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Chapter 2: Texas Constitution
Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. When introducing the chapter on the Texas Constitution, the authors describe the majority view of Texans as
a. wanting a fiscally restrained and unobtrusive government.
b. being most concerned with health care.
c. desiring the state government to defer to the national government on most issues.
d. supporting increased government power at both the national and state level.
Ans: A
Learning Objective: Explain the purpose of a constitution and how the Texas Constitution developed.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Texas Constitution
Difficulty Level: Medium

2. In creating a federal system, the founders of the U.S. Constitution were agreeing to
a. a new fundamental principle of government.
b. an ancient fundamental principle of government.
c. a compromise between a confederacy and a unitary form of government.
d. a replication of the English form of government.
e. a replication of the structure of most of the state constitutions.
Ans: C
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Federal System of the United States
Difficulty Level: Easy

3. All of the following statements are true concerning the legislative branch of government in the current Texas Constitution EXCEPT the
a. legislature is limited to one, 140-day regular session every two years.
b. members of the legislature set their own salaries.
c. powers of the legislature are heavily restricted.
d. legislature is forbidden from imposing a state income tax.
e. legislature is forbidden from passing a bill that contains more than one subject.
Ans: B
Learning Objective: Explain the purpose of a constitution and how the Texas Constitution developed.
TX Core Objective: CT

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Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Current System: The Constitution of 1876
Difficulty Level: Easy

4. The Texas executive branch is called a *plural executive* because
a. the governor shares all executive power with the lieutenant governor.
b. the governor has twice as much power as most governors in the nation.
c. governors are limited to two terms in office.
d. the executive is considered to be the second branch of government.
e. the governor shares power with several other officials who are elected separately.
Ans: E
Learning Objective: Explain the purpose of a constitution and how the Texas Constitution developed.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Current System: The Constitution of 1876
Difficulty Level: Medium

5. All members of the Texas judiciary are
a. appointed by the governor.
b. appointed by the governor with the consent of the Senate.
c. elected in partisan elections.
d. appointed by the governor from a list of approved candidates provided by the Texas Bar Association.
e. appointed by the Texas Judicial Commission.
Ans: C
Learning Objective: Explain the purpose of a constitution and how the Texas Constitution developed.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Current System: The Constitution of 1876
Difficulty Level: Medium

6. The Texas Constitution is criticized for
a. giving too much power to the executive branch.
b. giving too much power to the legislature.
c. being too vague.
d. providing too little guidance to state government.
e. being long and confusing.
Ans: E
Learning Objective: Explain how Texas's current constitution reflects the preferences of Texans today.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Criticisms of the Texas Constitution

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Difficulty Level: Medium

7. According to the text, the winners under the current constitutional rules tend to be
a. the people.
b. liberals.
c. big-government advocates.
d. big-business interests.
e. rural interests.
Ans: D
Learning Objective: Explain how Texas's current constitution reflects the preferences of Texans today.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Winners and Losers
Difficulty Level: Medium

8. A mechanism that allows voters to gather signatures on a petition in order to place statutes or constitutional amendments on a ballot is
a. a referendum.
b. citizen legislation.
c. petitioning the government.
d. an initiative.
e. an advisory petition.
Ans: D
Learning Objective: Describe how federalism affects the choices made by state government.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Constitution Revisions
Difficulty Level: Easy

9. The U.S. Constitution restricts government power through the application of all the following EXCEPT
a. separation of powers.
b. detailed policy provisions.
c. federalism.
d. checks and balances.
e. popular sovereignty.
Ans: B
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Constitutional Government
Difficulty Level: Medium

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10. All of the following help to define federalism EXCEPT
a. checks and balances contained in the U.S. Constitution.
b. the full faith and credit clause of the U.S. Constitution.
c. the requirement that states extradite those convicted or accused of a crime in another state.
d. the privileges and immunities clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
e. the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
Ans: A
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Federal System in the United States
Difficulty Level: Medium

11. Federalism has always generated a great deal of controversy because
a. the states do not like the federal system.
b. it imposes too many restrictions on the federal government.
c. the actual distribution of powers is not clearly defined in the U.S. Constitution.
d. the founders clearly intended the states to have much more power than they have been granted.
e. the U.S. Supreme Court has been inconsistent in its rulings on federalism.
Ans: C
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Federal System in the United States
Difficulty Level: Hard

