“The influence of factious leaders may kindle a flame within their particular states, but will be unable to spread a general conflagration through the other states: a religious sect may degenerate into a political faction in a part of the confederacy; but the variety of sects dispersed over the entire face of it, must secure the national councils against any danger from that source: a rage for paper money, for an abolition of debts, for an equal division of property, or for any other improper or wicked project, will be less apt to pervade the whole body of the union.”
-Publius (James Madison), Federalist No. 10, 1787

1. Which of the following models of representative democracy is most consistent with the passage?
   A. Direct democracy
   B. Elite democracy
   C. Participatory democracy
   D. Pluralist democracy

Read the passage and answer question 2 and 3.

“Thus every man, by agreeing with others to make one body politic under one government, puts himself under an obligation to everyone in that society to submit to the decisions of the majority, and to be bound by it. Otherwise—that is, if he were willing to submit himself only to the majority acts that he approved of—the original compact through which he and the others incorporated into society would be meaningless . . .”
-John Locke, Second Treatise of Government, 1690

2. Which of the following democratic ideals is described in the passage?
   A. Limited government
   B. Popular sovereignty
   C. Republicanism
   D. Social Contract

3. Based on the text, which of the following statements would the author most likely agree with?
   A. Local and state governments are better equipped to deal with issues affecting people’s daily lives
   B. A large central government is better equipped to deal with issues affecting people’s daily lives
   C. Communism is better equipped to deal with issues affecting people’s daily lives
   D. Local and state governments need to be monitored by the federal government to protect individual rights and liberties

4. Which of the following aspects of the US Constitution best illustrates the concept of elite democracy?
   A. The original wording of the Constitution regarding the selection of US senators
   B. The apportionment of representatives in the House according to state population
   C. The ban on “corruption of the blood” in cases of treason
   D. The process for adding amendments to the Constitution

In June 2017, voters in Puerto Rico voted on a referendum to make Puerto Rico the 51st state of the United States.

5. This is an example of which of the following models of democracy?
   A. Indirect democracy
   B. Elite democracy
   C. Participatory democracy
   D. Pluralist democracy

After a House of Representatives member supports an unpopular tax despite protests from his constituents, he loses his bid for reelection.

6. This is an example of which of the following democratic ideals?
   A. Checks and balances
   B. Republicanism
   C. Limited government
   D. Social contract

7. Which two were weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?
   I. The federal government could not levy taxes.
   II. The executive branch was more powerful than Congress.
   III. The federal government could not raise an army.
   IV. Each state had two votes in a bicameral Congress.
   A. I and II
   B. I and III
   C. II and IV
   D. III and IV
8. Which of the following was a way in which Shays’s Rebellion demonstrated the weaknesses of the national government under the Articles of Confederation?

A. It could not coin money to pay the veterans involved in the rebellion
B. It could not appoint army officers who were skilled enough to fight the rebels
C. It could not raise money to pay a militia to put down the rebellion
D. It could not negotiate with the Native American tribes who were in rebellion

Read the passage and answer questions 9 and 10.

“As long as the reason of man continues fallible, and he is at liberty to exercise it, different opinions will be formed. . . . The diversity in the faculties of men, from which the rights of property originate, is not less an insuperable obstacle to a uniformity of interests. The protection of these faculties is the first object of government. From the protection of different and unequal faculties of acquiring property, the possession of different degrees and kinds of property immediately results; and from the influence of these on the sentiments and views of the respective proprietors, ensues a division of the society into different interests and parties.”

-Publius (James Madison), Federalist No. 10

9. Based on the text, which of the following statements would the author most likely agree with?

A. Political liberty is best protected by a small republic with a unicameral legislature
B. Political liberty is best protected by a small republic with a unicameral legislature
C. Political liberty is least protected in a large republic with lots of factions
D. Political liberty is best protected by the fragmentation of political power in a large republic

10. According to the author, what is the purpose of government?

A. To strengthen factions
B. To control factions
C. To eliminate factions
D. To replace factions

Read the passage and answer questions 11 and 12.

