

# AP<sup>®</sup> U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## FREE PRACTICE TEST

Answers and Explanations



## ANSWER KEY

1. D	12. B	23. C	34. D	45. B
2. B	13. D	24. C	35. B	46. B
3. A	14. A	25. D	36. A	47. C
4. D	15. B	26. B	37. C	48. A
5. B	16. A	27. B	38. D	49. C
6. C	17. D	28. A	39. B	50. D
7. A	18. B	29. C	40. A	51. B
8. D	19. C	30. D	41. C	52. A
9. B	20. A	31. C	42. A	53. C
10. B	21. A	32. B	43. A	54. A
11. A	22. D	33. C	44. D	55. A

## EXPLANATIONS

## SECTION 1: Part A: Multiple-Choice Questions

- D** This question is asking you to read a chart that shows the different sources of information for Trump voters and Clinton voters in the 2016 presidential election. The chart shows that Trump voters predominantly relied on Fox News for information during the 2016 presidential election. Although the graph shows that Trump voters had a common main source for information, the sources for information for Clinton voters were spread across a wider variety of sources (D). Overall, the chart demonstrates the presence of a common source for Trump voters and no comparable common source for Clinton voters (B). The information on the chart does not support the conclusion that voters who used the New York Times were least likely to vote for Trump (C), or make any statements specific to newspaper reading versus television viewing (A).
- B** This question is asking you to read a chart that shows the different sources of information for Trump voters and Clinton voters in the 2016 presidential election. Overall, the chart demonstrates the presence of a common source for Trump voters and no comparable common source for Clinton voters. The pattern shown in the chart suggests a possible consequence that registered voters are increasingly using targeted sources of news, shown through the use of Fox News as a common source for Trump voters (B). Although the chart does include Facebook as an Internet news source, it does not include enough information to conclude that traditional print media sources are declining (A), or to form any conclusions about the content of public radio (D). The data about local news on the graph suggests that, while local news was used as a source for both Clinton and Trump voters, national sources were used more commonly (C).
- A** This question is asking you to read a chart that shows the different rates of voter turnout in presidential elections from 1988 to 2016. Overall, the chart demonstrates a trend towards increasing African American voter turnout from 1988 to 2012, followed by a steep decline for the 2016 election (A). The time period from 2004 to 2016 includes a peak and a sharp decline, leading to roughly equivalent numbers for the two years (B). Overall turnout numbers were also stable between 1992 and 2004 (C), as well as 1998 and 2000 (D).
- D** This question is asking you to read a chart that shows the different rates of voter turnout in presidential elections from 1988 to 2016. To answer this question, you need to combine the information in the chart with knowledge of voter behavior for the historic election of Barack Obama as the first African American president in 2008 in order to conclude that African American voter turnout spiked in 2008 and 2012 as a result of a combination of these historical factors and voter outreach (D). Media coverage of elections has increased in recent years, not declined (B). In addition, it is impossible to say that one election was more important than another (C). The graph does not provide enough information to make a conclusion about how the voter base was enlarged or when the number of eligible voters increased (A).

