



**National Political Science Examination
IAC Nationals 2022
Middle School Division**

Name _____

School _____

Grade _____

**Instructions – Mark your answers on the scantron provided.
Correct answers are worth 2 points. Incorrect answers are
worth –1 point. Questions left blank are worth 0 points.**

1. How many members are there on the current US Supreme Court?

- A. 3
- B. 5
- C. 9
- D. 15

2. Which of these is NOT a Supreme Court case dealing with free speech?

- A. *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- B. *Tinker v. Des Moines*
- C. *Schenck v. US*
- D. *Citizens United v. FEC*

3. Which of these defines the civil liberties of Americans?

- A. the Declaration of Independence
- B. the Twenty-Seventh Amendment to the Constitution
- C. the Preamble of the Constitution
- D. the Bill of Rights

4. Which of these is NOT an area where US state governments and the federal government have shared authority?

- A. prosecuting criminals
- B. education
- C. making treaties with other nations
- D. transportation

5. The 'Test Clause' of Article VI of the Constitution prohibits what type 'test' for holding office in the United States?

- A. an age requirement
- B. sex or gender
- C. religious
- D. a literacy test

6. Traffic fines and speeding tickets are handled by which type of court?

- A. city or county courts
- B. the Supreme Court
- C. federal district courts
- D. federal circuit courts

7. Which of these did NOT run for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020?

- A. Joe Biden
- B. Elizabeth Warren
- C. Hillary Clinton
- D. Kamala Harris

8. Roughly how many countries are members of the UN?

- A. about 50
- B. just under 100
- C. just under 200
- D. just under 300

9. Which of these is the MOST common form of city government in the US?

- A. town meeting
- B. mayor-council
- C. parliamentary
- D. commission

10. Which of these is guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the Constitution?

- A. freedom of assembly
- B. the right to keep and bear arms
- C. the right to privacy
- D. the right to trial by jury

11. The presiding officer of the House of Representatives is which of the following?

- A. the President Pro Tempore
- B. the Speaker of the House
- C. the Vice President
- D. the Chief Justice

12. Which of the following signature programs of the Obama administration has been a frequent target for Republicans since its passage?

- A. the Affordable Care Act
- B. the Americans with Disabilities Act
- C. the USA PATRIOT Act
- D. the No Child Left Behind program

13. What is the process by which someone born outside the United States becomes a citizen?
- recall
 - runoff
 - initiative
 - naturalization
14. What level of government usually provides services like police and fire protection, trash collection and water service?
- city governments
 - state governments
 - the federal government
 - all three levels provide these services
15. Following the Constitutional Convention, what faction of Americans opposed the ratification of the Constitution?
- the Democrats
 - the anti-federalists
 - the Republicans
 - the 'Know Nothings'
16. Which of these has a non-voting delegate in the House of Representatives instead of a congressman?
- Hawaii
 - Washington, DC
 - Alaska
 - Maine
17. Which of these was a 'battleground state' in the 2020 presidential election?
- Massachusetts
 - Kansas
 - New York
 - Georgia
18. What type of political system is defined as rule by a small number of people?
- republic
 - democracy
 - oligarchy
 - theocracy
19. Which of these is political subdivision equivalent to a county in the state of Louisiana?
- parish
 - province
 - borough
 - township
20. Which of these is NOT guaranteed by the First Amendment?
- protection from cruel and unusual punishment
 - freedom of speech
 - freedom of the press
 - the free exercise of religion
21. Which of these is true of the United States Senate?
- there is a Republican majority in the Senate of more than 10 seats
 - there is a Republican majority in the Senate of less than 5 seats
 - there is a 50-50 split of Democratic and Republican Senators, with Vice President Harris casting tiebreaking votes on all important matters
 - there is a Democratic majority in the Senate of more than 5 seats
22. Which of these is the chief executive of a US state?
- the secretary of state
 - the speaker of the state house
 - a mayor
 - the governor
23. How does an American join a political party?
- they have to pay a membership fee
 - they have to attend party meetings regularly
 - by simply claiming to be a member
 - they must register as a member of the party in their state
24. Which of these Senate practices has been a source of controversy since the beginning of the Biden administration and has prevented the passage of many pieces of legislation since 2021?
- the filibuster
 - the confirmation of Supreme Court justices
 - the confirmation of cabinet officials
 - the committee system
25. Which of the following are directly elected by the American people?
- federal judges
 - Supreme Court justices
 - US Senators
 - members of the cabinet
26. Which of these people serves as Senate Majority Leader in the current Congress?
- Mitch McConnell
 - Chuck Schumer
 - Steny Hoyer
 - Nancy Pelosi
27. Which of these was the name given to the Trump administration's efforts to aid in the development and deployment of a coronavirus vaccine in the US?
- Operation Warp Speed
 - the Star Wars program
 - the Mercury program
 - Operation Condor

