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Name:_____ Class:_____ Date:_____

Ch 01 America in the Twenty-First Century

1. Which of the following best describes the term "power" in a political context?
   a. Its exercise is always recognized as socially moral and is protected by law.
   b. The ability to influence the behavior of others
   c. The ability of government to use force whenever it wishes
   d. The ability of elected leaders to do as they wish

ANSWER: b

2. Which of the following is true of the crime rate in recent decades?
   a. Trends are barely being tracked as crime has become a major political issue.
   b. It has significantly increased over time.
   c. It has largely fallen over time.
   d. The crime rate today is largely the same as it was in 1980.

ANSWER: c

3. Prior to the development of modern democracy, the power of government was typically in the hands of who?
   a. An oligarchy
   b. An authoritarian individual or group
   c. A holy emperor
   d. A country's military

ANSWER: b

4. What is another commonly used term for dictatorship?
   a. Parliamentarianism
   b. Autocracy
   c. Econometrics
   d. Semi-presidentialism

ANSWER: b

5. Which of the following is an organization that tracks political freedom around the world?
   a. Political Terror Scale
   b. Freedom House
   c. Econometrics
   d. Safety Board

ANSWER: b

6. Which of the following is true of a presidential democracy?
   a. The lawmaking and law-enforcement branches are separate but equal.
   b. The lawmaking and law-enforcement branches are one and the same.
   c. Presidents serve, but only as ceremonial figureheads or heads of state.
   d. Presidential democracies always give much more power to the person leading the executive branch.

ANSWER: a

7. Which of the following rules China today?
   a. The Chinese Communist Party

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b. The Nationalist Party
c. The Democratic Progressive Party
d. The Kuomintang

ANSWER: a

8. A political candidate was elected to the presidency of a country via free and fair elections. During their term, however, democratic institutions were attacked and weakened, deteriorating the democratic form of government. Political scientists would refer to this as an example of what?
a. Persistence
b. Backsliding
c. Downgrading
d. Diminishment

ANSWER: b

9. Which important political document was developed in England in 1689?
a. English Bill of Rights
b. Declaration of Independence
c. Magna Carta
d. English Parliamentary Edict

ANSWER: a

10. Which of the following is prohibited by the United States Constitution?
a. Granting of titles of nobility
b. A federal taxing system
c. The development of new courts
d. The ability to make federal laws supreme when they conflict with state laws

ANSWER: a

11. While almost every U.S. presidential contest since 2000 has been extremely competitive, which of the following elections was the least competitive?
a. 2000
b. 2004
c. 2008
d. 2016

ANSWER: c

12. Which of the following is a finding of some academic research on Americans and their political belief systems?
a. Many Americans do not have coherent political belief systems and often hold both conservative and liberal opinions.
b. Americans tend to be ideologically consistent across issues; if they are liberal on one issue, they will be liberal on all others.
c. Very few Americans lack a coherent political belief system and are mostly libertarian.
d. Many Americans develop their political belief systems after holding their first job and gain some degree of wealth.

ANSWER: a

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13. Which conservative argued that government was not the solution but the problem?
    a. Ronald Reagan
    b. Sean Hannity
    c. George H. W. Bush
    d. Jimmy Carter

ANSWER: a

14. While less powerful than the two main political parties in America, the Libertarian Party received about how many votes in the 2020 election?
    a. 5 million
    b. Half a million
    c. 4 million
    d. 2 million

ANSWER: d

15. Which of the following documents, while important, carries no legal weight in the American system?
    a. The U.S. Constitution
    b. The Declaration of Independence
    c. State constitutions
    d. Executive orders

ANSWER: b

16. Which document carries legal weight in the American system?
    a. The U.S. Constitution
    b. The Declaration of Independence
    c. The Federalist Papers
    d. The Articles of Confederation

ANSWER: a

17. Which of the following was one of the views held by James Madison?
    a. People are ideally good.
    b. People need some form of government.
    c. Monarchy is the best form of government.
    d. Dictatorship is the best form of government.

ANSWER: b

18. What is an ongoing organization that performs certain functions for society?
    a. A filibuster
    b. A policy
    c. An institution
    d. Politics

ANSWER: c

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19. Disagreements among people in a society over what the society's priorities should be is called what?
    a. Activism
    b. Progressivism
    c. Social conflict
    d. Contract dispute

ANSWER: c

20. What function is a government performing when it maintains city roads?
    a. Providing public services
    b. Resolving conflicts
    c. Providing private services
    d. Maintaining law and order

ANSWER: a

21. Which of the following is an example of a public service provided by the government?
    a. Influencing the morality of individuals
    b. Resolving religious conflicts
    c. Imposing taxes on individuals
    d. Preserving national parks

ANSWER: d

22. What is true of both national defense and domestic law enforcement?
    a. Both are available only for people in need.
    b. Both are examples of services enjoyed exclusively by the rich.
    c. Both are examples of services provided to all citizens.
    d. Both are based on the divine right theory.

