

Quiz # 4 – Chapter 13 The Legislative Branch (Congress)

1. A basic difference between a parliament such as Great Britain's and the U.S. Congress is that
 - a. members of Congress are more likely to vote the party line.
 - b. the principle role of Congress is to debate national issues.
 - c. members of Parliament have more power and higher pay.
 - d. party members in a parliament vote together on most issues.
 - e. party members in Congress are more restrained by the leadership.

2. If the Framers had created a parliament instead of a congress, it is reasonable to assume that its principal function would be
 - a. representation and action.
 - b. investigation and censure.
 - c. involvement in the details of administration.
 - d. conducting foreign policy.
 - e. debate.

3. The term *bicameral* used to describe the U.S. legislature means that the legislature
 - a. has two chambers, or legislature bodies.
 - b. is elected every two years.
 - c. consists of both committees and a main body.
 - d. is based on a system of checks and balances.
 - e. is appointed once every ten years.

4. One important effect of bicameralism is that it
 - a. ensures a separation of federal powers.
 - b. creates an environment which resists unnecessary investigations.
 - c. ensures the dominance of Congress over the executive and judicial branches of government.
 - d. makes Congress subject to the powers of the Supreme Court.
 - e. balances large and small states.

5. Under the original U.S. *Constitution*, members of the Senate, unlike members of the House, were selected by
 - a. direct elections.
 - b. the president.
 - c. state legislatures.
 - d. primary runoffs.
 - e. regional coalitions.

6. The overriding political question throughout the evolution of Congress has been the
 - a. balance of power among Congress, the executive, and the judiciary.
 - b. distribution of powers within Congress.
 - c. curtailment of presidential activism.
 - d. role of the parties in selecting members.
 - e. rules pertaining to committee assignments.

7. The purpose of a filibuster is to
 - a. ensure that all sides of an issue are heard.
 - b. delay action in a legislative body.
 - c. protect majority rule.
 - d. shift legislative power to the Senate committees.
 - e. magnify the impact of specific special interests.

8. The typical member of Congress is a(n)
- middle-aged, white, Protestant businessman.
 - older, white, Protestant businessman.
 - older, white, Catholic lawyer.
 - middle-aged, white, Protestant lawyer.
 - young, white, communications major.
9. In terms of the composition of its membership, the House since 1950 has become
- less male and less white.
 - less male and more white.
 - more male and less white.
 - more male and more white.
 - None of the above.
10. In terms of its percentage of women and nonwhite members since 1950, the Senate, compared with the House, has
- been slower to change.
 - changed at about the same rate as the House.
 - been faster to change.
 - fewer women and nonwhites in powerful positions.
 - has not changed at all.
11. A marginal district is one in which
- voters frequently change party affiliation.
 - the constituency is made up of a largely minority groups.
 - voters are not clear as to which candidate is the incumbent.
 - gerrymandering has produced a loose affiliation of interest groups.
 - the winner in an election gets less than 55 percent of the vote.
12. Recent changes in the composition of members in Congress has resulted in
- a more moderate Senate.
 - a more moderate House.
 - a more ideological and partisan House.
 - a more non-partisan Senate.
 - a more non-partisan House.
13. The explanation for congressional voting behavior that assumes members vote to please their constituents is referred to as
- representational.
 - conventional.
 - organizational.
 - attitudinal.
 - relational.
14. The explanation for congressional voting behavior that assumes members to vote on the basis of their beliefs is referred to as
- representational.
 - conventional.
 - organizational.
 - attitudinal.
 - relational.

