

Regents Review 2 – Colonial Period, Constitution and the American Political System

1 Which geographic feature served as the western boundary for British colonial settlements prior to the Revolutionary War?

- (1) Rocky Mountains
- (2) Missouri River
- (3) Appalachian Mountains
- (4) Great Plains

2 “. . . That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, . . . ”

— Declaration of Independence

Which provision of the original United States Constitution was most influenced by this ideal?

- (1) enabling the president to select a cabinet
- (2) providing for direct election of the House of Representatives
- (3) allowing the Senate to try articles of impeachment
- (4) authorizing the Supreme Court to rule on disputes between states

3 Delegates at the Constitutional Convention of 1787 agreed to the Three-fifths Compromise to solve a dispute directly related to

- (1) the power of the presidency
- (2) representation in Congress
- (3) a decision by the Supreme Court
- (4) the addition of a bill of rights

4 Which feature of the United States Constitution traditionally gives the states authority over public education?

- (1) reserved powers (3) fifth amendment
- (2) preamble (4) supremacy clause

5 **“President Wilson Represents the United States at Versailles”**

“President Reagan Meets with Soviet President Gorbachev”

“President Carter Negotiates Camp David Accords”

Each headline illustrates a time when the president of the United States acted as

- (1) chief diplomat
- (2) chief legislator

- (3) commander in chief
- (4) head of a political party

6 Which individual’s action was directly protected by the first amendment?

- (1) Alexander Graham Bell’s invention of the telephone in 1876
- (2) Theodore Roosevelt’s command of the Rough Riders in 1898
- (3) President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s election to a third term in 1940
- (4) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s leading a march on Washington, D.C., in 1963

Base your answer to question 7 on the quotation below and on your knowledge of social studies.

. . . The nation deserves and I will select a Supreme Court justice that Americans can be proud of. The nation also deserves a dignified process of confirmation in the United States Senate, characterized by fair treatment, a fair hearing and a fair vote. I will choose a nominee in a timely manner so that the hearing and the vote can be completed before the new Supreme Court term begins. . . .

— President George W. Bush, 2005

7 Which constitutional principle is suggested by this quotation?

- (1) federalism (3) States rights
- (2) checks and balances (4) due process

8. Which geographic factor most helped the United States maintain its foreign policy of neutrality during much of the 1800s?

- (1) climate of the Great Plains
- (2) oceans on its east and west coasts
- (3) large network of navigable rivers
- (4) mountain ranges near the Atlantic and Pacific coasts

9 Before 1763, the British policy of salutary neglect toward its American colonies was based on the desire of Great Britain to

- (1) treat all English people, including colonists, on an equal basis
- (2) benefit from the economic prosperity of the American colonies
- (3) encourage manufacturing in the American colonies
- (4) ensure that all mercantile regulations were strictly followed

10 A major criticism of the Articles of Confederation was that too much power had been given to the

- (1) British monarchy
- (2) House of Burgesses
- (3) state governments
- (4) national government

11 What was the primary reason that slavery became more widespread in the South than in the North?

- (1) The abolitionist movement was based in the North.
- (2) The textile industry was controlled by southern merchants.
- (3) Opposition to slavery by the Anglican Church was stronger in the North.
- (4) Geographic factors contributed to the growth of the southern plantation system.

12 Which action can be taken by the United States Supreme Court to illustrate the concept that the Constitution is “the supreme law of the land”?

- (1) hiring new federal judges
- (2) voting articles of impeachment
- (3) declaring a state law unconstitutional
- (4) rejecting a presidential nomination to the cabinet

13 Passing marriage and divorce laws, creating vehicle and traffic regulations, and setting high school graduation requirements are examples of powers traditionally

- (1) exercised solely by local governments
- (2) reserved to the state governments
- (3) delegated entirely to the federal government
- (4) shared by the national and local governments

14 In the pamphlet *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine urged the American colonists to

- (1) oppose the French colonization of North America
- (2) compromise with the British
- (3) reaffirm their loyalty to King George III
- (4) declare their independence from Great Britain

15 What was the primary reason for holding the Constitutional Convention of 1787?

- (1) outlaw slavery in both the North and the South
- (2) place taxes on imports and exports
- (3) revise the Articles of Confederation
- (4) reduce the power of the federal government

16. Which idea did the Founding Fathers include in the Constitution that allows Congress to meet the needs of a changing society?

