

Unit 5: Political Participation
TEST B

1. Article 1, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution says:

The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators

Accordingly, who is most responsible for determining election laws?

- a. Congress
 - b. House of Representatives only
 - c. Executive Branch
 - d. State legislatures
2. Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?
- a. 15th Amendment extended the right to vote to African Americans
 - b. 19th Amendment extended the right to vote to Women
 - c. 24th Amendment eliminated poll taxes
 - d. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 extended suffrage to eighteen-year-olds and older
3. In the case *Shelby v. Holder* (2013) our high court ruled that critical sections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were no longer necessary. Reauthorizations were ruled unconstitutional. The court's rationale was based upon
- a. The Constitution's intention for states to determine election policy
 - b. The Constitution's intention for judicial review to modify laws over time
 - c. Overwhelming public support for the court's conclusions
 - d. Strong arm influence of the sitting president
4. According to political science, there are a number of models that explain our voting habits. According to this model choices become self-evident based upon the facts.
- a. Rational choice theory
 - b. Retrospective voting
 - c. Prospective voting
 - d. Party-line voting
5. According to political science, there are a number of models that explain our voting habits. According to this model partisan labels sway voting choices over all else.
- a. Rational choice theory
 - b. Retrospective voting
 - c. Prospective voting
 - d. Party-line voting

6. According to political science, there are a number of models that explain our voting habits. According to this model voters cast ballots to reward and punish political behavior.
- Rational choice theory
 - Retrospective voting
 - Prospective voting
 - Party-line voting
7. According to political science, there are a number of models that explain our voting habits. According to this model voters are persuaded by lofty promises and compelling visions of the future.
- Rational choice theory
 - Retrospective voting
 - Prospective voting
 - Party-line voting
8. Tom votes in almost every election. Like most Americans he is influenced most by Partisan ID. It is almost like a habit, regardless of candidates and issues. He appears to be an example of this voting model
- Rational choice theory
 - Retrospective voting
 - Prospective voting
 - Party-line voting
9. Here in the United States voting turnout in presidential elections rarely exceeds _____ % of eligible citizens. In non-presidential years turnout is much lower.
- 40%
 - 50%
 - 60%
 - 70%
10. All of the following demographic characteristics describe likely voters EXCEPT
- White
 - Older
 - College educated
 - Southerners
11. All of the following are institutional barriers to voting, rules and/or laws that prevent eligible adults from voting, EXCEPT
- Strict registration requirements
 - Unqualified candidates
 - Election Day is a work day
 - In most states convicted felons are limited in their voting

12. Republican Party candidates campaign on issues, including those associated with voting. Most Republican candidates favor
- Returning to our original laws – including property requirements for all voters
 - Early voting along with same-day registration
 - Strict registration laws including photo-identification of all voters
 - Eliminating voting and replacing it with social media referendums
13. Democratic Party candidates campaign on issues, including those associated with voting. Most Democratic candidates favor
- Returning to our original laws – including property requirements for all voters
 - Early voting along with same-day registration
 - Strict registration laws including photo-identification of all voters
 - Eliminating voting and replacing it with social media referendums
14. This has become a game-changer in our voting habits. Growing more and more democratic, with more and more technology available, voters today increasingly base their choices on
- Candidate-centered campaigns rather than just party labels
 - Party labels over issue dominated campaigns
 - Information from objective sources like foreign media
 - Last minute October Surprises, events that occur days before the election
15. Numerous institutions link the people to their government. Linkage institutions are channels that allow individuals to communicate their preferences to policy-makers. This linkage institution is formed for the expressed purpose of impacting the policy-making process.
- Political parties
 - Interest groups
 - Elections
 - Media
16. Numerous institutions link the people to their government. Linkage institutions are channels that allow individuals to communicate their preferences to policy-makers. This linkage institution informs us about our government.
- Political parties
 - Interest groups
 - Elections
 - Media
17. Numerous institutions link the people to their government. Linkage institutions are channels that allow individuals to communicate their preferences to policy-makers. This linkage institution is the most direct way to influence our government and its decisions, picking winners.
- Political parties
 - Interest groups
 - Elections
 - Media

18. Numerous institutions link the people to their government. Linkage institutions are channels that allow individuals to communicate their preferences to policy-makers. This linkage institution provides labels; issue platforms and most importantly the choosing candidates that represent our wishes.