“In a pure democracy the people are the sovereign, and their will is declared by themselves; for this purpose they must all come together to deliberate, and decide. This kind of government cannot be exercised, therefore, over a country of any considerable extent; it must be confined to a single city, or at least limited to such bounds as that the people can conveniently assemble, be able to debate, understand the subject submitted to them, and declare their opinion concerning it.”

-Brutus No. 1

11. Which of the following statements best summarizes the author’s argument?

A. A small decentralized government leads to an ineffective government
B. A large centralized government is unable to protect individual interests and liberties
C. A large centralized government best represents individual interests
D. A weak centralized government is ensured through checks and balances

12. Which of the following political parties would have agreed with the ideological perspectives in the passage when it was written?

A. Federalist
B. Anti-Federalist
C. Whigs
D. Progressive

“Because of our two-party system, voters often find themselves voting for the ‘lesser of two evils,’ rather than a candidate they really feel would do the best job. . . . "Since most states distribute their electoral votes on a winner-take-all basis, the smaller party has no chance to gain support without seeming to take this support from one of the major parties. Few people will support a party that never wins, especially when they are supporting that party at the possible expense of their least favorite candidate taking power.”

Source: Fairvote.org

13. Which of the following governmental policies would the author of this passage most likely support?

A. Amending the Constitution to ban political parties
B. Requiring all states to allocate electoral votes on a winner-take-all basis
C. Reforming or eliminating the Electoral College
D. Preventing third party “spoilers” from running in national elections
A member of the House of Representatives proposes a Constitutional amendment that would force the president and Congress to balance the budget every year.

14. Which of the following accurately describes the amendment process?
   A. The bill must pass both the House and the Senate with a two-thirds majority
   B. The bill must pass the House and the Senate with a two-thirds majority and be approved by the Supreme Court
   C. The bill must pass both the House and the Senate with a three-fourths majority
   D. The bill must pass both the House and the Senate with a simple majority

15. The Three-Fifths Compromise is best defined as which of the following?
   A. A bill can only be passed with three-fifths majority of both the House and the Senate
   B. For every five enslaved Africans, three would be counted for representation
   C. Three-fifths of United States territory in 1787 would become slave states in 1800
   D. Three-fifths of the Senate would be up for reelection every two years

16. Which of the following procedures results in the addition of an amendment to the Constitution?
   A. The House and the Senate pass a Constitution Amendment Bill by a simple majority
   B. The House and the Senate pass a Constitution Amendment Bill by a majority and the Supreme Court approves the bill
   C. Two-thirds of state legislatures propose a Constitution Amendment Bill which is ratified by three-fourths of the House and the Senate
   D. Two-thirds of state legislatures propose a Constitution Amendment Bill, which is ratified by three-fourths of the states

17. Which of the following scenarios best illustrates the concept of “separation of powers” in the US Constitution?
   A. The president can nominate justices to the Supreme Court, while the Senate approves presidential nominations
   B. The president can create an executive order, while the Supreme Court can declare it unconstitutional
   C. States control elections and public education, while the federal government is responsible for making treaties and defending the country militarily
   D. The president commands the nation’s armed forces, while Congress has the power to ratify treaties

18. Which of the following may Congress do to limit the power of the executive?
   A. Nominate a Supreme Court justice
   B. Veto a bill in the Senate
   C. Impeach the president
   D. Declare an executive order unconstitutional

A president issues an executive order banning newspapers from printing articles critical of the US government. The Supreme Court declares the executive order unconstitutional because it violates the First Amendment right to freedom of the press.

19. This is an example of which of the following principles of US government?
   A. Checks and balances
   B. Republicanism
   C. Federalism
   D. Popular sovereignty

20. Which of the following best illustrates the concept of “separation of powers” in the US Constitution?
   A. Congress can pass a measure, while the president can veto it
   B. Congress has authority over the federal budget, while the president appoints the Supreme Court justices
   C. Mississippi can set educational policy for its students, while California can set educational policy for its students
   D. Congress can pass a measure, while the Supreme Court can declare it unconstitutional.