- (1) federalism
- (2) separation of powers
- (3) the elastic clause
- (4) States rights

17 The major reason Antifederalists opposed ratification of the Constitution was because they believed

- (1) amending the Constitution was too easy
- (2) too much power was given to the states
- (3) a federal court system would be too weak
- (4) individual rights were not adequately protected

18 Which power was delegated to the federal government in the United States Constitution?

- (1) establishing an official religion
- (2) controlling interstate commerce
- (3) regulating marriage and divorce
- (4) granting titles of nobility

Base your answers to questions 19 and 20 on the quotation below and on your knowledge of social studies.

. . . The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it. . . .

— Article I, Section 9, Clause 2,
United States Constitution

19. This clause of the Constitution expresses the idea that

- (1) civil liberties are not absolute
- (2) revolution is essential to democracy
- (3) national defense is less important than individual rights
- (4) freedom of the press is guaranteed

20. During which war was the writ of habeas corpus suspended by the president?

- (1) Revolutionary War (3) Mexican War
- (2) War of 1812 (4) Civil War

21 Which heading best completes the partial outline below?

- I. _____
- A. Political parties
 - B. Committee system in Congress
 - C. Judicial review
 - D. President's cabinet

- (1) Unwritten Constitution
- (2) Constitutional Amendments
- (3) Electoral Process
- (4) Checks and Balances

22 • The United States government taxes gasoline.
• New York State law requires a sales tax on many goods.

These two statements best illustrate the principle of

- (1) concurrent powers
- (2) property rights
- (3) reserved powers
- (4) popular sovereignty

23 Which statement about the United States House of Representatives is accurate?

- (1) Representatives are chosen by the legislatures of their states.
- (2) The Constitution allows each state two representatives.
- (3) The number of representatives from each state is based on its population.
- (4) The political party of the president always holds a majority of House seats.

24 Lobbying groups like the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the National Education Association (NEA) can influence government decisions because they

- (1) directly choose the leaders of Congress
- (2) work to elect legislators who support their views
- (3) pay the salaries of elected officials
- (4) become members of third political parties

25 The United States Constitution requires that a national census be taken every ten years to

- (1) provide the government with information about voter registration
- (2) establish a standard for setting income tax rates
- (3) determine the number of members each state has in the House of Representatives
- (4) decide who can vote in presidential elections

26. According to the United States Constitution, the president has the power to

- (1) nominate federal judges
- (2) declare war
- (3) grant titles of nobility
- (4) reverse Supreme Court decisions

27 In the 2000 presidential election, which aspect of the electoral college system caused the most controversy?

- (1) A state can divide its electoral votes among different candidates.
- (2) States with few electoral votes have no influence on election outcomes.
- (3) The selection of electors varies among states.
- (4) The winner of the popular vote might not get the majority of the electoral vote.

28. John Locke's theory of natural rights, as reflected in the Declaration of Independence, states that

- (1) government is the source of all individual rights
- (2) power should be concentrated in the monarchy
- (3) power to govern belongs to the people
- (4) individual liberties are best protected by a strong government

29. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 set a precedent for other western territories by

- (1) allowing slavery
- (2) including voting rights for women
- (3) providing a method for the creation of new states
- (4) setting aside land for churches

30. The main purpose of granting life tenure to Federal judges is to

- 1) help bring about impartiality in their decision-making
- 2) permit them to obtain judicial experience
- 3) assure that they will follow the President's wishes
- 4) reward them for their political party loyalties