



**Political Science Examination
Middle School Division
IAC Nationals 2023**

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. Write the answer to your tiebreaker question on the back of your scantron.

1. Which of the following is known as the supreme law of the United States?

- A. Declaration of Independence
- B. Bill of Rights
- C. US Constitution
- D. Articles of Confederation

2. Who has the power to veto legislation passed by Congress?

- A. President
- B. Secretary of Defense
- C. Senate Majority Leader
- D. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs

3. What is the minimum age requirement to become President of the United States?

- A. 80 years old
- B. 70 years old
- C. 35 years old
- D. 15 years old

4. Which official is typically the head of the executive branch in a state government?

- A. Governor
- B. Speaker of the State
- C. State Supreme Court Chief Justice
- D. Lieutenant Governor

5. Which of these has a role in funding public schools in the United States?

- A. local governments or school boards
- B. state governments
- C. the US federal government
- D. all of these have a role in funding schools

6. The most common form of city government in the United States is which of these?

- A. a state legislature
- B. a mayor and city council
- C. a police jury
- D. a consent decree

7. Which of these is usually the chief law enforcement officer of a county?

- A. the Clerk
- B. the Assessor
- C. the Sheriff
- D. the Treasurer

8. Which of these is NOT a small island nation that has been greatly impacted by climate change?

- A. Kiribati
- B. Armenia
- C. Nauru
- D. Tuvalu

9. Which of these is NOT a part of Great Britain?

- A. Andorra
- B. England
- C. Scotland
- D. Wales

10. Which long-time Chancellor of Germany chose not to seek reelection in 2021?

- A. David Hasselhoff
- B. Theresa May
- C. Arnold Schwarzenegger
- D. Angela Merkel

11. How many amendments have there been to the US Constitution?

- A. 10
- B. 27
- C. 13
- D. 50

12. Which branch of the US government is responsible for interpreting the Constitution?
- the states
 - the FBI
 - the Judicial branch
 - the CIA
13. The First Amendment to the US Constitution guarantees which of the following rights?
- freedom of speech, religion, and press
 - equal protection under the law
 - protection from unreasonable searches and seizures
 - right to a lawyer in a criminal case
14. How are state governors and other state officials usually chosen in the United States?
- by direct popular vote
 - by appointment from the president
 - by appointment from the state legislature
 - by the electoral college
15. The division of power between the national and state governments in the United States is referred to by what term?
- small government
 - constitutional monarchy
 - communism
 - federalism
16. Which of the following is required to be elected president of the United States?
- serving in Congress
 - being Christian
 - being male
 - being a natural-born citizen of the US
17. In 2015, the US and several other nations made a deal with what country to prevent its development of nuclear weapons?
- Great Britain
 - France
 - Russia
 - Iran
18. Who is the current President of Russia?
- Vladimir Putin
 - Xi Jinping
 - Jair Bolsonaro
 - Shinzo Abe
19. Which of these countries is ruled by a communist government?
- China
 - Spain
 - France
 - Australia
20. Which country was known for its system of racial segregation called apartheid, which ended in 1994?
- South Africa
 - Canada
 - Italy
 - Sweden
21. Which amendment to the Constitution abolished slavery in the United States?
- First Amendment
 - Second Amendment
 - Thirteenth Amendment
 - Twenty-Seventh Amendment
22. What is the term length for a member of the US House of Representatives?
- 2 years
 - 10 years
 - 15 years
 - they serve for life
23. Which principle of the US Constitution divides power between the national government and state governments?
- the Constitution does not give any power to the states
 - separation of powers
 - life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
 - natural law
24. In most states, which state official is responsible for overseeing state elections and voter registration?
- Secretary of State
 - the chief of the state police
 - State Treasurer
 - Commissioner of Insurance
25. As Vice President, what is Kamala Harris's role in the US Senate?
- she doesn't have one
 - she sits on committees but cannot vote
 - she is the Senate Majority Leader
 - she casts tiebreaking votes if necessary
26. Who is the current Secretary of State of the United States?
- Antony Blinken
 - Jill Biden
 - Janet Yellen
 - Condoleezza Rice

