

Name _____

1st Benchmark for Semester 2 2008–2009

Civics & Economics

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DIRECTIONS: The items in this test are based on the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Civics & Economics. Proceed with the test on the next page.

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1. Which document, in its wording, indicated that there would be a rebellion and/or revolution against Britain?
- A Articles of Confederation
 - B Bill of Rights
 - C Constitution
 - D Declaration of Independence

2. "There can be no liberty if the same man or the same group has executive, legislative, and judicial control."

Which political idea would the author of this statement *most likely* support?

- A federalism
 - B separation of powers
 - C socialism
 - D states rights
3. Which phrase completes this statement: "Amendments to the constitution...?"
- A are added to with a good deal of regularity
 - B have not been added to since the 18th century
 - C were opposed by the Anti-Federalists
 - D have been tried frequently, but added to very rarely

4. Which form of government exercises complete control of the state?
- A constitutional monarchy
 - B dictatorship
 - C parliamentary democracy
 - D republic

5. Which document satisfied the Anti-Federalists in the debate over a new form of government?

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

6. Which amendment protects your right to express yourself in an editorial letter to your local newspaper?

- A 1st Amendment
- B 2nd Amendment
- C 3rd Amendment
- D 4th Amendment

7. What principle of English government did the Glorious Revolution establish?
- A no ruler would have more power than the legislature
 - B direct democracy
 - C absolute monarchy
 - D the basic principles of the Common Law System
8. What prompted the colonists to hold the first Continental Congress?
- A the British blockaded the Boston Harbor
 - B "Intolerable" acts enacted by the British legislation
 - C the battles of Lexington and Concord
 - D the publishing of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*
9. What agreement settled the issue of how to count enslaved Americans for purpose of representation in Congress?
- A Great Compromise
 - B Missouri Compromise
 - C Compromise of 1850
 - D Three-Fifths Compromise
10. Which definition refers to the "writs of assistance" used by Great Britain during the colonial period?
- A trials for people who violated the Townshend Acts
 - B court orders that allowed customs officials to conduct general searches of premises for smuggled goods
 - C the British troops who were stationed in Boston after the passage of the Intolerable Acts
 - D the secret meetings between colonists attempting to revolt
11. For what reason did the Second Continental Congress issue the Declaration of Independence?
- A to appoint George Washington as leader of the Continental Army.
 - B to create a new plan of government.
 - C to create an alliance between the American colonies and France.
 - D to state formally that the colonies were breaking away from Great Britain.

12. In what way did the Great Compromise impact representation in Congress?
- A It gave each state two senators and a number of representatives based on population.
 - B It gave all states equal representation in Congress.
 - C It allowed houses of Congress to be chosen by the state legislatures.
 - D It allowed houses of Congress to be elected directly by the people.
13. What was a key difference between the New Jersey and Virginia Plans at the Constitutional Convention?
- A The New Jersey plan called for a weaker central government, while the Virginia Plan called for a stronger one.
 - B The New Jersey plan called for states to get equal representation in the legislature, while the Virginia Plan called for proportional representation.
 - C The New Jersey plan called for a bicameral legislature, while the Virginia Plan called for a unicameral legislature.
 - D The New Jersey plan called for no court system, while the Virginia plan called for a Supreme Court.
14. Which statement describes the status of individual rights in United States society?
- A Amendments and Supreme Court decisions have expanded individual rights.
 - B The first ten amendments were repealed by later amendments.
 - C There have been no substantial changes since 1791.
 - D State court decisions have canceled several rights guaranteed by the Federal Constitution.
15. What was the most significant change from the Articles of Confederation to the United States Constitution?
- A establishment of a written form of government
 - B expansion of voting rights
 - C increased emphasis on states' rights
 - D the strengthening of the power of the Federal government
16. Which constitutional principle explains the reason for impeachment?
- A checks and balances
 - B federalism
 - C popular sovereignty
 - D capitalism

17. Which Supreme Court case is correctly matched with the issue it addressed?

- A *Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka, Kans.* (1954) – protection against unreasonable searches and seizures
- B *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963) – the discriminatory nature of the death penalty
- C *Miranda v. United States* (1966) – the rights of the accused
- D *Tinker v. Des Moines Public Schools* (1969) – organized prayer in public schools

18. Which statement describes the Speaker of the House?

- A The Speaker of the House is usually a member of the majority party.
- B The Speaker of the House is appointed by the President.
- C The Speaker of the House is the only person allowed to call for a joint session of Congress.
- D The Speaker of the House is permitted to serve for a six-year term.

19. The partial outline below concerns the United States Constitution.

Basic Principles

- I. _____
- A. Constitutional Amendments
 - B. The Elastic Clause
 - C. Judicial Review

Which entry would be most appropriate for I _____?