28. Which of these countries is governed by the Westminster system of parliamentary government?
- France
 - Mexico
 - Russia
 - the United Kingdom
29. The PRI and PAN are the major political parties in what nation?
- China
 - Canada
 - France
 - Mexico
30. How many members did the electoral college have in 2020?
- 50
 - 100
 - 435
 - 538
31. Which of the following is necessary for Congress to override a presidential veto?
- a unanimous vote of both houses
 - a three-fourths vote of both houses
 - a two-thirds vote of both houses
 - simple majorities in both houses
32. The division of power between the national and state governments in the United States is referred to by what term?
- socialism
 - nationalism
 - communism
 - federalism
33. Which of these men was NOT a Democratic president?
- George H.W. Bush
 - Jimmy Carter
 - Lyndon Johnson
 - Franklin Roosevelt
34. Dr. Anthony Fauci has become notable in the United States since 2020 for what reason?
- as a candidate for president
 - as the director of the FBI
 - as a leader of the federal government's response to Covid
 - as Secretary of Defense
35. On what day does a presidential inauguration usually take place in the United States?
- March 3 of the year following the election
 - January 20 of the year following the election
 - the first Tuesday in December following the election
 - on the New Year's Day following the election
36. Who is the current Secretary of the Treasury?
- Janet Yellen
 - Anthony Blinken
 - Lloyd Austin
 - Deb Haaland
37. What former congressman and presidential candidate is the Democratic candidate for governor in Texas in 2022?
- Ted Cruz
 - Rick Perry
 - George W. Bush
 - Beto O'Rourke
38. All of these are constitutional monarchies EXCEPT which of the following?
- the Netherlands
 - Hungary
 - Kuwait
 - Morocco
39. Which of these were intended to address global climate change?
- the 2015 Paris Agreement
 - the Rio Earth Summit
 - the Kyoto Protocols
 - all of these were intended to address climate change
40. The 'Great Compromise' resulted in which of the following at the Constitutional Convention?
- the creation of Congress
 - counting slaves as three-fifths of a person in the census
 - giving the president a veto power
 - making the president commander-in-chief of the United States military
41. How long are the terms of Supreme Court justices?
- 2 years
 - 4 years
 - 6 years
 - justices are appointed to life terms
42. Which of these two types of spending are the largest types of mandatory spending in the annual federal budget?
- energy and transportation
 - social security payments and healthcare
 - education and housing
 - scientific research and urban development
43. Which of these is true of the US House of Representatives?
- every state does not have a member of the House
 - House members must be 35 years old
 - House members are elected to two-year terms
 - House members cannot become president