- a. Political parties
- b. Interest groups
- c. Elections
- d. Media

19. In part because of new technologies, political scientists tell us that political parties have

- a. Grown stronger
- b. Grown weaker
- c. Developed into well-oiled machines
- d. Realized they are no longer needed

20. The primary goal of political parties is to

- a. Choose candidates
- b. Fund campaigns
- c. Educate voters
- d. Win elections

21. What does the U.S. Constitution say about political parties?

- a. Only two should be allowed
- b. Limited in raising money
- c. Should run Congress
- d. Nothing

22. Apart from winning elections, political parties also staff the government. Which of the following provides an example?

- a. Political parties nominate Supreme Court justices
- b. Political parties recommend names for the President's Cabinet
- c. Party with the most members in Congress control the leadership positions
- d. Party newspapers inform the public about public policy decisions

23. Political parties play a vital role in our government and politics. Yet their influence changes and adapts. Recently political scientist Gary C. Jacobson has written,

A fundamental factor [in the decline of parties] is clearly institutional: the rise and spread of primary elections as the method for choosing party nominees for the general election... Primary elections have largely deprived parties of their most important source of influence over elected officials. Parties no longer control access to the ballot and, therefore, to political office. They cannot determine who runs under their label and so cannot control what the label represents... parties typically have few sanctions and little influence [on nominations]

Or in other words

- a. Primary elections have weakened political parties
- b. Nominees appeal to party leadership, not individual voters
- c. Voters no longer base their choices on Partisan ID
- d. Party labels do not mean as much anymore

24. Political parties nominate candidates. Yet this responsibility has been dramatically changed due to
- Candidate-centered campaigns
 - A dramatic increase in candidates
 - A dramatic decrease in voter turnout
 - Candidates running as independents
25. Many have argued that political parties are weaker today because of all of the following EXCEPT
- Direct primaries
 - Federalism
 - Campaign finance limitations
 - More popular candidates
26. There are structural barriers to third party success in American politics. The rules governing our elections reinforce our two-party system. All of these structural barriers reinforce our two-party system EXCEPT
- Our current two parties are well known
 - Plurality elections
 - Single-member districts
 - Winner-take-all rules
27. Third parties might have a better chance of winning elections if our two parties
- Eliminated direct primaries
 - Relied more on social media
 - Had rigid platforms
 - Nominated candidates rather suggested candidates
28. Third parties are certainly allowed but they usually are not effective. Yet they can provide this important function
- Develop innovative ads
 - Train candidates
 - Champion new issues
 - Discourage extremists from political participation
29. The primary goal of interest groups is to
- Effect change at every entry point of public policy
 - Win elections
 - Raise money for corporate and non-profit clients
 - Bribe elected officials and get away with it

30. Political scientists tell us that upwards of 75% of Americans believe
- Interest groups nominate terrible candidates during most election cycles
 - Interest groups nominate excellent candidates during most election cycles
 - Interest groups have too little power and authority over Washington DC
 - Interest groups have too much power and authority over Washington DC
31. Interest groups have proliferated, grown in numbers, in our political system for all of the following reasons EXCEPT
- Social diversity
 - Federalism
 - Weak political parties
 - Easy to join
32. Tom is employed by an interest group. He is a professional lobbyist. Which of the following describes what Tom actually does for living?
- Tom uses his expertise on bald eagles to influence conservation public policy.
 - Tom uses his expertise on bald eagles to raise money to fund documentaries.
 - Tom uses his expertise on political science to write criticisms of elected officials
 - Tom uses his expertise on political science to win a nomination, and then an election
33. Nicholas W. Allard has argued, "Lobbying is an Honorable Profession." Allard wrote,
- The most basic function of the lobbyist is to educate by providing information, and it is axiomatic that legislators benefit when they can consider information from a broad range of interested parties. The increasing scope and complexity of legislation and regulation as the United States evolves and becomes ever more entwined in a global community has further magnified the importance of lobbyists' expertise. As Thomas Susman explains, 'Government has become sufficiently complex that, without the information lobbyists bring to legislators, decision making would be—at best—poorly informed.'*
- According to Allard, what makes lobbyists and their interest groups so valuable?
- Lobbyists and interest groups make our policy process at least look democratic
 - Global pressures now require the assistance of specialists from around the world
 - Our complex public policy process requires experts to inform the policy makers
 - Without lobbyists political parties would not know who to nominate for key offices
34. Despite our disdain for interest groups there is little we can do since they are protected by the U.S. Constitution. Where is lobbying activity most clearly protected in our constitution?
- First Amendment
 - Tenth Amendment
 - Fourteenth Amendment
 - Civil Rights Act of 1964