12. According to the text, the most prominent feature of the current Texas Constitution is
a. its brevity.
b. its distrust of government.
c. a strong executive branch.
d. its efficiency.
e. the fact it is difficult to amend.
Ans: B
Learning Objective: Explain the purpose of a constitution and how the Texas Constitution developed.
TX Core Objective: CT, SR
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Current System: The Constitution of 1876

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Difficulty Level: Medium

13. A major consequence of the Texas constitutional provisions for a short, biennial legislature with low salaries for the legislature is
a. domination by disinterested citizen legislators.
b. domination by people who work for or own businesses that do business with the state or are regulated by the state.
c. that it is very efficient.
d. its effectiveness at meeting the needs of Texas today.
e. dominated by policy experts.
Ans: B
Learning Objective: Explain how Texas's current constitution reflects the preferences of Texans today.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Current System: The Constitution of 1876
Difficulty Level: Medium

14. The authors conclude that the Texas Constitution is
a. well written.
b. efficient.
c. in need of some minor adjustments.
d. well suited to meet the needs of Texas.
e. badly outdated and should be replaced.
Ans: E
Learning Objective: Explain how Texas's current constitution reflects the preferences of Texans today.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Conclusion
Difficulty Level: Easy

15. States generally prefer that the federal government provide them money in the form of block grants because they
a. provide the most flexibility in how the money may be used.
b. give the clearest definition of how the money can be used.
c. prohibit the federal government from taking back the money.
d. allow paying the money back to the federal government in no-interest payments.
e. provide more money than other forms of grants from the federal government.
Ans: A
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Evolving Idea of Federalism

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Difficulty Level: Medium

16. According to the U.S. Constitution,
a. state constitutions supersede federal law.
b. state constitutions are coequal with the federal constitution.
c. federal law supersedes the federal constitution.
d. state law supersedes federal law.
e. the federal constitution supersedes all other state laws and state constitutions.
Ans: E
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Federal System of the United States
Difficulty Level: Medium

17. All of the following descriptions of power under federalism are correct EXCEPT
a. the power to tax is a concurrent power.
b. the power to coin money is a concurrent power.
c. the power to select members of the electoral college is a state power.
d. the power to enter into treaties is a federal power.
e. the power to regulate interstate commerce is a federal power.
Ans: B
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Federal System of the United States
Difficulty Level: Easy

18. The Defense of Marriage Act involves the federal issue of
a. whether the states or national government should define marriage.
b. whether the federal government can require every state to recognize same-sex marriages.
c. whether the federal government can use categorical grants to induce the states to provide more support for married couples.
d. whether Congress can release the states from their obligation to honor same-sex marriages performed in other states.
e. whether the states can force the federal government to define marriage as being between a man and a woman.
Ans: D
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual

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Answer Location: The Evolving Idea of Federalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

19. All of the following statements are true concerning the annexation of Texas by the United States EXCEPT
a. the fact that Texas permitted slavery caused many Northerners to oppose its annexation.
b. Texas retained the right to secede from the Union when it was annexed.
c. Texas retained its public lands when it was annexed.
d. Texas retained its debts when it was annexed.
e. Texas could have been divided into as many as five states.
Ans: B
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Statehood: The Constitution of 1845
Difficulty Level: Medium

20. All of Texas's constitutions have tended to reflect Texans'
a. belief in participatory democracy.
b. belief in the principle of only including in a constitution what is necessary for government to function.
c. opposition to inequality.
d. love of strong leadership.
e. opposition to strong government.
Ans: E
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Texas Constitutions
Difficulty Level: Hard

21. The current Texas Constitution creates a governor who
a. is very powerful.
b. has a great deal of influence over the legislature.
c. is very weak.
d. is the chief executive of the state.
e. is more powerful than the governors of most other states.
Ans: C
Learning Objective: Explain the purpose of a constitution and how the Texas Constitution developed.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual

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Answer Location: The Current System: The Constitution of 1876 (Executive Branch)
Difficulty Level: Easy