44. Jacinda Ardern is the leader of which of the following nations?
- Australia
 - New Zealand
 - Estonia
 - Finland
45. Which of the following is required to be elected president of the United States?
- being a military veteran
 - serving in Congress
 - being Christian
 - being a natural-born US citizen
46. Which of these is NOT a prominent Republican politician?
- Mike Pence
 - Ted Cruz
 - Kamala Harris
 - Susan Collins
47. Who was elected chancellor of Germany in 2021?
- Angela Merkel
 - Olof Scholz
 - Gerhard Schroder
 - Helmut Kohl
48. Which of these is NOT a member of the Group of 7, the group of the wealthiest large democracies in the world?
- Japan
 - Canada
 - Germany
 - China
49. What is the branch of political science that studies things like treaties among nations and diplomacy?
- political economy
 - public policy
 - urban planning
 - international relations
50. What is the role of the president with regard to the United States military?
- he is the chief strategist
 - he is a five-star general in the Army
 - he is commander-in-chief of the military
 - he is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
51. In a normal presidential election year, how many United States Senate seats would be up for election?
- all 100
 - 75
 - 50
 - 33 or 34
52. In American electoral politics, what is a 'red state'?
- a state that votes reliably for the Democrats in most statewide elections
 - a state that votes for third party candidates
 - a state where either party might win statewide elections
 - a state that votes reliably for the Republicans in most statewide elections
53. Which Constitutional amendment began the prohibition era in the United States?
- 13th
 - 18th
 - 25th
 - 27th
54. Which of these is considered a theocratic government?
- North Korea
 - South Africa
 - Iran
 - Canada
55. What do presidents Herbert Hoover and Donald Trump have in common?
- neither had been elected to political office or served in the military before being elected president
 - both served in the cabinet before they were elected president
 - they are the only two presidents who were not lawyers
 - both were born outside of the United States to parents who were American citizens
56. Which of these age groups is LEAST likely to vote in a national election in the US?
- 18-29 years old
 - 30-44 years old
 - 45-59 years old
 - 60 and older
57. Gavin Newsom is currently the governor of what state?
- Florida
 - California
 - Illinois
 - Colorado
58. In the age of cell phones and the internet, which of these has been an effective way to organize protest movements and opposition to government policies throughout the world?
- widely circulating alternative newspapers
 - secret messages planted on television broadcasts
 - social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook
 - pirate radio broadcasts

59. A monarchy has which of these as either its head of government or head of state?
- a king, queen or emperor
 - a president
 - a judge
 - a prime minister
60. Which of the following is currently eligible to become president of the United States?
- Barack Obama
 - Donald Trump
 - Bill Clinton
 - George W. Bush
61. Which of the following was NOT appointed to the Supreme court by President Donald Trump?
- Amy Coney Barrett
 - Neil Gorsuch
 - Ruth Bader Ginsburg
 - Brett Kavanaugh
62. Which of these is an example of a supranational union?
- the European Union
 - a state government in the US
 - the USMCA trade agreement
 - the government of Puerto Rico
63. Which of these is important about the Mayflower Compact?
- it helped to establish the tradition of government by and with the consent of the people in the American colonies
 - it was the first law to regulate slavery
 - it declared the Plymouth colony independent of the king
 - it guaranteed religious freedom in Massachusetts
64. Many Northern European nations have governmental and economic policies based on which of these?
- communism
 - anarchy
 - socialism
 - dictatorship
65. Which article of the Constitution establishes the executive branch?
- Article I
 - Article II
 - Article III
 - Article IV
66. Which of these would be considered a 'blue state' in recent presidential elections?
- Kansas
 - Montana
 - California
 - Idaho
67. What former professional football player is running as a Republican for the US Senate in Georgia in the 2022 midterm election?
- Herschel Walker
 - Troy Aikman
 - Tom Brady
 - Drew Brees
68. What is the largest source of tax revenue for the United States government?
- income taxes on corporations
 - payroll taxes to fund programs like Social Security
 - tariffs on goods coming into the United States
 - income taxes on individuals and families
69. Which of these is NOT a permanent member of the UN Security Council?
- Slovenia
 - France
 - Russia
 - the United Kingdom
70. Which of the following is true of President Joe Biden?
- he is the only president who previously served in the US Senate
 - he is the only president who was never the governor of a state
 - he is the second Roman Catholic elected president of the United States
 - he is the only Vice President to win the presidency since 1900
71. The Supreme Court's power of judicial review arose from which of the following nineteenth century cases?
- Marbury v. Madison*
 - Gibbons v. Ogden*
 - Cherokee Nation v. Georgia*
 - Dartmouth College v. Woodward*
72. Which of these is a non-governmental organization that has a mission to protect human life and health across the world?
- the G-7
 - the UN Security Council
 - the International Red Cross
 - the Girl Scouts
73. The process by which voters can remove an elected official from office at the local and state level is known by what name?
- referendum
 - recall
 - initiative
 - ballot

74. Which of these does NOT currently have an elected female head of government?

- A. Finland
- B. Estonia
- C. Sweden
- D. the United Kingdom

75. Which of the following was governor of Texas before becoming president?

- A. George W. Bush
- B. Bill Clinton
- C. Jimmy Carter
- D. Ronald Reagan

Tiebreaker

Write your answer on the BACK of your scantron. Please label your responses 1-5.

List in order the five states that will have the most electoral votes in the 2024 presidential election.