A campaign advertisement appears on TV and in social media that says, “Candidate Smith has a record that includes policies that will hurt all Americans. If these policies are put into place, much of your hard-earned savings will be taxed away, and your well-paying job will be moved overseas. Be sure to vote on election day.”

1. Which statement below best explains what limitations, if any, might be placed on this campaign message?
   A. Smith’s opponent would have to use “hard money” to pay for the ad and could be sued for running it
   B. Smith’s opponent would have to use personal funds to pay for the ad, which must include hard evidence to support the accusation
   C. Smith’s opponent would use “hard money” to pay for the ad, since it attacks a political candidate without telling who paid for it
   D. Smith’s opponent could use “soft money” to pay for the ad and does not have to claim support for it

2. The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (McCain-Feingold) was designed to curtail which of the following?
   A. Individual contributions to candidates
   B. Soft money
   C. Hard money
   D. Public disclosure rules

Priyanka Kumble votes for political candidates based solely on their platforms and the policies they and their party plan to implement once elected.

3. Which model of voting behavior does this best represent?
   A. Retrospective voting
   B. Prospective voting
   C. Party-line voting
   D. Rational choice voting

4. Which linkage institution is primarily responsible for keeping the electorate informed about political issues, policymaking, and leadership transitions in government?
   A. Interest groups
   B. The federal bureaucracy
   C. Political parties
   D. News media

5. Which of the following political actors is NOT considered part of an iron triangle in developing public policy at the national level?
   A. Congress
   B. The President
   C. An interest group
   D. A government agency

6. The rise of new issues no longer dominated by a single interest group, declining influence of congressional committee chairs, increasing media coverage of the policymaking process, and declining significance of iron triangles have all contributed to which of the following?
   A. Less constituent involvement in the development of national policy
   B. A decentralization of power in Congress
   C. An increase in the importance of issue networks
   D. Conflict between the president and the Supreme Court over policy interpretation

Use the chart below to answer questions 7 and 8.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons Voters Support Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump</th>
<th>Clinton voters (%)</th>
<th>Trump voters (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Negative assessment of opponent</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifications/Experience</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issues/Policies</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal qualities</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partisanship</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Want change</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Based on the results shown in the table, which of the following reasons was the most cited reason that both Clinton and Trump voters chose their respective candidate?
   A. Personal qualities of the political candidate
   B. Negative assessment of opponent
   C. Policies supported by the political candidate
   D. Political ideology of the voter and the political candidate

8. Which of the following generalizations is best supported by data in the table?
   A. Contemporary political issues are the most important factors influencing voter choice
   B. The characteristics of the candidates can dictate who voters support in an election
   C. Voters primarily choose candidates to support based on the candidate’s political ideology
   D. Voters primarily choose candidates based on the policies in their platforms
9. Which of the following scenarios is an example of how the media can act as a linkage institution?
   A. A reporter interviews students and teachers after a school-wide evacuation because of a fire
   B. A television network airs the results of a public opinion poll projecting the winner of the 2016 presidential election
   C. A political party advertises a “Rock the Vote” concert on Facebook to get people aged 18-21 to vote
   D. A political action committee donates money to a candidate for Senate to use for commercial advertisements

10. Which of the following best explains the function of the platforms of the two major US political parties?
    A. Platforms are a set of general principles, goals, and strategies designed to give voters a sense of what candidates believe in and will address if elected
    B. Platforms include important constitutional provisions in support of the two-party system in the United States
    C. Platforms are created on a yearly basis to address the specific political and economic issues by which voters can hold elected officials accountable
    D. Platforms are intended to provide a particular political or economic ideology to appeal to a select set of voters in the electorate

11. Linkage institutions are best defined as which of the following?
    A. A formal or informal association of people seeking to influence governmental policy in favor of their interests
    B. Organizations of people with similar political ideologies that seek to influence public policy by getting candidates elected
    C. Groups that connect people to the government and turn people’s concerns into political issues
    D. Organizations that raise money with the goal of supporting or defeating candidates, parties, or legislation

Gabriel Sarwan only votes for political candidates whose platforms directly benefit the profitability of his small business.

12. This voting behavior can best be characterized by which of the following models?
    A. Retrospective voting
    B. Prospective voting
    C. Party-line voting
    D. Rational choice voting

13. Which of the following is a structural barrier to political participation enforced in certain states today?
    A. Party-line voting
    B. Poll taxes
    C. Voter ID laws
    D. Literacy tests

14. Which of the following scenarios is an example of how the media can act as a linkage institution?
    A. A reporter publishes an article on the importance of using reusable straws over plastic straws
    B. A news anchor posts a Twitter poll asking his followers to vote whether he should wear a green tie or a purple tie that day
    C. A major newspaper organization publishes poll results indicating the percentage of the American public who support legislation to ban affirmative action programs
    D. The head of a news network donates $10,000 of his private funds to the Democratic candidate in the presidential election