22. All the following statements concerning provisions of the Texas and Connecticut constitutions regarding religious liberty are true EXCEPT
a. both constitutions guarantee freedom of worship.
b. both constitutions prohibit the government from giving preference to any religious society.
c. only Connecticut's constitution prohibits the denial of equal protection of the law based on religion.
d. only Connecticut's constitution guarantees the freedom to maintain ministers and teachers.
e. both constitutions prohibit religious tests to hold office.
Ans: E
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Texas VS Connecticut
Difficulty Level: Easy

23. Popular sovereignty manifests itself in Texas in the following way:
a. taxation.
b. election of citizens to state offices.
c. the existence of public education.
d. the development of a vital oil economy.
Ans: B
Learning Objective: Explain the purpose of a constitution and how the Texas Constitution developed.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Constitutional Government
Difficulty Level: Medium

24. All of these are examples of unfunded mandates EXCEPT
a. No Child Left Behind.
b. Clean Air Act.
c. Food Stamp Program.
d. American with Disabilities Act of 1990.
Ans: C
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Applied
Answer Location: The Evolving Idea of Federalism

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Difficulty Level: Easy

25. This constitution marked the era in which Texas was an independent republic.
a. 1876
b. 1915
c. 1866
d. 1836
Ans: D
Learning Objective: Describe how federalism affects the choices made by state government.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Texas Constitutions
Difficulty Level: Easy

26. The Constitution of 1869 provided for the creation of
a. taxes on roads and bridges.
b. homeless shelters.
c. a vibrant arts district in Austin.
d. tax exemptions for oil barons.
Ans: A
Learning Objective: Describe how federalism affects the choices made by state government.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Second Reconstruction: The Constitution of 1869
Difficulty Level: Easy

27. In what year was the Texas State Constitution amended to guarantee equality regardless of “sex, race, color, creed or national origin”?
a. 1836
b. 1972
c. 1955
d. 1928
Ans: B
Learning Objective: Describe how federalism affects the choices made by state government.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Civil Rights in Texas
Difficulty Level: Easy

28. All of these offices are part of the plural executive EXCEPT
a. land commissioner.
b. governor.

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c. Speaker of the House.
d. comptroller.
Ans: C
Learning Objective: Describe how federalism affects the choices made by state government.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Executive Branch
Difficulty Level: Medium

29. The election of judges opens the judicial system up to the influence of special interests through
a. newspaper editorials.
b. campaign contribution.
c. impeachment.
d. the governor's appointment powers.
Ans: B
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Texas Judiciary
Difficulty Level: Medium

30. Low legislative pay may have the following impact on the state legislature:
a. It prevents the election of low income residents to the House or Senate.
b. It encourages the development of career politicians.
c. It offers legislatures a luxurious salary that insulates them from the concerns of average Texans.
d. It undermines redistricting efforts.
Ans: A
Learning Objective: Explain how Texas's current constitution reflects the preferences of Texans today.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Legislative Branch
Difficulty Level: Medium

31. Referendums involve statutes placed on the ballot by the
a. governor.
b. citizens.
c. state legislature.
d. justice of the peace.
Ans: C
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the

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historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Federal System of the United States
Difficulty Level: Easy

32. Initiatives and referendums are two ways to
a. impeach a governor.
b. elect a judge.
c. dispute property taxes.
d. amend the state constitution.
Ans: D
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Federal System of the United States
Difficulty Level: Medium

33. Concurrent powers include all of the following EXCEPT
a. taxation.
b. defense.
c. infrastructure construction.
d. regulating business.
Ans: B
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Factual
Answer Location: Vertical Federalism
Difficulty Level: Easy

34. The first Supreme Court case that limited segregation in Texas was
a. *Lawrence v. Texas.*
b. *Plessy v. Ferguson.*
c. *Sweatt v. Painter.*
d. *United States v. Texas.*
Ans: C
Learning Objective: Describe how federalism affects the choices made by state government.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM, SR
Cognitive Domain: Factual
Answer Location: Civil Rights in Texas
Difficulty Level: Easy

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35. Where the U.S. Constitution is _____ and _____, the Texas Constitution is _____ and _____.
a. long and detailed; brief and flexible
b. brief and flexible; long and detailed
c. brief and rigid; brief and detailed
d. long and rigid; brief and flexible
Ans: B
Learning Objective: Explain the purpose of a constitution and how the Texas Constitution developed.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Federal System of the United States
Difficulty Level: Easy