ANSWER: c

23. To whom does the Constitution of the United States give exclusive power to deal with foreign nations?
    a. The Department of State
    b. Congress
    c. State governments
    d. The national government

ANSWER: d

24. When did defending the nation against future acts of terrorist aggression increase in importance for the U.S. government?
    a. After the Vietnam War
    b. After the attacks on the World Trade Center
    c. When President Nixon resigned
    d. After the conclusion of the Cold War

ANSWER: b

25. Which of the following is true of a monarchy?

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a. The government is a form of direct democracy.
b. A monarch's power is usually acquired through inheritance.
c. The government is a form of military rule.
d. All types of monarchies have unlimited power over the subjects.

ANSWER: b

26. In the context of monarchy, challenging which theory was regarded as not only treason against the government but also a sin against God?
a. The Athenian model of direct democracy
b. The divine right theory
c. The social contract theory
d. The theory of theological voluntarism

ANSWER: b

27. In a nation, people are ruled by a queen. Her ancestors have ruled the country for centuries. The queen has the sole right to make all decisions concerning the lives of her people and her country's well-being. This is an example of what type of government system?
a. Absolute monarchy
b. Constitutional monarchy
c. Direct democracy
d. Representative democracy

ANSWER: a

28. What is true in a constitutional monarchy?
a. The monarch's power is not supported by tradition.
b. The monarch holds complete and unlimited power.
c. The monarch's power is limited by government leaders.
d. The monarch is elected by the citizens of a country through elections.

ANSWER: c

29. Which country is an example of a constitutional monarchy?
a. Spain
b. India
c. The U.S.
d. China

ANSWER: a

30. In which system of government does a leader or group of leaders seek to control almost all aspects of social and economic life?
a. A libertarian system
b. A republican system
c. A constitutional democracy
d. A totalitarian dictatorship

ANSWER: d

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31. Joseph Stalin's rule in the Soviet Union was characteristic of what type of government?
    a. Totalitarian dictatorship
    b. Monarchy
    c. Representative democracy
    d. Oligarchy

ANSWER: a

32. Which of the following statements is true of pure direct democracy?
    a. It does not exist anywhere today as a major form of government.
    b. Direct democracy presently exists in most countries in the world.
    c. The will of the majority is expressed through representatives elected by the people.
    d. A direct democracy is always headed by a monarch.

ANSWER: a

33. Why did the founders of the United States opt for representative democracy instead of the Athenian model of direct democracy?
    a. They believed that citizen participation was unnecessary in governance.
    b. They were against a government based on the consent of the governed.
    c. They thought that the rights of the minority would be ignored.
    d. They opined that the masses would not be able to decide what would be right for themselves.

ANSWER: c

34. Which of the following would happen if a referendum were to take place in the United States?
    a. The people would let their elected officials make decisions on their behalf.
    b. A question would be placed on the ballot by gathering signatures.
    c. The legislature would send a ballot proposal to the voters.
    d. An elected official would be removed before their term of office came to an end.

ANSWER: c

35. Which of the following is true of a representative democracy?
    a. The people themselves directly make political decisions.
    b. A king or queen is considered the head of state.
    c. The will of the majority is expressed by elected representatives.
    d. A leader seeks to control almost all aspects of social and economic life.

ANSWER: c

36. What system of government is a republic?
    a. Representative democracy
    b. Direct democracy
    c. Autocracy
    d. Monarchy

ANSWER: a

37. Which of the following is a difference between a presidential democracy and a parliamentary democracy?

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a. Unlike a presidential democracy, there is no separate judicial branch in a parliamentary democracy.
b. Unlike a presidential democracy, the lawmaking and law-enforcing branches of government are united in a parliamentary democracy.
c. Unlike a presidential democracy, the prime minister is separate from the legislative body in a parliamentary democracy.
d. Unlike a presidential democracy, the lawmaking branch is superior to the law-enforcing branch of the government in a parliamentary democracy.