5. **B** This question is asking you to read a chart that shows how federal spending is proportionally allocated to different programs. The different slices of the pie chart that clearly represent domestic social spending (Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare) total more than the amount spent on defense spending (B). The proportion of spending allocated to Medicaid and Medicare, even when combined, do not represent more than the amount spent on Social Security (A). Social Security is the single largest spending category represented on the graph, eclipsing both Medicaid (D) and all other categories. The amount allocated to net interest (7%) is smaller than the amount allocated to Medicaid (9%) (C).
6. **C** This question is asking you to read a chart that shows how federal spending is proportionally allocated to different programs. In order to explain the difference between the two funding categories, you need to combine the information on the chart with your knowledge of federal and state budget allocation. In this case, Social Security is a federal program, while defense spending is often supplemented by state budgets (C). Because Social Security is primarily a federal program, it does not hire extensively at the state level (D). Its funding is tied to Congress, not the president (B), and it represented a much smaller proportion of the budget when it was first implemented during a time of peace (A).
7. **A** This question is asking you to read a chart that shows the number of women elected to each house of Congress from 1919 to 1999. It shows that the women have been consistently elected at lower levels to the Senate than to the House (A), which could be explained by the fact that proportionally many more people are elected the House than to the Senate given the fact that representation in the House is allocated based on state population size. While the chart does show an increase in the number of women elected from 1980 to 1999, the rate of increase was faster in the House than in the Senate (C). The total number of women elected to serve in the Senate is much smaller than the number of women elected to the House (D), and it does not reflect the fact that women constitute approximately 50% of the general population of the United States (B).
8. **D** This question is asking you to read a chart that shows the number of women elected to each house of Congress from 1919 to 1999. In order to interpret the pattern shown on the graph, you need to know that term lengths in the House are much shorter than term lengths in the Senate, meaning that the composition of the House can change more quickly (D). The chart does not provide enough information to form any conclusions about how the gender composition of Congress would change based on political party (C), or changes to term limits (A). The change in total number of women elected shows that equal representation of the genders is not required by law (B).
9. **B** This question is asking you to read a table that shows the election results for four political parties, broken down into the electoral vote and the popular vote. In order to use the table to determine who won the election, you need to know that the Electoral College determines the next president, not the popular vote. Because the Republican Party received the highest number of electoral votes, the Republican Party candidate became president (B) instead of the Democratic Party candidate (A), the Libertarian Party candidate (C), or the Green Party candidate (D).
10. **B** This question is asking you to read a table that shows the election results for four political parties, broken down into the electoral vote and the popular vote. In order to use the table to determine who won the election, you need to know that the Electoral College determines the next president, not the popular vote. In fact, it can be concluded that the Electoral College creates a scenario in which a candidate does not need to win the popular vote to be elected president (B). Although there is occasionally an imbalance between the popular vote and the electoral vote, most electors have historically voted for the candidate that they have pledged to support (A). The table shows that electoral votes rarely go to third-party or independent candidates (D). There is not enough information on the table to make any conclusions about election finance laws (C).
11. **A** This passage from Federalist Paper 51 by James Madison argues that checks and balances within government ultimately protect the will of the people by guarding against the possibility of any one branch, or one individual, wielding too much authority (A). In Madison’s view, checks and balances increase the ability of citizens to influence their government (B) by giving them a “double security” through the checks and balances at both the state and federal level that prevents any part of the government from usurping the power of the people (D). Finally, (C) is incorrect because there is no relation to the image and United States national economic data.