36. Where _____ federalism addresses the distribution of power between the national government and the state governments, _____ federalism addresses the distribution of power at the state government level.
a. vertical; horizontal
b. horizontal; vertical
c. concurrent; horizontal
d. concurrent; vertical
Ans: A
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Federal System of the United States
Difficulty Level: Easy

True/False

1. In *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) the Supreme Court ruled that states must recognize same sex marriages.
Ans: T
Learning Objective Describe how federalism affects the choices made by state government.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Factual
Answer Location: Civil Rights in Texas
Difficulty Level: Easy

2. The Texas constitutional framers were motivated by concerns over Mexican tyranny.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: Explain the purpose of a constitution and how the Texas Constitution developed.

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TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Texas Constitutions (The Republic of Texas)
Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Extradition guarantees the right of states to external tax income from former citizens of the state for up to a year after they relocate.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Horizontal Federalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Categorical grants offer states a wide range of discretion for spending federal money.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Evolving Ideas of Federalism
Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Proponents of devolution argue for state control over policy areas whenever possible.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Factual
Answer Location: The Evolving Idea of Federalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Low voter turnout may be the result of overwhelmed voters who are outmatched by a constitution that favors the influence of big business.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: Explain how Texas's current constitution reflects the preferences of Texans today.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Factual
Answer Location: Criticisms of the Texas Constitution
Difficulty Level: Easy

7. In *Women's Health v. Hellerstedt* (2016), the Supreme Court ruled that Texas can require doctors providing abortion to have hospital admitting privileges.

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Ans: F
Learning Objective: Describe how federalism affects the choices made by state government.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Factual
Answer Location: The Evolving Idea of Federalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

Short Answer

1. Differentiate the vertical and horizontal powers.
Ans: Vertical applies to relationship between the states and the national government; horizontal applies to the relationship among states.
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Vertical Federalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

Essay

1. The form of government based on the sharing of powers between the national and state governments is _____.
Ans: federalism
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Federal System of the United States
Difficulty Level: Easy

2. The Texas Constitution creates a(an) _____ executive.
Ans: plural
Learning Objective: Explain the purpose of a constitution and how the Texas Constitution developed.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Factual
Answer Location: The Current System: The Constitution of 1876
Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Describe and explain the significance of the full faith and credit clause of the U.S. Constitution. Ans: It requires that court judgments, acts, records and/or legal contracts entered into in one state will be honored by other states. Its significance is that marriages, divorces, and other legal acts in one state must be recognized and honored

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in the other states.
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Horizontal Federalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

4. How is popular sovereignty included in the Texas Constitution?
Ans: The constitution begins by stating that it is written by the people. It includes an elected legislature, many elected executive offices, and an elected judiciary. Voters must approve constitutional amendments.
Learning Objective: Explain the purpose of a constitution and how the Texas Constitution developed.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Current System: The Constitution of 1876
Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Define and explain the significance of categorical grants. Ans: A categorical grant is national money given to states and local governments that must be spent for specific activities. These grants are used by the national government to get the states to enact policies or meet standards Congress wants but which are beyond the scope of federal power.
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Evolving Idea of Federalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

6. How did the Constitution of 1845 reflect the experiences of Texans when they had lived under Mexican rule?
Ans: Women were granted property rights, and homestead provisions protected personal homes from being forfeited for debt. Also, the constitution provided a guarantee against imprisonment for debt.
Learning Objective: Explain the purpose of a constitution and how the Texas Constitution developed.
TX Core Objective: CT, SR
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Statehood: The Constitution of 1845
Difficulty Level: Medium

7. What are the major criticisms of the current Texas Constitution?
Ans: It has too many specific policy provisions, the length continues to grow (at already

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approximately 87,000 words), and it creates a government that is too weak to carry out its responsibilities in modern Texas.
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Evolving Idea of Federalism
Difficulty Level: Easy