35. All of the following are popular and successful techniques used by interest groups to influence policy EXCEPT
- Quietly developing relationships with law makers
 - Testify before important Congressional committees
 - Litigate by filing lawsuits
 - Stirring up public opinion to demonstrate in the streets
36. "Iron Triangles" are coalitions of key policy makers. They help to explain how good, bad and ugly policies succeed. It is difficult to break up these coalitions. "Iron Triangles" are made up of
- Interest Groups; Corporations; Voters
 - Congressional committees; Interest Groups; Bureaucratic agencies
 - Bureaucratic agencies; Voters; The President
 - Congressmen; Judges; Presidents
37. What is a PAC (Political Action Committee)?
- A legal means by which interest groups allocate money to candidates
 - An illegal means by which interest groups allocate money to candidates
 - A legal means by which interest groups recruit agitators to disrupt campaigns
 - A illegal means by which interest groups recruit agitators to disrupt campaigns
38. Theory argues for a pluralist political system where competing groups equally influence our politics. A vibrant democracy requires many interest groups competing in the market place of ideas. What flaw, according to leading political scientists, has seemingly emerged in that theory?
- "Money limits have essentially made it impossible for groups to form"
 - "Members of Congress use more and more graft to corrupt the policy process"
 - "The heavenly chorus sings with a strong upper-class accent"
 - "The vast majority, made up of middle-class voters, advocate for damaging policies"
39. Protest politics in American society is found in our DNA. The spirit of dissent gave birth to the United States. In what seminal document would you find these words:
- That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness*
- Declaration of Independence
 - U.S. Constitution
 - Federalist 10
 - Court opinion in Marbury v. Madison

40. Realignments, or critical elections, occur when
- When the margins of electoral victory fall within the margin-of-error
 - When interest groups change their loyalty from one party to another
 - When a prominent candidate switches his party identification
 - When large groups permanently shift their alliance from one party to another
41. The federal election process has two important stages. They are
- Decide to run; Win the most votes
 - Win a party's nomination; Win the most votes
 - Raise a large amount of money; Win the most votes
 - Win the most votes; Provide benefits to constituents
42. In most states the nomination process has grown more democratic. Political parties in most states nominate their candidates through
- Selected by party bosses
 - Party caucuses
 - Party conventions
 - Party primary elections
43. What has been the historic role of "Super-Delegates"?
- Shine light on new and unknown candidates by talking about them
 - Raise large sums of money due to their connection to big corporate friends
 - Correct fatal mistakes that perhaps were made by primary voters
 - Host large parties at the national convention in order to sway votes
44. What was the primary rationale for creating the Electoral College?
- Provide a filter between the peoples' vote and wise votes for president
 - Provide a training ground for young candidates looking to make a difference
 - To make the process of electing the president more and more democratic
 - A means to make sure that big states and small states matter the same
45. In the Electoral College, each state is allocated a certain number of electoral votes. How is this allocation determined?
- Voter turnout in each state
 - Total number of representatives in Congress
 - Total number of registered voters
 - Every state receives the same number of electors
46. It takes a simple majority, 270 out of 538, to win in the Electoral College. What is the most important rule when winning in the Electoral College?
- Winner-take-all at the state level
 - Most popular votes at the national level wins
 - Congressional district plurality preferences
 - Lining up "Super Delegates" to win