12. **B** This passage from Federalist Paper 51 by James Madison argues that checks and balances within government ultimately protect the will of the people by guarding against the possibility of any one branch, or one individual, wielding too much authority. The mechanism by which the legislative branch can remove a president from power if they overstep their constitutional limits is outlined in the impeachment provisions in Article II (B). The required oaths of office in Article VI (D) applies to all elected officials, not just the executive branch. The full faith and credit arguments in Article IV apply to the relationship between the federal and state government (A), and the Supremacy Clause in Article VI (C) recognizes the Constitution as the supreme law of the land.
13. **D** This passage from Federalist Paper 51 by James Madison argues that checks and balances within government ultimately protect the will of the people by guarding against the possibility of any one branch, or one individual, wielding too much authority. One of the ways that the checks and balances operate in the United States is through the process of judicial review, established in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), that allows the judicial branch to overturn actions by the legislative branch that are determined to be unconstitutional (D). While the other court cases listed are important to U.S. history, they do not specifically engage with checks and balances. For example, *Korematsu v. United States* (1944) addresses the rights of Japanese Americans during World War II, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010) focuses on election fundraising, and *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857) discusses the rights of slaves in free territories.
14. **A** This passage from Federalist Paper 51 by James Madison argues that checks and balances within government ultimately protect the will of the people by guarding against the possibility of any one branch, or one individual, wielding too much authority. The author would be most likely to support the statement that the Constitution provides a mechanism for the legislative branch to override an executive veto first, because the Constitution does so in Article I, and second, because it support his general argument that each branch of the government provides a check on the other branches (A). The author would most likely not support the idea that creating state and federal legislative bodies would promote confusion because he specifically states that doing so makes the “compound republic” stronger (B). Given the author’s strong support of checks and balances, he would most likely also support judicial review (D) and impeachment (C), both of which are practices by which one government branch exercises control over another.
15. **B** This passage from President Ronald Reagan’s Inaugural Address in 1981. In this address, he stresses his desire to “curb the size and influence of the Federal establishment” (make government smaller) in order to better reflect that the fact that its power ultimately derives from the people. The general argument in the passage can be described as asserting that that government should have less direct influence, and that individuals should have more say in their government (B). This approach implies that there should be less, not more, social services provided by the government (A). President Reagan also makes it clear that a rise in popular sovereignty would lead to less federal authority because the people would be playing a more active role in their government (D). While he argues that state authority should be expanded, President Reagan asserts that this would be a return to the principles that founded the nation, not an intentional act to undermine the federal government (C).
16. **A** This passage from President Ronald Reagan’s Inaugural Address in 1981. In this address, he stresses his desire to “curb the size and influence of the Federal establishment” (make government smaller) in order to better reflect that the fact that its power ultimately derives from the people. The general argument of a smaller government, with more power remaining in the hands of the people, can be described as a Libertarian position (A). Liberal (B), Progressive (C), and Nationalist (D) perspectives all favor bigger governments, although they differ on what they think the government should do with its authority.
17. **D** This passage from President Ronald Reagan’s Inaugural Address in 1981. In this address, he stresses his desire to “curb the size and influence of the Federal establishment” (make government smaller) in order to better reflect that the fact that its power ultimately derives from the people. The general sentiment throughout the passage is that powers not explicitly granted to the federal government by the Constitution should be retained by the states. The ability to set curriculum in public schools is a power reserved to the states (D). The writer would support this because it is a power vested to the states and not granted to the federal government. Establishing minimum federal taxes (C), implementing nationwide rules about voter identification (B), or restricting the right of states to set a minimum wage about the federal level (A) are all actions that place the needs of the federal government above the rights of the state. In doing so, they violate the general ethos of Reagan’s approach.