15. One study reported in the text showed that the strongest correlation between congressional voting and constituency opinion was in the area of
- social welfare.
 - foreign policy.
 - taxation.
 - commercial regulation.
 - civil rights.
16. In recent years, American voters have political beliefs that are
- very liberal.
 - very conservative.
 - close to the center of the political spectrum.
 - similar to members of Congress.
 - similar to members of the federal courts.
17. If you wished to study the real leadership office in the Senate, you would *most* likely focus on the
- president pro tempore.
 - majority leader.
 - party whip.
 - chairperson of the Policy Committee.
 - chairperson of the Judiciary Committee.
18. A member of the Senate has just been elected to a position that requires him to keep the majority leader informed about the opinions of other party members. He has just been elected
- majority party whip.
 - president pro tempore.
 - chairman of the Steering Committee.
 - chairman of the Policy Committee.
 - chairperson of the Judiciary Committee.
19. Among the many powers of the House Speaker is that he or she
- determines the committee assignment of bills.
 - assigns party members to the various committees.
 - keeps party leaders informed about the opinions of their party members.
 - schedules legislation.
 - takes the minutes.
20. Compared to the Senate of the 1950s and the 1960s, today's Senate can *best* be described as
- less party centered, less leader oriented, more hospitable to freshmen, more heavily staffed, and more subcommittee oriented.
 - more party centered, more leader oriented, more hospitable to freshmen, more heavily staffed, and less subcommittee oriented.
 - less party centered, more leader oriented, more hospitable to freshmen, less heavily staffed, and more subcommittee oriented.
 - more party centered, less leader oriented, less hospitable to freshmen, less heavily staffed, and less subcommittee oriented.
 - more party centered, more leader oriented, less hospitable to freshmen, more heavily staffed, and less subcommittee oriented.

21. _____ caucuses are formed by groups whose members share a similar ideology.
- Intra-party
 - Personal
 - Constituency
 - Delegate
 - Stratified
22. _____ caucuses form around common interests in an issue.
- Intra-party
 - Personal
 - Constituency
 - Delegate
 - Stratified
23. _____ caucuses are perceived by their members as representing certain groups nationwide.
- Intra-party
 - Personal
 - Constituency
 - Delegate
 - Stratified
24. Most of the power in Congress is found in
- the committees.
 - specialized caucuses.
 - state delegations.
 - party leaders.
 - caucuses.
25. Where is the real work of Congress done?
- On the House floor
 - On the Senate floor
 - In the caucuses
 - In floor sessions in both houses
 - In the committees in both houses
26. Since the 1970s, the chairpersons of House committees have been chosen by
- teller vote.
 - voice vote.
 - years of seniority.
 - the Committee on Committees.
 - secret ballot.
27. If you were a newly elected member of Congress interested in becoming an expert on a particular policy and influencing your colleagues on this policy, you would probably ask to be assigned to the
- Appropriations Committee.
 - Ways and Means Committee.
 - Public Works and Transportation Committee.
 - Ethics Committee.
 - Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

28. A bill can be introduced in Congress by
- any member of the majority party.
 - any member of Congress.
 - any member of Congress or the president.
 - members of the relevant committees only.
 - committee chairmen only.
29. Which of the following statements about introducing a bill in Congress is *correct*?
- A bill not passed during the life of one Congress cannot be introduced again during the next Congress.
 - Bills are initiated by the president, not by Congress.
 - A bill not passed during the life of one Congress is dead.
 - Most bills introduced today are private rather than public bills.
 - None of the above.
30. Which of the following statements about revenue bills is correct?
- They must originate in the House.
 - They must originate in the Senate.
 - They must originate with the president.
 - They can originate in either the House or the Senate.
 - They must originate in the Senate Finance Committee.
31. A discharge petition is used by the House to
- make revisions and additions to a bill before it is voted on.
 - get a bill stalled in committee onto the floor.
 - amend a bill that has already passed one house but not the other.
 - override a presidential veto.
 - amend a bill in a manner that will make it quite unpopular.
32. In the Senate, a filibuster can be ended by invoking
- a rider.
 - a quorum.
 - mark-up.
 - cloture.
 - a meeting of the whole.
33. To find out how members of Congress voted on a particular bill, it is most useful to have a
- voice vote or a division vote.
 - roll-call vote or a teller vote.
 - roll-call vote or a division vote.
 - teller vote or a division vote.
 - voice vote.