47. The single most important word when assessing Congressional elections is
- Friends – alliances formed during the campaign
 - Money – big money is required to win elections
 - Incumbency – those running for reelection tend to win
 - Record – the issues you prioritize during the campaign make or break your chances
48. Members of Congress who run for reelection (incumbents) have all of the following advantages EXCEPT
- High turnout rates
 - Name recognition
 - Ease of raising money
 - Favorably drawn district lines (gerrymandering)
49. Important to any modern campaign are the “handlers,” the *middle men* of politics. These consultants are responsible for all of the following EXCEPT
- Scheduling
 - Speech writing
 - Polling
 - Nominating candidates
50. Election cycles in American politics have grown longer and longer. Many political scientists speak of “the permanent campaign.” All of the following help explain this phenomenon EXCEPT
- It takes longer to raise the money
 - Currently laws determine the length of campaigns
 - Voters demand more debates, town hall meetings and TV spots
 - Candidate-centered campaigns
51. Democracy is not cheap. With escalating campaign costs the role of money in politics has increasingly grown muddled at best. Traditionally politics has been perceived of as a haven for fat cats. The perception that graft and corruption reign has always been close to the surface. For this reason
- More and more people have decided to vote in order to clean out government
 - Congress has passed a series of campaign finance laws
 - Congress has taken out a series of ads to change our perception
 - Corporations have agreed to stay away from donating to campaigns
52. In the field of campaign finance, there is “hard money” and “soft money.” Hard money is
- The limited money we can give directly to the candidates
 - The unlimited money we can give directly to the candidates
 - The limited money we can give to independent expenditure groups
 - The unlimited money we can give to independent expenditure groups

53. The Supreme Court in *Buckley v. Valeo* established a seminal ruling in campaign finance. The *Buckley* precedent
- Recognized that wealthy candidates cannot use their own money to campaign
 - Recognized that money given to candidates was tax deductible
 - Recognized that campaign money was not protected under the First Amendment
 - Recognized that campaign money was protected under the First Amendment
54. More recently the Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. FEC* ruled that
- The government, through the FEC, will require all candidates to disclose donor names
 - Wealthy candidates cannot use their own money to win a nomination
 - Corporations can now give to Super PACs (independent expenditure groups)
 - Any attempt to provide public financing (gov't funded) would be unconstitutional
55. In the field of campaign finance, there is "hard money" and "soft money." Soft money is
- The limited money we can give directly to the candidates
 - The unlimited money we can give directly to the candidates
 - The limited money we can give to independent expenditure groups
 - The unlimited money we can give to independent expenditure groups
56. Freedom of the press, one of our most sacred rights, is guaranteed in the First Amendment. Even though the way we learn about news and politics has changed, the media continues to play similar roles. When the media plays the role of "gatekeeper" it
- Reports objectively. At times the media realizes its responsibility to simply inform
 - Emphasizes poll results. Like a horse-race, media loves to tell us who is ahead
 - Exposes scandals. Muckraking has always been a national pastime
 - Becomes an agenda setter. Media prioritizes what we know
57. Freedom of the press, one of our most sacred rights, is guaranteed in the First Amendment. Even though the way we learn about news and politics has changed, the media continues to play similar roles. When the media plays the role of "scorekeeper" it
- Reports objectively. At times the media realizes its responsibility to simply inform
 - Emphasizes poll results. Like a horse-race, media loves to tell us who is ahead
 - Exposes scandals. Muckraking has always been a national pastime
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58. Freedom of the press, one of our most sacred rights, is guaranteed in the First Amendment. Even though the way we learn about news and politics has changed, the media continues to play similar roles. When the media plays the role of "watchdog" it
- Reports objectively. At times the media realizes its responsibility to simply inform
 - Emphasizes poll results. Like a horse-race, media loves to tell us who is ahead
 - Exposes scandals. Muckraking has always been a national pastime
 - Becomes an agenda setter. Media prioritizes what we know

59. Sounding a bit like Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* (1931), the development, implications and consequences of modern media is changing our politics in ways we are still trying to process. One thing is certain, with unprecedented numbers of media options available to all of us, "we the people" have increasingly taken on the role of _____.
- a. Gatekeeper
 - b. Scorekeeper
 - c. Watchdog
 - d. Truth teller
60. Today's global citizen has access to an unprecedented number of media options and outlets. Political participation is influenced by a variety of media coverage. Newspapers, radio and television continue to provide political communication but we now have access to electronic media outlets too numerous to count. The Internet provides an unparalleled number and variety of means to get educated about policy and to exchange ideas. Ironically, as a result
- a. We now watch more news, political commentary and public broadcasting than ever
 - b. This has resulted in a rise of successful third-party candidates
 - c. We may be the least informed citizenry in history
 - d. This has resulted in making the collection of news more and more expensive