18. **B** This question asks you to review a map of Maryland’s 3rd Congressional District and form some conclusions based on its contents and your knowledge of gerrymandering, district packing, and electoral constituencies. The district shown can be recognized as a gerrymandered district because of its extremely unusual shape and the fact that many parts of the district are “islands” in other districts that are unconnected to the other parts of the 3rd district. Gerrymandered districts are drawn in an unusual way in order to pack together voters of the same party or political ideology (B). The practice of gerrymandering discourages competitive elections (C), ensures that only one socio-economic class is dominant (A), and makes the logistics of door to door canvassing extremely difficult (D).
19. **C** This question asks you to review a map of Maryland’s 3rd Congressional District and form some conclusions based on its contents and your knowledge of gerrymandering, district packing, and electoral constituencies. The district shown can be recognized as a gerrymandered district because of its extremely unusual shape and the fact that many parts of the district are “islands” in other districts that are unconnected to the other parts of the 3rd district. Gerrymandered districts are drawn in an unusual way in order to pack together voters of the same party and give that party a competitive edge (C). Because gerrymandered districts favor one candidate’s party, they are not likely to result in a competitive election (A), an independent candidate (B), or a high number of write-in votes (D).
20. **A** This question asks you to review a political cartoon that depicts an all-female Supreme Court labeled “Supreme Court, 2022.” The overall message of the cartoon is that increasing gender parity in employment may increase the number of women serving in the government (A). The alternative answer choices all contain a misstatement about either gender in the United States or the Supreme Court. For example, the Supreme Court does not have a vested interest in ensuring that all judges are women (D), because its primary purpose is justice, not the representation of a single population group. The cartoon system would not serve justice (B). The cartoon does not provide enough information to conclude definitively that the Supreme Court will never be entirely female (C).
21. **A** This question asks you to review a political cartoon that depicts an all-female Supreme Court labeled “Supreme Court, 2022.” The overall message of the cartoon is that increasing gender parity in employment may increase the number of women serving in the government. The Supreme Court case that addresses issues of gender in hiring is *Chrapliwy v. Uniroyal, Inc.* (1982) (A). *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* (2010) is related to election funding (B). *Shaw v. Reno* (1993) and *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) are both civil rights cases related to racial protections and the recognition of same-sex marriage (C) and (D), respectively.
22. **D** This question asks you to review a chart that shows how voting method affected voter turnout in four different elections. It compares “vote at home” ballot systems, often called absentee ballots or mail-in ballots, with traditional polling places. Across all four elections, turnout rates were higher for “vote at home” systems. The disparity between “vote at home” systems and traditional polling places was in non-presidential elections that traditionally have lower turnouts (D). A supporter of “vote at home” systems would not be likely to claim that “vote at home systems” increased voter fraud (C), or to argue that increased participation in “vote at home” systems was merely the result of a limited number of polling places (A). There is not enough information on the chart to make any conclusions about how voter ID laws would affect voter turnout (B), although such laws have been shown to lower participation across the board.
23. **C** This question asks you to review a chart that shows how voting method affected voter turnout in four different elections. It compares “vote at home” ballot systems, often called absentee ballots or mail-in ballots, with traditional polling places. Across all four elections, turnout rates were higher for “vote at home” systems. In order to increase voter turnout, a group trying to increase voter turnout could lobby state legislatures to allow for “vote at home” systems in rural areas (C). Lobbying Congress to increase pay for poll workers (D) or publicizing neighborhood polling places (A) would not be likely to increase “vote at home” participation. Hosting a voter education night for election campaign volunteers (B) would also not be likely to increase voter turnout because campaign volunteers are already invested in the political process and highly likely to vote.
24. **C** This question asks you to consider the function and impact of political parties on the government. While political parties can do many things, such as recruit candidates and shape the debate to focus on issues important to the party platform (C), they cannot pay lobbyists to directly approach members of Congress (B). Political parties also do not have the authority to create gerrymandered districts (D). Encouraging write-in campaigns would not support a party’s goals because it would take attention away from the candidate they support (A).



