American Government Institutions and Policies Brief Version 13th edition Wilson Test Bank

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TRUE/FALSE

1 : The delegates to the Constitutional Convention were popularly elected.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

2 : The British constitution was a single written document that was a model for the colonists.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

3 : The colonists saw higher law as something that was discoverable in nature.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

4 : There was general agreement that the essential rights included life, liberty, and property long before Thomas Jefferson wrote them into the Declaration of Independence.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

5 : Within a few years of 1776, almost all states had adopted constitutions, and most of these contained detailed bills of rights.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

6 : Under the Articles of Confederation, each state had one vote in a national legislative body.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

7 : The Articles of Confederation created a strong central government.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

8 : Alexander Hamilton was a strong supporter of the government set up by the Articles of Confederation.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

9 : James Madison was convinced that ancient Greece provided the perfect model for American government.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

10 : Shayss Rebellion was put down by a privately hired army.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

11 : Rhode Island refused to send delegates to the Constitutional Convention.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

12 : The Framers view of natural rights was heavily influenced by the writings of John Locke.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

13 : The Virginia Plan called for a strong national government.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

14 : The Great Compromise reconciled the interests of the small and large states over representation.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

15 : A republic is a government in which a system of representation operates.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

16 : The power of Congress to declare an act of the Supreme Court as unconstitutional is called judicial review.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

17 : Political authority is given using the same method in the United States and the United

Kingdom.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

18 : Enumerated powers are powers specifically given to the states.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

19 : A group with a distinct political interest is called a faction.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

20 : During the ratification debate, the supporters of the U.S. Constitution called themselves Federalists.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

21 : The Articles of Confederation required only 9 states to approve of an amendment.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

22 : A coalition is an alliance of groups.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

23 : The three-fifths compromise increased the amount of representation southern states received in the Senate.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : B

24 : In general, there are two modern day types of critics of the Constitution: one that believes the government is too weak and the other that it is too strong.
A : true
B : false

Correct Answer : A

25 : A line-item veto is a new provision in the Constitution that has been ratified by the states.
A : true

B : false

Correct Answer : B

MULTIPLE CHOICE

26 : The principal goal of the American Revolution was
A : equality.
B : economic.
C : political efficacy.
D : fraternity.
E : liberty.

Correct Answer : E

27 : Equality was a goal of the _____ Revolution.
A : French
B : American
C : Mexican
D : Spanish
E : Dutch

Correct Answer : A

28 : One of the basic liberties sought by the colonists through independence from Great Britain was
A : freedom from taxation without representation.
B : the right to bear arms and to defend life and property.
C : freedom to assemble in public and to engage in public debate.
D : the right to own and trade slaves.
E : the right to travel.

Correct Answer : A

29 : The Declaration of Independence explicitly stated that governments were instituted among men to
A : create laws.
B : create equality.
C : protect borders.
D : secure rights.
E : declare war.

Correct Answer : D

30 : The American Revolution is described by the text as a war of
A : attrition.
B : ideology.
C : economic viewpoints.
D : political elites.
E : contending social systems.

Correct Answer : B

31 : Which of the following statements about the Declaration of Independence is TRUE?
A : It was written primarily by George Washington and James Madison.
B : It primarily focused on concerns over economic inequality.
C : It was a rejection of the philosophy of John Locke.
D : It drew heavily on the works of Thomas Hobbes.
E : It was essentially a lawyers brief focusing on the rights that were being violated by George III.

Correct Answer : E

32 : An unalienable right is one that is based on
A : nature or God.
B : the Constitution and primary documents.
C : custom and tradition.
D : legal precedent.
E : executive proclamations.

Correct Answer : A

33 : In 1776, how many states adopted written constitutions?
A : 1
B : 8
C : 2
D : 13
E : 0

Correct Answer : B

34 : Which statement most accurately summarizes the aftermath of the American Revolution?
A : Many communities were nearly devastated, many farmers owned large debts, and the British were still a powerful presence.
B : The economy was gaining in strength and the British military had left North America.
C : Cities had strong economies and the currency was strong.
D : Taxes were low and the currency was sound.
E : Spain and Britain were no longer relevant on the North American continent.

Correct Answer : A

35 : The Articles of Confederation created a
A : strong central government.
B : strong military.
C : unitary system.
D : league of friendship.
E : federal system.

Correct Answer : D

36 : Under the Articles of Confederation, delegates to the national legislature were
A : elected by the people.
B : selected by state governors.
C : appointed by state committees.

D : chosen by the state legislatures.
E : volunteers.

Correct Answer : D

37 : Under the Articles of Confederation, the national government could
A : run the post office.
B : levy taxes.
C : regulate interstate commerce.
D : establish a national judicial system.
E : establish a national bank.