15. Which of the following statements best explains how national political campaigns have changed since the Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010)?
    A. New “super PACs” can raise unlimited funds from virtually any source as long as the money is used as an independent expenditure for the campaign and is not given directly to the candidate
    B. Restrictions on both hard and soft money contributions have been eliminated, allowing individuals to donate unlimited amounts to candidates or to political parties
    C. Limits on total soft money contributions by individuals to a political party in a given election have been increased to $10,000
    D. Restrictions on total hard money contributions by individuals to candidates in a given election have been raised to $100,000, increasing the influence of wealthy contributors on incumbent office holders

16. Which of the following statements best explains how candidate-centered campaigns have weakened the influence of political parties on the political process?
    A. Candidates have come to rely heavily on party platforms to gain voter support
    B. Candidates have become less reliant on parties to register citizens to vote in elections
    C. Candidates have refused to identify with parties in hopes of gaining independent voters
    D. Candidates can raise campaign funds by appealing to voters and PACs directly
17. Which constitutional change in the early twentieth century led to an increase in democratic participation in the United States?
   A. States no longer could segregate public schools under the principle of “separate but equal”
   B. The minimum legal voting age was reduced from 21 to 18
   C. States’ use of poll taxes to keep African Americans from voting was disallowed
   D. The method by which US senators are elected was changed

Selina voted for Senator Bruce Wayne (D-NY) in 2008 and was unhappy with his performance in office because he didn’t fix the economy. So in the 2014 midterm elections, Selina decides to vote for Barbara Kean, a Republican candidate.

18. Which model of voting behavior does this best represent?
   A. Retrospective voting
   B. Prospective voting
   C. Party-line voting
   D. Rational choice voting

The Green Party (GPUS) advocates environmentalism, social justice, and anti-war/anti-racism agendas.

19. Which of the following statements accurately describes a barrier to the Green Party winning congressional seats or the presidency?
   A. Implied prohibition against third-party organizations in Article I of the Constitution
   B. Incorporation of third-party issue positions or platforms by major political parties
   C. State election boards banning third-party access to general election ballots
   D. Third parties are unable to qualify for super PAC funds in federal elections

20. Political scientists use the term “political realignment” to describe which of the following?
   A. The creation or death of political parties
   B. A shift in party control of both the presidency and Congress
   C. A major change of a plank in a political party’s platform
   D. A profound shift in the balance of power between major political parties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Closed Primary</th>
<th>Caucus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Used for both presidential and congressional elections</td>
<td>Only used for presidential elections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Limited to registered members of a political party</td>
<td>Party members choose nominees after hours of speeches and debates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Meeting of delegates from one political party to select party candidates for public office</td>
<td>Any person can participate and discussions are not limited to registered party numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Generally has the highest turnout of any primary election.</td>
<td>Generally has the lowest turnout of any primary election.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21. Which of the following is an accurate comparison of a closed primary and a caucus?
   A. Comparison A
   B. Comparison B
   C. Comparison C
   D. Comparison D

   A. The “Stand by Your Ad” provision has polarized communities now that candidates and parties are required to approve campaign ads
   B. Limits placed on election spending are unconstitutional and reduce the quantity of expression that is necessary in elections
   C. The Supreme Court has extended First Amendment protection of political speech at the expense of election fairness
   D. The Federal Election Commission has reduced the amount of “hard money” campaign contributions, resulting in a decrease in voter registrations and turnout

23. Which of the following statements describes the role political parties within Congress play to promote their party’s public policy agenda?
   A. The minority party controls the rules and calendar, ensuring they are favorable to their party’s policy agenda
   B. The majority party selects committee chairs who promote the party’s legislative priorities
   C. The minority party recruits candidates for government office when there is a special election
   D. The majority party appoints staffers in the executive branch, including the bureaucracy, who promote the party’s legislative priorities
24. Which is the best explanation for the extraction of massive amounts of personal data from social media sites by political consulting firms?
   A. It allows unscrupulous campaign managers to cast votes in general elections masquerading as eligible voters
   B. It allows campaign consultants to collect and use posted pictures and videos in campaign ads
   C. It provides insights about voter preferences that campaign consultants use to strategically craft political messages
   D. It provides political parties with leads on high-profile figures who might make good partisan candidates

The presidential election of 1968 was conducted against a backdrop of assassinations, race riots, widespread demonstrations against the Vietnam war, and violent confrontations between police and anti-war protesters at the Democratic National Convention.

It also included a strong third party effort by former Alabama Governor George Wallace, a pro-segregation Democrat running as independent. The election outcome was a victory for GOP candidate Richard Nixon, with Wallace receiving 46 electoral votes from southern states.