21. Which of the following is the best example of federalism in the United States?
   A. Constitutional amendments must originate in state legislatures in order to succeed
   B. The system of checks and balances between the branches of the federal government constrains policy making
   C. Constitutional amendments have taken the place of lawmaking in influencing public policy
   D. The sharing of power between states and the federal government constrains national policymaking
Before the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution granted women the right to vote nationwide, 13 states allowed women the right to vote in their state elections.

22. This is an example of which of the following aspects of federalism in the United States?
   A. State and local governments have more power than the federal government
   B. State and local governments can become proving grounds for new ideas
   C. Amendments to the US Constitution can easily be made in order to meet the needs of society
   D. States frequently choose to ignore federal laws in favor of state laws

23. Under the Constitution prior to the Seventeenth Amendment, United States Senators were
   A. elected to ten-year terms
   B. elected directly by the people
   C. chosen only from the House of Representatives
   D. chosen by members of state legislatures

24. What founding document explains how constitutional provisions of separation of powers and checks and balances control abuses by majorities?
   A. Letter from Birmingham Jail
   B. Federalist No. 10
   C. Brutus No. 1
   D. Federalist No. 51

25. Which of the following did the Supreme Court establish in Marbury v. Madison?
   A. Each state has the right to set up and run its own court system.
   B. All the powers that are not explicitly given by the Constitution to Congress belong to the states.
   C. Any president who commits treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors can be impeached.
   D. The Supreme Court can declare federal legislation invalid if the legislation violates the Constitution.

26. In the Federalist Papers, James Madison expressed the view that political factions:
   A. should be nurtured by a free nation
   B. should play a minor role in any free nation
   C. are central to the creation of a free nation
   D. are undesirable but inevitable in a free nation

27. The Constitution as ratified in 1788 most clearly reflects the framers' commitment to:
   A. the idea of direct democracy
   B. the principle of limited government
   C. the abolition of slavery
   D. protecting the rights of the accused

28. Which of the following represents a major reason why the Electoral College was created?
   A. It would encourage third party candidates
   B. It would enable a select group of electors to cast the final vote for president and vice president.
   C. It would encourage greater voter turnout.
   D. It would give more power to the congress in determining the outcome of presidential elections.

29. As the framers wrote the Constitution they had no practical choice but to adopt a federal system for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:
   A. The country's transportation and communication systems were too primitive for a unitary government to work.
   B. Americans' loyalty to state governments was stronger than it was to the United States.
   C. The confederation had clearly failed in managing the country's problems.
   D. Americans had weak allegiance to their states.

30. The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution:
   A. during the Constitutional Convention, at the insistence of Thomas Jefferson.
   B. piece by piece during the first hundred years of its operation.
   C. during the ratification process, before final ratification of the constitution.
   D. after the ratification process was complete, and partly to fulfill a promise to those who supported ratification.

31. Informal changes to the Constitution have come about as a result of all of the following EXCEPT:
   A. tradition.
   B. constitutional amendments.
   C. congressional legislation.
   D. judicial interpretation

32. Under the Articles of Confederation most governmental power rested in:
   A. the national government
   B. the president
   C. the judiciary
   D. the state governments
33. Pluralist theory contends that in the United States:
   A. the many members of Congress dominate a singular official such as the president.
   B. many groups vie for power with no one set of groups dominating.
   C. society is governed solely by an upper-class elite.
   D. because most citizens fail to pay attention to serious issues, government has become an elite institution

34. A referendum can best be described as a vote to
   A. choose party nominees
   B. choose a candidate if no single candidate has a majority after the initial election
   C. determine whether citizens support an action by their state legislature
   D. remove elected officials from office

35. The theoretical justification for the break with Great Britain presented in the Declaration of Independence drew heavily on the ideas of
   A. James Madison
   B. Thomas Hobbes
   C. John Locke
   D. John Marshall

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