Correct Answer : A

38 : Under the Articles of Confederation, amendments had to
A : be written in secret.
B : be submitted to the national judiciary for approval.
C : have the approval of half of the state governors.
D : be agreed upon by all thirteen states.
E : be supported by a majority of the delegates.

Correct Answer : D

39 : The list of the essential rights demanded by the colonists included life, liberty, and
A : trading rights.
B : property rights.
C : the right to own slaves.
D : the pursuit of truth.
E : fraternity.

Correct Answer : B

40 : Pennsylvanias government was considered radically democratic because it featured no
A : constitution.
B : written laws.
C : elected officials.
D : legislature.
E : governor.

Correct Answer : E

41 : What occurred in January 1787 when a group of ex-Revolutionary War soldiers, fearful of losing their property to creditors and tax collectors, forcibly prevented the courts in western Massachusetts from operating?
A : Shayss Rebellion
B : Bacons Rebellion
C : Whiskey Rebellion
D : Clarkes Rebellion
E : The Boston Tea Party Rebellion

Correct Answer : A

42 : The purpose of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 was to

A : prepare a new constitution.
B : consider revisions to the Articles of Confederation.
C : draft a declaration of independence.
D : adopt a common state constitution.
E : prepare for a second revolution.

Correct Answer : B

43 : The effect of Shayss Rebellion on attendance by delegates at the planned Constitutional Convention of 1787 was to
A : encourage attendance by delegates fearing the collapse of state governments.
B : encourage attendance by delegates fearing intervention by the British.
C : discourage attendance by delegates fearing a public outcry against any strengthening of the Articles of Confederation.
D : discourage attendance by delegates fearing intervention by the British.
E : discourage attendance by delegates who fought in the Revolutionary War.

Correct Answer : A

44 : How many delegates to the Philadelphia Convention had signed the Declaration of Independence?
A : 2
B : 4
C : 6
D : 8
E : 10

Correct Answer : D

45 : Which delegate was known worldwide as a famous scientist at the time of the convention?
A : Washington
B : Franklin
C : Madison
D : Hamilton
E : Adams

Correct Answer : B

46 : The state of nature referred to by Locke means
A : a society without government.
B : a government without society.
C : the formation of government along the lines of natural law.
D : the clash between government and society.
E : the very highest form of government.

Correct Answer : A

47 : Madison dramatized his perspective in a Federalist paper by observing that if men were _____, no government would be necessary.
A : Federalists
B : Anti-Federalists
C : angels
D : aristocrats

E : Puritans

Correct Answer : C

48 : The New Jersey Plan was a reaction by some states primarily to the fear that
A : the legislative veto power called for by the Virginia Plan would seriously undermine individual states rights.
B : the weak central government devised by the Virginia Plan would grant too much power to rural states.
C : the strong central government devised by the Virginia Plan would grant too little power to the states.
D : the Virginia Plan gave too much power to populous states.
E : Hamiltons suggestions about the executive branch would be accepted by the convention.

Correct Answer : D

49 : Each state would have had an equal number of votes in the legislature under the _____ Plan.
A : Connecticut
B : New Jersey
C : Maryland
D : Virginia
E : Georgia

Correct Answer : B

50 : The Great Compromise finally allocated representation on the basis of
A : population, in both houses.
B : equality, in both houses.
C : population in the House and statehood equality in the Senate.
D : equality in the House and population in the Senate.
E : state size in the Senate and equality in the House

Correct Answer : C

51 : The importance of the Great Compromise was that it
A : created a legislature similar in structure to that under the Articles of Confederation.
B : established a single, one-state, one-vote formula under which all states would benefit.
C : strengthened the power of larger states at the expense of smaller states.
D : granted equal power to the three branches of the new central government.
E : ensured support for a strong national government from small as well as large states.

Correct Answer : E

52 : Which delegate at the Constitutional Convention suggested that the president be elected directly by the people?
A : James Madison
B : Alexander Hamilton
C : George Washington
D : Aaron Burr
E : James Wilson

Correct Answer : E

53 : The final report of the Constitutional Convention was approved on September 17, 1787 by
A : all twelve states in attendance.
B : eleven of the twelve states attending.
C : every state and delegate attending.
D : every state in the Confederation.
E : all delegates in attendance.

Correct Answer : A

54 : This delegate to the Constitutional Convention presented the Virginia Plan but refused to sign the final document approved on September 17, 1787.
A : James Madison
B : Alexander Hamilton
C : Roger Sherman
D : Edmund Randolph
E : William Patterson

Correct Answer : D

55 : Relative to the notion of democratic government, the Supreme Courts power of judicial review
A : places limits on majority rule.
B : is limited to state issues.
C : generally favors the executive.
D : is sometimes democratic, sometimes not.
E : is applied frequently.