25. **D** This question asks you to consider the impact of the Supreme Court Ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010), which ruled that election contributions from corporations, associations, and labor unions was a form of protected speech under the First Amendment. One of the most notable consequences of this ruling was the creation of super PACS, which can provide large amounts of money to support a candidate in an election, although they may not directly coordinate with the candidate (D). The ruling has led to a general loosening of restrictions over large money donors in order to respect their protected speech (B). Despite the ruling, however, small money donors continue to play an important role in presidential campaigns (C). Funds available to third party candidates have not been significantly affected by the ruling (A).
26. **B** This question asks you to consider the checks and balances that exist between the Supreme Court and the executive branch. As the highest expression of the judicial branch, the Supreme Court has the power, through judicial review, of determining if actions are constitutional. This power extends to the ability to declare presidential acts unconstitutional (B). The ability to override a presidential veto (C), declare war (A), or impeach a president (D) are all powers reserved by Congress in order to give it the power to provide a check on the executive.
27. **B** This question asks you to consider the intent of the framers of the Constitution in regard to the Supreme Court. Article III of the U.S. Constitution provides the guidelines that have been used to form the Supreme Court as it stands today. Specifically, it states that the Supreme Court should have original jurisdiction in matters concerning the states (B), appellate jurisdiction in all other matters, and consist of politically independent judges who serve for life (D). The U.S. Constitution further details that the Supreme Court can only address actual cases, not hypothetical ones (C). The U.S. military maintains a separate judicial system to try individuals charged with military crimes (A).
28. **A** This question asks you to consider how a committee in Congress can hold the actions of other government officials responsible for complying with a recommendation from the House of Representatives. In this particular example, you are also asked to weigh the balance of powers between the state and federal government in matters of education. If the members of a House of Representatives committee are concerned about the nutritional content of school lunches in California, they are within their scope of authority to exercise the “power of the purse” and withhold funding to ensure compliance with new nutritional guidelines (A). The authority of the House of Representatives does not extend to the ability to place a referendum on a ballot (referendums are generated by the people (C)), issue punishments when people do not obey laws (the purview of the judicial branch) (D), or appoint new government officials in elected positions (B).
29. **C** This question asks you to consider how the Supreme Court balances claims of individual freedom with laws and enforcement procedures. In this scenario, the right to gun ownership is limited based on the Supreme Court decision that certain restrictions, such as the ban on convicted felons owning guns, are “presumptively lawful” even if the right to possess a firearm is considered an individual right (C). Although Supreme Court rulings on gun control prior to *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) were mostly rooted in the question of whether gun ownership was an individual right or tied to service in a militia, gun ownership was not explicitly restricted because the U.S. military redefined what constitutes a militia (A). Similarly, neither the Fourth Amendment (B) or the Fifth Amendment (D) have historically had a significant impact on the regulation of gun ownership in the United States.
30. **D** This question asks you to determine which actions by a lobbyist are considered legal under current law, and which are not. As the law currently stands, a lobbyist can mount a pressure campaign using a variety of social pressure tools (D), but they cannot provide gifts to lawmakers (A). Lobbying firms are not allowed to provide commissions to lobbyists based on successful votes (C), nor can lawmakers become lobbyists immediately after leaving office (B).
31. **C** This question asks you to explain how the policy-making process works in the Senate. In this particular question, you are asked to identify the methods that could be used to avoid a vote on a controversial bill. A filibuster is the most common method of avoiding a vote (C). Presenting a cloture motion (B) is used to end a filibuster, so it would not be the likely course of action for someone opposed to the bill being discussed on the floor. Likewise, requiring a quorum call would not avoid a vote on the bill, but just delay the vote for a short period of time while roll was taken (D) in a similar way that filing a motion to adjourn would just put the vote to the next business day (A).