27. Which Midwestern city experienced significant protests and demonstrations following the killing of George Floyd in May 2020?
- New York City
 - Tampa
 - Minneapolis
 - Los Angeles
28. Which major international climate agreement did the United States rejoin in 2021 after withdrawing in 2017?
- Paris Agreement
 - Moscow Treaty
 - Tehran Protocol
 - Baghdad Letter
29. Which of these are responsible for making treaties between the US and other nations?
- the Supreme Court
 - state governors
 - the President and the Senate
 - the House of Representatives
30. Which of these is part of the job of the Lieutenant Governor of a state?
- vetoing unpopular laws
 - taking over for the governor if they die or leave office
 - having total control over state finances
 - overseeing the State Police and National Guard
31. The Constitution grants the power to declare war to which branch of the government?
- only the Executive branch
 - only the Legislative branch
 - only the Supreme Court
 - any branch of the government can declare war
32. Which amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right to bear arms?
- Eighteenth Amendment
 - Nineteenth Amendment
 - Twentieth Amendment
 - Second Amendment
33. In most states, what is the minimum requirement to serve as a state legislator?
- be 70 years old
 - be college educated and 40 years old
 - be 25 years old with a steady job
 - be 18 years old and an eligible voter
34. Which of the following took over the government of Afghanistan following the withdrawal of US troops in 2021?
- Russia
 - rebels from Syria
 - the Taliban
 - the UN
35. Congressional elections that happen in the middle of a US president's term are known by what name?
- bipartisan elections
 - 'jungle' primaries
 - midterm elections
 - nonpartisan elections
36. Which of these was created by the 'Great Compromise' at the Constitutional Convention?
- the FBI
 - Congress
 - the IRS
 - the State Department
37. Which of these is a type of voting in which multiple candidates are ranked based in order of preference?
- approval voting
 - vote splitting
 - ranked-choice voting
 - plurality voting
38. Which of these has only a non-voting delegate in the House of Representatives instead of a congressman?
- Texas
 - California
 - Puerto Rico
 - Wyoming
39. Which of these is required for Congress to override a presidential veto?
- presidential vetoes cannot be overridden
 - every member of Congress must agree
 - only the Supreme Court can override a veto
 - a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress
40. How many states in the United States have a legislature with only one house instead of two?
- all of them
 - 49
 - about half
 - just Nebraska
41. The function of a city council is most similar to which of these at the state level?
- the supreme court
 - the governor
 - the state legislature
 - the state police
42. If all seats are filled, how many voting members are in the US Senate?
- 9
 - 100
 - 435
 - 538

43. Which of these is considered a non-governmental organization?

- A. the United States Treasury Department
- B. the State of California
- C. the European Union
- D. the Red Cross

44. In American politics, a 'blue state' usually votes for which political party in statewide elections?

- A. Democrats
- B. Green Party
- C. Libertarian
- D. Populists

45. Which of the following, which sets a limit on the amount of money the United States government is allowed to borrow, has been the subject of debate several times in the last 20 years?

- A. the cloture rule
- B. the debt ceiling
- C. 'cap and trade'
- D. 'court packing'

46. The House of Representatives and House of Councillors make up the National Diet of what Asian nation led by Fumio Kishida?

- A. Laos
- B. China
- C. Vietnam
- D. Japan

47. Who is the current Chief Justice of the United States?

- A. Kamala Harris
- B. Clarence Thomas
- C. Janet Yellen
- D. John Roberts

48. Muhammadu Buhari has served as president of what most populous African country since 2015?

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Somalia
- C. Nigeria
- D. Comoros

49. The Constitution says states must have what type of government?

- A. republican
- B. communist
- C. monarchy
- D. anarchy

50. Which of these positions was created to help city governments run day to day operations more efficiently?

- A. the fire department
- B. the corrections department
- C. the city manager
- D. animal control

51. Which of these is NOT a member of the Group of 7, the group of the wealthiest large democracies in the world?

- A. Japan
- B. Canada
- C. the United States
- D. Afghanistan

52. Which of these was a 'battleground state' in the 2020 presidential election, where the vote was very close between Donald Trump and Joe Biden?