Correct Answer : A

56 : The American version of representative democracy was based on two major principles: _____and _____.
A : separation of powers; federalism
B : unicameralism; federalism
C : judicial review; federalism
D : party government; unicameralism
E : judicial review; party government

Correct Answer : A

57 : Ancient political philosophers, such as Aristotle, held that the first task of any government was to
A : cultivate virtue among the governed.
B : represent the will of the people.
C : exalt those who were wise above all others.
D : protect and enlarge the aristocracy.
E : build and maintain a conquering army.

Correct Answer : A

58 : Dividing power between the states and the national government is referred to as
A : sovereignty.
B : dual legitimacy.

C : egalitarianism.
D : plutocracy.
E : federalism.

Correct Answer : E

59 : Madisons confidence in the usefulness of separation of powers rested on the assumption that
A : the strongest would survive.
B : human nature was basically good.
C : no one would purposely seek power.
D : human nature is imperfect.
E : government would create virtuous citizens.

Correct Answer : D

60 : The text suggests the Federalists might more accurately have been called the
A : nationalists.
B : states rights advocates.
C : monarchists.
D : loyalists.
E : anarchists.

Correct Answer : A

61 : The text suggests that the Antifederalists might have been more accurately called
A : nationalists.
B : states rights advocates.
C : monarchists.
D : loyalists.
E : anarchists.

Correct Answer : B

62 : The U.S. Constitution was approved by
A : the Congress elected under the Articles of Confederation.
B : state legislatures.
C : ratifying conventions.
D : unanimous acclaim by all thirteen states.
E : popular vote in state elections.

Correct Answer : C

63 : In Federalist No. 10 and No. 51, Madison argued in favor of a large republic, which went against the ideas of this political philosopher.
A : John Locke
B : Thomas Hobbes
C : Plato
D : Montesquieu
E : Aristotle

Correct Answer : D

64 : Generally, the Antifederalists felt that the government created by the U.S. Constitution was
A : an insufficient check on the power of the states.
B : too strong and too centralized.
C : too liberal.
D : barely strong enough to be effective.
E : overprotective of individual rights.

Correct Answer : B

65 : James Madisons main argument in favor of a federalist position, stated in Federalist No. 51, was in defense of
A : large republics.
B : small democracies governed by direct democracy.
C : a bill of rights.
D : large legislatures with small districts and frequent turnover.
E : centralized judiciaries.

Correct Answer : A

66 : The Bill of Rights in the Constitution was most likely based on
A : the list of rights that came from state conventions.
B : Federalist No. 10.
C : a list of rights in the Articles of Confederation.
D : the Virginia Declaration of Rights.
E : The Bill of Rights in the British Constitution.

Correct Answer : D

67 : It quickly became clear that the Constitution would not be ratified without at least the promise of
A : the abolition of slavery.
B : female suffrage.
C : an elaborate federal court system.
D : a bill of rights.
E : a two-party system.

Correct Answer : D

68 : Who introduced a set of proposals to the First Congress from which the eventual Bill of Rights would be ratified?
A : Hamilton
B : Jefferson
C : Washington
D : Adams
E : Madison

Correct Answer : E

69 : According to the three-fifths compromise, three-fifths of the slaves were counted for purposes of
A : electing state legislatures.
B : apportioning delegates to presidential conventions.
C : allotting seats in the House of Representatives.

D : assigning delegates to state conventions.
E : allotting seats in the Senate.

Correct Answer : C

70 : When the Constitution was drafted, senators were to be chosen by
A : popular election.
B : state legislatures.
C : members of the House.
D : governors of their states.
E : electors.

Correct Answer : B

71 : Which of the following statements most accurately characterizes the motives behind the support that different Framers gave to the U.S. Constitution?
A : Most Framers acted out of a mixture of motives, with economic interests playing only a modest role.
B : Those Framers who did not hold government debt but who did own slaves tended to support the U.S. Constitution.
C : Those Framers who held debt but who did not own slaves tended to oppose the U.S. Constitution.
D : The support that different Framers gave to the U.S. Constitution tended to divide along class lines.
E : The Framers acted in a manner that reflected the religious convictions of their respective states.

Correct Answer : A

72 : Contrary to the views of historian Charles Beard and others, the _____ of the Framers did not dominate the convention.
A : religious beliefs
B : political ideology
C : personal beliefs
D : party loyalty
E : economic interests

Correct Answer : E

73 : A major argument in favor of reducing the separation of powers called for in the U.S. Constitution is that it would
A : allow prompt, decisive leadership by the president.
B : weaken the presidency and give greater protection against executive dictatorship.
C : disperse credit or blame equally among the three branches of government.
D : apportion responsibility for implementing government programs among members of Congress.
E : create a truly independent judiciary.