25. Which of the following terms accurately characterizes this election and political era?
   A. A party era
   B. Divided government
   C. Party realignment
   D. Disenfranchisement

26. Which of the following best explains why direct primaries have become a mainstay of American politics since the early 1900s?
   A. The democratic merits of giving the electorate more influence in choosing candidates outweigh the benefits of depending on party leaders' expertise
   B. Major parties are tired of seeing their national candidates beaten in the general election by third-party and independent candidates
   C. Direct primaries ensure that party candidates will toe the line regarding their party’s platform
   D. Party leaders have become notorious for choosing candidates who are untrained and not well known by the voters

27. Political parties are most inclined to use which of the following strategies in national general election campaigns today?
   A. Increasing the use of broadcast media to target campaign messages
   B. Relying exclusively on super PACs for campaign messaging
   C. Matching polling responses to identifiable individuals in voter files to determine patterns
   D. Hiring a team of volunteers to go door-to-door with campaign messages

During the 2016 Democratic and Republican presidential nomination process, more than half the states used the closed primary or caucus instead of an open primary.

28. Which of the following statements accurately explains why a majority of states chose either a closed primary or caucus over an open primary?
   A. To encourage greater electoral participation by allowing all citizens to vote for their preferred candidate from a list of candidates of all parties
   B. To determine the slate of electors to vote on behalf of the state at the Electoral College
   C. To keep everyone's vote secret
   D. To encourage party unity and prevent members of other parties from voting to nominate weak candidates

29. Which of the following statements describes why Ross Perot won zero electoral votes in the 1992 presidential election?
   A. The proportional representation system awarded him the same percentage of electoral votes as what he won in the popular vote
   B. The winner-take-all system awarded electoral votes to the candidate who won the most votes in that state
   C. The winner-take-all system forced a runoff between the top two candidates, and Ross Perot was the third candidate
   D. The proportional representation system only awarded electoral votes to the top two candidates who received votes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Open Primary</th>
<th>Closed Primary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only used for congressional elections</td>
<td>Only used for presidential elections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Party member choose nominees after hours of speeches and debates</td>
<td>Meeting of delegates from one political party to select party candidates for public office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Voters registered with another party or as independents can vote</td>
<td>Registered independents can vote along with members of a registered party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Any person can participate in this election</td>
<td>Limited to registered members of a political party</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30. Which of the following is an accurate comparison of an open primary and closed primary?
   A. Comparison A
   B. Comparison B
   C. Comparison C
   D. Comparison D

Use the text below to answer questions 31 and 32.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presidential candidate</th>
<th>Electoral Votes</th>
<th>Popular Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republican Party</td>
<td>51.8%</td>
<td>46.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Party</td>
<td>48.2%</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Party</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reform Party</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31. Based on the data shown in the table, which of the following statements is true about the Electoral College?
   A. The person who is elected to office may win the majority of Electoral College votes, but lose the popular vote
   B. The Electoral College gives independents and third-party candidates an unfair advantage in presidential elections
   C. The Electoral College does not determine who wins the election, only the popular vote
   D. The person who is elected to office may win the majority of popular votes, but lose the Electoral College vote

32. Based on the results shown in the table, who won the election?
   A. The Reform Party
   B. The Democratic Party
   C. The Republican Party
   D. The Green Party

33. The presidential campaigns of Barack Obama (2012), Bernie Sanders (2016), and Donald Trump (2016) all had which of the following in common?
   A. Success in attracting grass-roots, small-dollar contributions
   B. Divergence from the political platforms of their national parties
   C. Ideological similarity in campaign slogans and position statements
   D. Nomination from their national political party

34. Single-issue groups
   A. include members with narrow interests.
   B. lack financial resources.
   C. are not taken seriously because they lack a large constituency.
   D. have had little effect on the outcomes of elections.

35. Which is a linkage institution?
   A. federal courts
   B. Executive Office of the President
   C. Congress
   D. political parties

36. Since 1968, American politics has largely been characterized by
   A. divided government.
   B. Republican control of both the Congress and presidency.
   C. the New Deal coalition.
   D. Democratic control of both the Congress and presidency.

37. In closed primaries,
   A. voters cannot cross party lines.
   B. voters may choose on election day which party primary they want to participate in.
   C. voters may vote for candidates of multiple parties.
   D. voters may vote for candidates from either party

38. Which of the following important functions of democracy would most likely be more difficult without political parties?
   A. Eliminating corruption in the bureaucracy
   B. Educating the public about upcoming elections
   C. Ensuring that only eligible voters can vote
   D. Reducing gridlock in Congress
39. Which of the following describes a fundamental difference between political parties and interest groups?
   A. Political parties are prohibited from sponsoring campaign advertisements, and interest groups are not.
   B. Political parties represent broad arrays of issues, whereas interest groups are more likely to focus on narrow sets of issues.
   C. Political parties are more likely to focus on national politics, whereas interest groups focus on local politics.
   D. Political parties tend to have strength in particular regions, whereas the power of interest groups is more consistent across states.

40. The concept of realignment refers to changes in
   A. the United States system of international alliances
   B. the social bases of the parties’ voting support
   C. the media’s criticism of the president and Congress
   D. spending priorities in the federal budget