ANSWER: b

38. In Britain, the prime minister and the cabinet are members of the legislature, which both enacts the laws and carries them out. What governmental system is present in Britain?
a. Parliamentary democracy
b. Presidential democracy
c. Direct democracy
d. Absolute monarchy

ANSWER: a

39. In the context of the English monarchy, what document prohibited the taking of a free man's life, liberty, or property except through due process of law?
a. The Mayflower Compact
b. The Declaration of Independence
c. The Magna Carta
d. The Bill of Rights

ANSWER: c

40. Which of the following is true of the Magna Carta?
a. It established the principle of representative government.
b. It signaled the end of the monarch’s absolute power.
c. It served the private interests of the English monarch rather than public interests.
d. It stated that the king no longer had to obtain the nobles’ approval of any taxes imposed on them.

ANSWER: b

41. What did the Magna Carta do?
a. It abolished trial by jury.
b. It forced the nobles to obtain the king's approval of any taxes they imposed.
c. It formed the basis of the future constitutional government for England.
d. It gave the English monarch powers that were virtually unrestricted.

ANSWER: c

42. What is a voluntary agreement among individuals to create a government and to give that government adequate power to secure the mutual protection and welfare of all individuals?
a. A social contract
b. A political compromise
c. A charter
d. A merger

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ANSWER: a

43. Which of the following is a fundamental principle on which American democracy is based?
    a. Equal protection of the law
    b. Minority rule and majority rights
    c. Unlimited freedom
    d. Divine right

ANSWER: a

44. Zoya was arrested for staging a peaceful protest against animal cruelty in front of an animal-testing research institution. Zoya justified the actions by saying that the U.S. Constitution gives people the freedom to speak freely on any topic and issue. To which of the following concepts was Zoya referring?
    a. The right to equality
    b. The right to property
    c. The right to liberty
    d. Capitalism

ANSWER: c

45. Which of the following is true of American midterm elections?
    a. Presidential candidates are not on the ballot.
    b. Voter turnout is the highest.
    c. Public opinion polls are not conducted.
    d. All seats of the Senate are contested.

ANSWER: a

46. In the context of original American political ideology, what do those who support conservative policies want?
    a. To establish new policies and practices
    b. To require government interference in business enterprises
    c. To keep traditional social and political habits
    d. To support same-sex marriages

ANSWER: c

47. In the context of original American political ideology, which of the following is true of those who support liberal policies?
    a. They rarely seek to establish new policies and practices.
    b. They embrace traditional constraints.
    c. They believe that government intervention in business enterprises is necessary.
    d. They wish to keep traditional social and political habits.

ANSWER: c

48. The government of a country recently passed a law preventing the consumption of alcohol because alcohol consumption conflicts with certain religious beliefs. Roger opposed this law based on the opinion that the government should avoid laws that endorse or impose traditional religious values. With which political ideology are Roger's views most closely aligned?
    a. Conservatism

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b. Socialism
c. Liberalism
d. Communism

ANSWER: c

49. Which of the following is a difference between those who support liberal policies and those who support socialist policies?
a. Socialists have a stronger commitment to egalitarianism than those who support liberal policies.
b. Unlike those who support liberal policies, those who support socialist policies advocate active government intervention to protect civil rights.
c. Unlike those who support liberal policies, those who support socialist policies oppose government redistribution of income.
d. Those who support socialist policies have stronger adherence to traditional social and religious values than those who support liberal policies.

ANSWER: a

50. Which of the following is true of those who support libertarian policies?
a. They oppose almost all government regulation of the economy.
b. They support government involvement in issues of private morality.
c. They have tolerance for a strong government.
d. They support government-sponsored social welfare schemes.

ANSWER: a

51. Which of the following is a similarity between those who support liberal policies and those who support libertarian policies?
a. Both oppose government involvement in issues of private morality.
b. Both advocate active government intervention to improve the welfare of individuals.
c. Both support government redistribution of income.
d. Both believe that a big government is simply a necessary tool for promoting the common welfare.

ANSWER: a

52. What falls to the left of liberalism on the traditional political spectrum?
a. Socialism
b. Moderatism
c. Conservativism
d. Libertarianism

ANSWER: a

53. In the context of functions of governments, discuss the terms power and authority.
ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

54. Discuss some of the differences and similarities between conservatism, liberalism, and libertarianism.
ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

55. Discuss the dynamics of close and swing U.S. presidential elections in the twenty-first century.

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ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

56. Discuss the various types of dictatorships that exist and the differences between them. What are some of the different ways dictators can come to power?
ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

57. Compare and contrast direct democracy to representative democracy. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? In what situations might a direct democracy work? When is a representative democracy more feasible?
ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

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