32. **B** This question asks you to explain Supreme Court reasoning on the Fourth Amendment by identifying a scenario that would be considered an unreasonable search and seizure based on previous Supreme Court decisions. The Supreme Court has ruled that evidence must be covered under the scope of a warrant and that any evidence collected not specifically detailed in the warrant must be “in plain sight.” The scenario in (B), the warrant would not extend to drug paraphernalia in a closed drawer, leading it to be an example of unreasonable search and seizure. The Supreme Court has ruled that certain situations are reasonable, rather than unreasonable searches, including clearly visible items in cars parked on public streets (A) and voluntarily surrendered information (C). The Fourth Amendment protects the right of people to be secured in their home and to prevent the police from entering without a warrant (D).
33. **C** This question asks you to understand the scope of authority of the House of Representatives versus the powers maintained by the Senate. The House of Representatives maintains the exclusive right to initiate revenue bills (A) and initiate actions to impeach a sitting president, although there is a very high standard of proof to do so (C). The Senate, not the House of Representatives, is responsible for confirming presidential appointments (D). The Senate traditionally has far more filibusters than the House of Representatives because the floor rules in the House give more authority to cloture motions (B).
34. **D** This question asks you to understand the scope of the First Amendment and how Supreme Court rulings have narrowed what constitutes “free speech” over time. The Supreme Court has ruled that symbolic speech, such as burning a U.S. flag (A) and a company contributing to a presidential campaign (B) are generally considered free speech. Prayer in public schools is a trickier subject, but the current standard is that student-sponsored, voluntary prayer that does not disrupt the school’s educational mission is allowed under free speech (C). Student rights to free speech, however, are not absolute. They are specifically restricted from advocating illegal drug use at school events, for example (D).
35. **B** This question asks you to explain the balance of powers between national and state governments, as well as the enumerated powers of Congress. Congress has the enumerated right to grant letters of marque and reprisal (A), issue copyrights (C), regulate commerce (B), and create rules about naturalization (D). While all four of these powers fall under the scope of Congress, the reasoning behind the Affordable Care Act of 2009 was rooted in Congress’s authority to regulate inter-state commerce (B). The other powers listed related to sovereignty over territory (letters of marque), immigration (naturalization regulations), and trademark law (copyrights and patents).
36. **A** This question asks you to explore the implications of *Shaw v. Reno* (1993), a Supreme Court case that ruled that the citizens could protest the borders of a majority minority district if race was the only factor used in its creation (A). The Supreme Court case specifically addressed the rights of citizens, not the rights of state courts (D) or state legislatures (B). The remaining answer choice in which a group of people refuse to answer U.S. census questions would not be allowed under *Shaw v. Reno* (1993), both because it would not be an effective response to change gerrymandered districts and because a census response is required by law (C).
37. **C** This question asks you to explore the Fifth Amendment by considering the Supreme Court’s rulings on issues of self-incrimination, double jeopardy, and the right to remain silent. The court has determined that individuals have the right to invoke the Fifth Amendment if called as a witness in a trial (A), but a court can compel that same individual to testify—even if they invoke the Fifth Amendment—by granting the witness immunity from prosecution (B). The courts have ruled that an individual’s right to remain silent must be explicitly stated upon arrest in order for any confession to be entered into evidence (C). Failure to do so would constitute a violation of the Fifth Amendment. Although an individual cannot be brought up on the same criminal charges twice, they can be charged in both criminal and civil court (D).
38. **D** This question asks you to define a merit system, and, compare that definition with variety of given scenarios. Almost all of the given answer choices suggest the advance of an individual’s career based on personal ties or self-interest. For example, nominating a fund-raiser to political office (A), reappointing a secretary of education based on special interested groups (C), or hiring relatives (B) would all be examples of a patronage network that disregarded quantifiable data in favor of personal metrics.

39. **B** This question asks you to compare two statements asked in a survey in order to explore how public opinion data can be affected by the type and format of questions. In this case, a change in wording (B) between the two options changes the connotation for each statement and makes the second statement less controversial. The sample size was not exceptionally large (C), so that would not account for the differences of responses. Although the questions addressed a controversial topic (D), and there is no way of knowing if there were or were not immigrants in the study (A), these factors would not cause the response rate to change overnight.
40. **A** This question asks you to understand the definition of the free-rider problem and identify it in a given scenario. The free-rider public plagues public interest groups that advocate for a greater good, such as safety, that would benefit people outside of its membership (A). In this scenario, there is less incentive to join a group and make contributions toward a cause. The opposite of the free rider problem is when a special interest group advocates for legislation that will only benefit its members (D). Most nonprofit advocacy groups that serve the public good have strong public support (C). The cost of implementing new legislation does not factor into the free-rider problem (B).
41. **C** This question asks you to explain presidential actions that take place in the period of time between when a new president is elected, but before the new president takes office. The president is traditionally called a “lame duck” president during this time period because there is no chance of being re-elected (C). The other answer choices are either too broad or inaccurate. For example, all presidents in the United States are considered Constitutional presidents because they derive power from the U.S. Constitution (A), and most can be considered oppositional presidents because presidents rarely enjoy the full support of both houses of Congress (B). An impeached president is one that has been found guilty by Congress, but the term has nothing to do with the time period before a new president takes office (D).
42. **A** This question asks you to consider scientific polling types and methods in order to determine how a poll can establish its credibility. In this scenario, reporting a sampling error would increase the credibility of the poll result (A). If the poll was administered to members of the U.S. Mint, however, the results could be biased given that the employees have a direct stake in the production of the penny (C). Social media polls (B), or polls conducted online and open to anyone who wants to enter, do not follow scientific methods. The remaining response indicates that the respondents were asked a leading question by being told that one response would lead to lower taxes (D).
43. **A** This question asks you to consider how Federalist and Anti-Federalist views on central government are reflected in U.S. foundational documents. Favoring a strong central government and weak state governments was the hallmark of Federalism. Federalists also argued that a Bill of Rights was not necessary because any powers not explicitly granted to the federal government were reserved by the people (A). Anti-Federalists argued the opposite by asserting that a Bill of Rights was necessary and that the states should have strong governments (D). Social Democrats (B) and Democratic-Republicans (C) were political parties that were formed after the Constitution was drafted, so they both tended to support its structure of a strong central government.
44. **D** This question asks you to compare two significant Supreme Court cases that are related to the student free speech rights at school. In *Engel v. Vitale* (1962), the court debated whether students could lead religious activities on a public-school campus. The court ultimately ruled that school sponsorship of religious activity violates the establishment clause, but that students were free to hold voluntary activities that did not interfere with school functions (D). It did not prohibit all religious activity (A), only religious activity that was sponsored by the school. *Tinker v. Des Moines* (1969) revolved around the right of students to protest the Vietnam War using symbolic speech (D). It focused specifically on public schools (B), and ruled that the right of students to exercise free speech through symbolic speech was universal (C).
45. **B** This question asks you to demonstrate knowledge of how the balance of power between national and state governments is mediated through the debate over enumerated versus implied powers. The U.S. Constitution specifically grants Congress certain powers, including the power to borrow on the credit of the United States (B), but also states that any power not specifically granted to Congress belongs to the states. While this tenet has been interpreted by the Courts in various ways, the U.S. Constitution is clear at least in terms of what powers are granted by the document to Congress. All aspects of the federal and state governments are denied the right to grant titles of nobility (C), and the federal government is specifically denied the authority to change state boundaries (A), or levy taxes on state exports (D).