8. Why did the authors of the current Texas Constitution want to place strong limits on the Texas government? Discuss the ways in which they accomplished this goal.
Ans: Answers may vary. Students should describe the circumstances of the writing of the current constitution, in particular the experience of losing the Civil War and having to live under the Reconstruction regime of E. J. Davis, forced on them by the national government, which did not represent most Texans' preferences. They should discuss the strong civil liberties provisions, including the fact that habeas corpus cannot be suspended, as limitations on the government. They should identify the various limitations on the legislature. These include biennial sessions of 140 days, low salaries, and numerous restrictions on the subjects of legislation, particularly the restrictions on taxing. The limitations on the executive should also be discussed, including the plural executive. The fact that the original constitution gave the governor a two-year term and limited the number of terms a governor could serve can be mentioned, although is not crucial since these provisions have been changed. The numerous policy provisions in the constitution should also be mentioned.
Learning Objective: Explain the purpose of a constitution and how the Texas Constitution developed.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Applied
Answer Location: The Current System: The Constitution of 1876
Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Discuss how federalism is manifested in the U.S. Constitution. How is power divided and how are relationships among the states defined? Why has the relationship between the states and the national government been so unstable?
Ans: Answers may vary. The various categories of powers should be defined and described. These would include delegated powers, reserved powers, and concurrent powers. The relationships among the states should be described in terms of the full faith and credit clause of the Constitution, the privileges and immunities clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, and the constitutional requirement for extradition. The instability in the relationship between the states and the national government can be explained by the vagueness of the Constitution and the seeming contradiction between the national supremacy clause of the Constitution and the reserved powers clause of the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution.
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.

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TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: The Federal System of the United States
Difficulty Level: Medium/Hard

10. How common have amendments to the Texas Constitution been? How does the number of amendments to the Texas Constitution compare to amendments in other states, and what are the major criticisms of the amendment process?
Ans: Answers may vary. The Texas Constitution has been amended 491 times, making it one of the most frequently amended state constitutions in the Union, and ratification votes come frequently. Ratifications most often occur in odd-numbered years, in a special election that seldom coincides with any other state elections. Turnout is thus quite low, substantially lower than in other state or federal election years. Low voter turnout raises questions about popular sovereignty, an especially salient concern considering that amending the state constitution can change substantially the powers of government.
Learning Objective: Describe how federalism affects the choices made by state government.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Applied
Answer Location: Criticisms to the Texas Constitution
Difficulty Level: Medium

11. Does the supremacy clause make the reserved powers irrelevant? Why or why not?
Ans: Answers may vary depending on the student's perspective and any additional examples discussed in class.
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT
Cognitive Domain: Conceptual
Answer Location: Vertical Federalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

12. Under what conditions might the implied powers conflict with reserved powers?
Ans: In any situation in which the national government is attempting to fulfill its enumerated powers, there may be conflict.
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Vertical Federalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

13. How might the issue of same-sex marriage be impacted by the full faith and credit clause?

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Ans: Answers may vary.
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Horizontal Federalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

14. Offer at least two examples of why full faith and credit is important for contemporary relationships between states.
Ans: Examples could include business or marriage contracts.
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Horizontal Federalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

15. Why might the federal government want to issue categorical grants over block grants?
Ans: Answers may vary.
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Applied
Answer Location: The Evolving Idea of Federalism
Difficulty Level: Easy

16. What common elements can be found in each of the Texas constitutions from 1836 to 1876?
Ans: Answers may vary: They should include individual rights and distrust of government and
demonstrate the extent to which Texas's previous constitutions have contributed to the state's current constitution.
Learning Objective: Explain the purpose of a constitution and how the Texas Constitution developed.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Texas Constitutions
Difficulty Level: Medium

17. What are the major criticisms of the current Texas Constitution?
Ans: Answers may vary. It should include the plural executive, low legislative pay, and the election of judges.
Learning Objective: Explain how Texas's current constitution reflects the preferences of

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Texans today.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Current System: The Constitution of 1876
Difficulty Level: Easy

18. Discuss the problems with devolution. How might devolution create inequity?
Ans: Answers may vary.
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolution of Texas's previous constitutions and the historical events that influenced them.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Evolving Idea of Federalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

19. How have the various state constitutions impacted the lives and rights of African Americans in Texas?
Ans: Answers may vary. They should include slavery, voting rights, segregation, and education.
Learning Objective: Explain how Texas's current constitution reflects the preferences of Texans today.
TX Core Objective: CT, COMM, SR
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Civil Rights in Texas
Difficulty Level: Medium

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