Correct Answer : A

74 : A(n) _____ is an executives ability to block a particular provision in a bill passed by the legislature.
A : line-item veto

B : signing statement
C : executive action
D : judicial review
E : executive order

Correct Answer : A

ESSAY

75 : Describe some of the principles that caused the colonists to fight the Revolutionary War.

Correct Answer : ? Legitimate government required the consent of the government. ? Power should be granted in a written document, constitution. ? Government should respect human liberty. ? The legislative branch should be superior to the executive branch.

76 : Describe the 11 years that elapsed between the Declaration of Independence and the signing of the Constitution in 1787.

Correct Answer : Much of the nation was in shambles. There was no strong national government. Currency was virtually worthless. Supply and financing of the army was difficult; soldiers came home to debt. Spain still made claims and occupied areas, and there was still a powerful British presence.

77 : Discuss at least five specific features about the government under the Articles of Confederation.

Correct Answer : ? The national government could not tax. ? Each state had one vote in a single house in Congress, regardless of size. ? There was no national judiciary. ? Amendments required the support of all 13 states. ? The army was small and dependent upon state militias. ? The office of president was meaningless. ? Congress could coin money, but there was little to coin.

78 : Explain Shayss Rebellion and its significance.

Correct Answer : Former Revolutionary War soldiers were in considerable debt and fearful of losing their property to creditors and tax collectors. The rebellion forcibly prevented the courts in western Massachusetts from operating. The governor’s attempt to obtain help from the national government and state militia met with failure. Through the use of private funds, a volunteer army was hired to quell the rebellion. The event may have encouraged delegates to attend the Philadelphia Convention who may not have attended otherwise.

79 : Discuss John Lockes view of liberty and compare it to the views of Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence.

Correct Answer : ? Some rights are discoverable in nature by reason. ? In the “state of nature” (society before government), the strong can threaten the liberty of the weak. ? The instinct for self-preservation leads people to want government. ? The power of the government must be limited by the consent of the governed.

80 : Discuss the differences of opinion between Thomas Hobbes and John Locke regarding the nature of democracy.

Correct Answer : In Leviathan, Hobbes argued that people live in a “war of all against all” and so an absolute, supreme ruler was essential to prevent civil war. Locke disagreed and argued that people can get along with one another if they have a decent government based on the consent of the governed and be managed by majority rule.

81 : Identify the primary features of the Virginia Plan, discuss the stalemate between the small states and the large states, and how the Great Compromise helped give us the Congress that we have today.

Correct Answer : ? The plan called for a strong national union. ? It provided for a separation of powers. ? It suggested a bicameral legislature. ? It proposed one branch of the legislature to be directly elected and the second to be chosen by state legislatures. ? Executive and members of the national judiciary were to be chosen by the national legislature. ? A council of revision could veto legislation (which could be overridden). ? There would be a bicameral national legislature. Small states feared the Virginia plan would leave them in a subordinate position to larger states, so they proposed the New Jersey plan. ? Under the Great Compromise, the House of Representatives would be directly elected by the people and membership would be based on population (larger states would have more members). The Senate would be selected by state legislatures and members would be based on equality (each state would have two senators). The Great Compromise reconciled the interests of small and large states by allowing the former to predominate in the Senate and the latter in the House. This reconciliation was necessary to ensure there would be support for a strong national government from small as well as large states.

82 : Explain the Framers view of democracy and the role of the will of the people in a government with representative democracy.

Correct Answer : ? The “will of the people” and the “public good” or “common interest” were not synonymous. ? Government should mediate, not mirror, public views. ? Representatives should represent, not register, majority sentiment. ? Representative democracy may move slowly and prevent sweeping change, but it minimizes the potential abuse of power by self-serving officeholders or tyrannical majorities.

83 : Discuss James Madisons view of liberty and the size of a republic.

Correct Answer : Liberty is most secure in a large (or “extended”) republic because in a small republic, a dominant view can suffocate minority viewpoints. In a large republic, however, opinions and interests will multiply. As a result, it is much harder for a tyrannical majority to develop in a large republic. The coalitions necessary to form in order to gain power are likely to be more moderate in a large republic. Moreover, liberty is more likely to be respected, secure.

84 : Identify the three parts of the original Constitution that deal with slavery.

Correct Answer : ? The Three-Fifths Compromise ? Agreement to allow no prohibitions on slavery until at least 1808 ? Guarantee that escaped slaves would be returned to their owners.