46. **B** This question asks you to demonstrate knowledge of the policies and procedures within the U.S. House of Representatives. In the House of Representatives, it is considered within normal procedural guidelines for a bill to be passed to the Senate after receiving a simple majority (A), a member to invoke cloture to stop a filibuster (D), and for a member to request a motion to adjourn for a lack of a quorum (C). It would be considered a violation of procedural rules for a member to propose a bill before the House is called to order by the speaker because no action can occur before the House is called to order (B). The Speaker of the House is an important figure who makes sure that all House procedures are followed and that rules of conduct in the House are maintained.
47. **C** This question asks you to demonstrate awareness of how conservative and liberal views on the size and scope of the federal government differ. Broadly speaking, conservatives favor a strict interpretation of the U.S. Constitution, smaller government, and less federal sponsorship of social programs. Liberals, on the other hand, favor a broad interpretation of the Constitution, more federally sponsored social programs, and a bigger government. Given these factors, the most accurate answer choice is (C), because it accurately states that the conservatives argue that government aid should not be the first resort, and the liberals feel that the government should provide more social support. It is inaccurate to argue that conservatives think that the government should spend more on social programs (A), that liberals think that interest rates should be regulated more tightly (B), or that conservatives favor a broad interpretation of the U.S. Constitution (D).
48. **A** This question asks you to demonstrate knowledge of the relationship between different core values, specifically the values of rule of law and limited government. The rule of law values codified systems of laws in which all people are treated equally. The value of limited government, on the other hand, thinks that a government can only wield the powers that are specifically ceded to it. The scenario that is most likely to cause tension between these two values is expanding the authority of the National Guard. This would be supported under rule of law because it applies an idea of a strict rule of law that supports all citizens. However, it would run against the idea of limited government because the National Guard is ultimately a part of the U.S. military (A). (B) and (C) are less likely to cause tension because they advocate both less government and the rule of law, like reducing mandatory drug sentencing (B) and decreasing funding for environmental regulations (C). Implementing required court monitoring for juvenile offenders would represent an expansion of government power and an uneven application of the rule of law because some individuals would be subject to more monitoring (D).
49. **C** This question asks you to show an understanding of the Fourteenth Amendment and the broader connection between constitutional provisions and social movements. The Fourteenth Amendment contains the equal protection clause, which guarantees equal protection under the law to all citizens. This was a likely source of inspiration for the National Organization of Women during their campaign to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, which sought to expand the Fourteenth Amendment by specifying that equal protection under the law specifically extended to women as well as men (C). Because the National Organization of Women was concerned primarily with the rights of women citizens in the United States, it was not overly concerned with birthright citizenship (D), the right to public trial (B), or the constitutional protections against unreasonable searches and seizures (A).
50. **D** This question asks you to show an understanding of supply side economics. This economic approach most notably followed by President Reagan, values tax cuts for everyone in the belief that tax cuts would benefit society by increasing everyone's spending capital (D). Keynesian economic theory, which is sometimes considered the opposite of supply-side economics, favors looser monetary policies (A) and more unemployment aid (C). Likewise, Keynesian economics would encourage large tax cuts on capital gains (B), in the belief that doing so would help stimulate the commercial sector.
51. **B** This question asks you to show an understanding of the balance of power between the federal government and state government. The federal government has certain enumerated powers in the U.S. Constitution, but grants all powers that are not specifically listed to the states. Under this paradigm, the federal government has the sole authority to regulate the mail (A), engage in foreign affairs (C), and regulate currency (D). Constitutional amendments, however, must be ratified at the state level (B) before they can officially be included in the U.S. Constitution.

