggle to extend voting rights to women was made especially difficult by
   a. the increase in women entering the workforce.
   b. fears that it would set back the cause for former slaves.
   c. constitutional questions over whether women are citizens.
   d. the failure of states to grant women voting rights.

44. Citizenship of Native Americans was resolved by the
   a. Indian Citizenship Act of 1924.
   b. *Dred Scott* decision of 1857.
   c. Missouri Compromise of 1821.
   d. Northwest Ordinance of 1787.
45. Nations try to maintain international order by
   a. collective security, in which nations agree to protect one another from attack.
   b. participating in the League of Nations.
   c. participating in the international police force to enforce international law.
   d. enforcing trade agreements.

46. Americans can influence Congress in all the following ways except
   a. petitioning.
   b. testifying before committees.
   c. lobbying on behalf of pending legislation.
   d. voting on pending legislation.

47. “The right of the people peaceably to assemble” means that government may
   a. forbid assemblies based on their content, subject, or theme.
   b. prohibit the use of public property for assemblies or demonstrations.
   c. apply restrictions to some groups but not to others.
   d. make reasonable “time, place, and manner” restrictions.

48. The due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment is important because it
   a. changed the emphasis of the Magna Carta on procedural rights of subjects.
   b. has been used to extend the protections of most of the provisions of the Bill of Rights.
   c. provides a referendum on pending national legislation.
   d. modifies the commerce clause of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

49. Time, place, and manner restrictions of free expression generally are upheld by the courts if they
   a. give local authorities adequate discretion to limit the rights of unpopular groups.
   b. apply only to obscene material or libelous statements.
   c. are authorized by Congress or a majority of state legislatures.
   d. are applied in a nondiscriminatory manner toward particular groups or individuals.
50. Which of the following situations might violate a First Amendment right?
   a. Police search a high school student's locker for drugs.
   b. A state legislature passes a law prohibiting the possession of firearms.
   c. Prisoners are not allowed to consult their attorneys.
   d. A city council refuses to grant a controversial group's permit to march.

51. Individuals and groups that lobby government officials are exercising their constitutional rights of
   a. due process.
   b. petition and association.
   c. habeas corpus.
   d. privilege against self-incrimination.

52. The Fourth Amendment protects an individual's privacy from government intrusion in which of the following ways?
   a. It requires a general warrant to be issued before search or seizure.
   b. It requires absolute proof of a crime committed before issuing a warrant for arrest.
   c. It prohibits general warrants because they allow indiscriminate searches.
   d. It prohibits general warrants because they limit government power.

53. Procedural due process is based on the idea that
   a. defendants' rights must be considered over the needs of society.
   b. systems of criminal justice must be affordable.
   c. police officers must have necessary authority to enforce the law.
   d. government officials must follow recognized procedures when making or enforcing the law.

54. Which of the following is an important characteristic of an adversary legal system?
   a. Cross-examination of witnesses conducted by the judge.
   b. Two opposing sides present their cases to an impartial judge or jury.
   c. There are no jury trials.
   d. Cases are presented by the parties themselves, without assistance of counsel.

55. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are examples of ways Americans can
   a. advance the common good without relying on government.
   b. receive charters from Congress to perform quasi-legislative duties.
   c. avoid other civic responsibilities.
   d. avoid registering for the draft.
56. States are called “laboratories of democracy” because they
   a. test the validity of executive orders at the local level.
   b. issue advisory opinions to Congress.
   c. implement novel social and economic policies.
   d. place limits on the federal government.

57. Administrative agencies are important because they
   a. make rules to implement laws passed by Congress.
   b. are elected by the people.
   c. are provided for in Article VII of the Constitution.
   d. are not required to exercise judgment.

58. A fundamental difference between citizens and resident aliens is that only citizens may
   a. enjoy the protections of the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment.
   b. engage in social and political actions.
   c. serve on juries.
   d. buy and sell real estate.

59. Because many Americans believe that their own opportunity to succeed is related to the well-being of society, they
   a. act for the common good out of enlightened self-interest.
   b. put aside civic virtue for the sake of their families.
   c. respect and accept the opinions of elected public officials.
   d. reject classical republicanism in favor of the natural rights philosophy.

60. In American constitutional democracy, citizens are expected to
   a. promote their individual rights without regard to the common good.
   b. allow government to assume responsibility for solving social problems.
   c. ignore their own personal interests when making political choices.
   d. think critically about public issues and participate in public affairs.

61. Which of the following is not a fundamental principle of the American constitutional system?
   a. checks and balances
   b. popular sovereignty
   c. rule of law
   d. executive supremacy
62. Civil disobedience differs from mere lawbreaking in which of the following ways?
   a. Civil disobedience is not breaking the law because the First Amendment protects it.
   b. Civil disobedience is a spontaneous act.
   c. Civil disobedience is not breaking the law because it has been an important tool in civil and voting rights movements.
   d. Civil disobedience seeks to justify its actions by reference to higher moral laws.

63. A basic difference between the Bill of Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is that the Bill of Rights
   a. is enforceable by an authorized government.
   b. enumerates more rights.
   c. is more recent.
   d. contains only "positive" rights.

64. The Supreme Court's power to declare the meaning of the U.S. Constitution is known as
   a. judicial restraint.
   b. judicial activism.
   c. judicial review.
   d. judicial inquiry.

65. The "exclusionary rule" enforces protections found in the Fourth Amendment in which of the following ways?
   a. It requires the police to read individuals their rights.
   b. It requires the government to show "probable cause" before a warrant is issued.
   c. It prohibits the police from searching or seizing property at a school.
   d. It prohibits the government from using evidence obtained in an illegal search.