- A. New York
- B. California
- C. Kansas
- D. Georgia

53. Which of these is NOT considered an Islamic republic?

- A. Iran
- B. Russia
- C. Mauritania
- D. Pakistan

54. Which of these countries is NOT part of the AUKUS security agreement?

- A. Canada
- B. the United States
- C. the United Kingdom
- D. Australia

55. The Supreme Court case of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 helped bring about which of these?

- A. more free speech
- B. an end to segregation in public schools
- C. an end to campaign finance laws
- D. abolishing the death penalty

56. In the Constitution, the principle of "checks and balances" refers to which of these?

- A. the separation of powers among the three branches of government
- B. the division of power between the federal and state governments
- C. the process of amending the Constitution
- D. the protection of individual rights

57. Which of these is NOT a way state governments typically generate revenue to fund their operations?

- A. income taxes
- B. property taxes
- C. owning and operating private businesses
- D. sales taxes

58. Since 1869, what has been the size of the Supreme Court?

- A. 37 members
- B. 25 members
- C. 9 members
- D. 2 members

59. The 'Necessary and Proper Clause' of the Constitution, that allows expansive powers for Congress, is also named for what thing often used in clothing?

- A. buttons
- B. belts
- C. zippers
- D. elastic

60. Which of these can be used to remove the president from office?

- A. recall
- B. veto
- C. impeachment
- D. filibuster

61. Bernie Sanders represents what New England state in the Senate?

- A. Vermont
- B. Maryland
- C. Pennsylvania
- D. Delaware

62. In 1974, Gerald Ford pardoned what former president for his role in the Watergate scandal?

- A. Ronald Reagan
- B. Jimmy Carter
- C. Lyndon Johnson
- D. Richard Nixon

63. Sanna Marin has served as the prime minister of what Nordic nation since 2019?

- A. Finland
- B. Georgia
- C. Azerbaijan
- D. Armenia

64. The Supreme Court's power to review the constitutionality of laws is known by what name?

- A. the docket
- B. trial by jury
- C. judicial review
- D. appeals

65. Which political party currently holds the majority in the US House of Representatives?

- A. Democratic Party
- B. Republican Party
- C. Independent Party
- D. Green Party

66. The treasurer of a state is responsible for which of these jobs?

- A. regulating education
- B. maintaining roads and bridges
- C. overseeing the finances and budget of the state
- D. counting all the people in the state

67. Which of these is the political philosophy that emphasizes personal liberty and freedom and less power for government?

- A. oligarchy
- B. libertarianism
- C. monarchy
- D. dictatorship

68. Andrés Manuel López Obrador, also known as AMLO, is the current president of what nation?

- A. Mexico
- B. Canada
- C. Portugal
- D. France

69. Which of these is the name for blocking legislation in the Senate, which in the past involved talking for an extended period of time?

- A. amendment
- B. the filibuster
- C. a caucus
- D. committee hearings

70. Greg Abbott was sworn in for a third term as governor of what state in 2023?

- A. California
- B. Texas
- C. Alabama
- D. Wyoming

71. Which of these is usually responsible for providing fire and police protection for a city?

- A. the federal government
- B. the state government
- C. the city government
- D. private companies

72. If a US president dies in office, which of these is next in line for the presidency?

- A. the Secretary of Agriculture
- B. the Speaker of the House
- C. the Senate Majority Leader
- D. the Vice President

73. All of these are non-governmental organizations that concentrate on environmental issues EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Greenpeace
- B. World Wildlife Fund
- C. the Nature Conservancy
- D. the Wikimedia Foundation

74. Prior to becoming president, George W. Bush held which of the following positions?

- A. governor of New York
- B. governor of Texas
- C. United States Senator from Louisiana
- D. United States Senator from Florida

75. Which of these countries does NOT have a parliamentary system of government?

- A. Japan
- B. Great Britain
- C. the United States
- D. Israel

Tiebreaker

This question will only be scored if there is a tie for placement on the exam. There is no penalty for a wrong answer to this question. Write your answer legibly on the back of your scantron.

How many women are voting members of the current US Congress, including both House members and Senators?