52. **A** This question asks you to explain the relationship between Congress and the Executive branch in terms of their legislating functions. While Congress has the sole power to make laws, the president can issue shorter term executive orders that create regulations that are within the Constitutional limits of the office and are on matters that would not require congressional approval. Executive orders, however, often lead to conflict with the congressional agenda because they may extend presidential authority beyond its Constitutional scope (A). Executive orders that overreach may be overturned by the courts through judicial review (B). While they are limited to the span of an individual's presidency, that alone does not cause conflict with the congressional agenda. Congress is often willing to legislate short term matters, such as disaster relief (D). There are limited concerns about the potential for a conflict of interest for the vice president because the vice president is not involved with the creation of executive orders (C).
53. **C** This question asks you to understand executive branch appointments, as well as how those appointments may impact a president's legacy. Among all the presidential appointments, judicial appointments are the most contentious (A) because justices serve for life. This gives the president the opportunity to shape the direction of the United States far after their term has ended (C). The long-term impact of judicial appointments brings with it the potential for conflict, far more than the many other presidential appointments that require Senate approval (B). The Senate has the authority to approve presidential appointments, not the House of Representatives (D).
54. **A** This question asks you to explore how the Supreme Court has attempted to balance claims of individual freedom with laws and enforcement procedures. In the specific scenario provided, the Supreme Court ruled that the method of handing out death penalty verdicts was unconstitutional, not the death penalty itself. States revised their statutes in order to fit within the requirements of the new ruling. This shows that the states followed the decision made by the Supreme Court (A). While the effectiveness of the death penalty is often debated, the Fifth Amendment clearly details that an individual can be deprived of "life, liberty, or property" only after the due process of the law (B). The constant back and forth on the death penalty, including the almost constant rotating list of state moratoriums, represents the fact that there is a tension between endorsing capital punishment and political motivations (C). The Eighth Amendment specifies that a court can require bail, although the bail may not be "excessive" (D).
55. **A** This question asks you to demonstrate understanding of how a president can implement a policy agenda. A presidential veto is an expression of the balance of powers between the branches of government in the U.S. Constitution. It is typically used when Congress is dominated by the opposition party (A), and consistently passing legislation that does not concur with the president's political agenda (B). A pocket veto is not related to the process of judicial review because a Supreme Court ruling declares a law void, regardless of the president's position (C). Likewise, a veto cannot be used to stop a stalled negotiation between the houses of Congress because both must agree before the legislation is sent to the president (D).