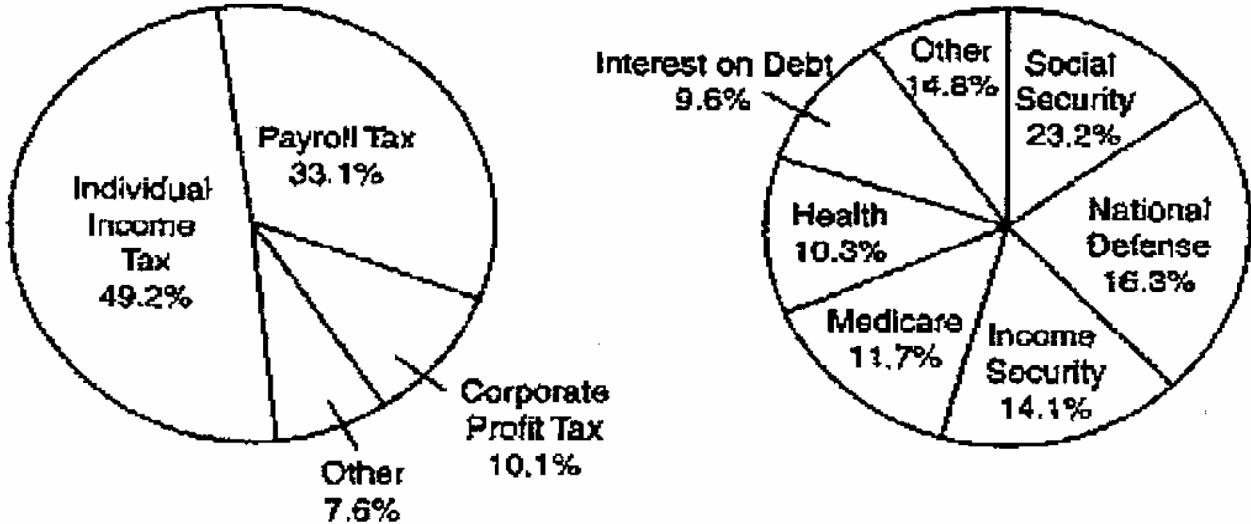
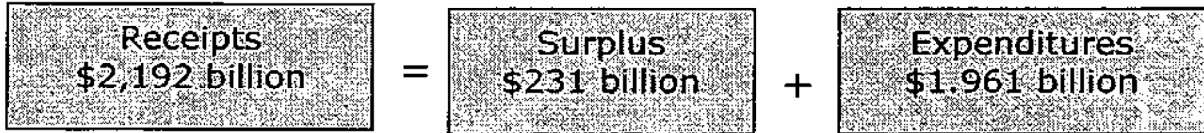
- A The Balance of Power between the National Government and the States
- B The Constitution's Ability to Adapt to Change
- C Constitutional Rights and Freedoms
- D The Power of the Executive

20. Many state governments used the Supreme Court ruling in which 19th century case to justify racial segregation?

- A *Ableman v. Booth* (1859)
- B *Fletcher v. Peck* (1810)
- C *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)
- D *Reynolds v. United States* (1878)

21. Based on the Constitution, a two-thirds vote of both Houses of Congress is necessary for what?
- A commencing the impeachment process of a public official
 - B confirming appointments made by the President
 - C overriding a presidential veto
 - D passing *ex post facto* laws
22. What is one thing new immigrants must do if they want to become American citizens?
- A choose a new religion
 - B change their name
 - C speak English fluently
 - D pass the citizenship exam
23. Which official is in line for the presidency if anything should happen to the acting president and vice president?
- A the National Security Advisor
 - B the Secretary of State
 - C the Senate Minority Leader
 - D the Speaker of the House
24. Which is a power of the Executive Branch of the US Government?
- A coin and borrow money
 - B declare acts of legislature unconstitutional
 - C declare wars
 - D enforce laws
25. What are the powers that the constitution gives to the state but not the national government called?
- A absolute powers
 - B concurrent powers
 - C expressed powers
 - D reserved powers

The Federal Budget, Fiscal Year 2002



Using the graph above, for the fiscal year 2002, which groups of expenditures make up more than 50% of all expenditures?

- A Interest on Debt, Health, Medicare
- B Medicare, Health, Social Security
- C National Defense, Income Security, Health
- D Social Security, National Defense, Medicare

27. Which court case involved the 6th and 14th Amendments and ruled that poor defendants have the right to paid attorneys in criminal cases?

- A *Gideon v. Wainwright*
- B *Marbury v. Madison*
- C *Miranda v. Arizona*
- D *Plessy v. Ferguson*

28. Where must all tax bills and other measures to raise money at the national level start?

- A in the Senate
- B in the House of Representatives
- C in the Executive Branch of Government
- D in the Supreme Court

29. "Senate Fails to Ratify Treaty of Versailles"
 "President Truman Vetoes Taft-Hartley Act"
 "Senate Rejects Nomination of Robert Bork to Supreme Court"

These headlines illustrate which constitutional principle?

- A citizens' rights
- B freedom of speech
- C republicanism
- D checks and balances

30. "The Constitution is as the Supreme Court interprets it."
 -President Dwight D. Eisenhower

Which Supreme Court case first established the principle being described in the quotation above?

- A *Brown v. Board of Education (1954)*
- B *Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)*
- C *Marbury v. Madison (1803)*
- D *Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)*

31. "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."
 — 10th amendment

What was this part of the Bill of Rights intended to do?

- A prevent states from making any laws
- B give the people the right to vote on important issues
- C limit the powers of the federal government
- D limit the power of the states over their citizens

32. I. _____
 A. Establish a curriculum for public schools.
 B. Issue driver licenses.
 C. Administer public employee benefit plans.

Which heading belongs after Roman numeral I?

- A Responsibilities of the Federal Government.
- B Responsibilities of State Government.
- C Responsibilities of Municipal Government.
- D Responsibilities of the President's Cabinet.

33. Which is an example of "due process of law"?
- A division of power
 - B the procedure of amending the Constitution
 - C a system of checks and balances
 - D trial by jury

34. "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges... of citizens... nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law...."

What is the major purpose of these provisions of the 14th Amendment?

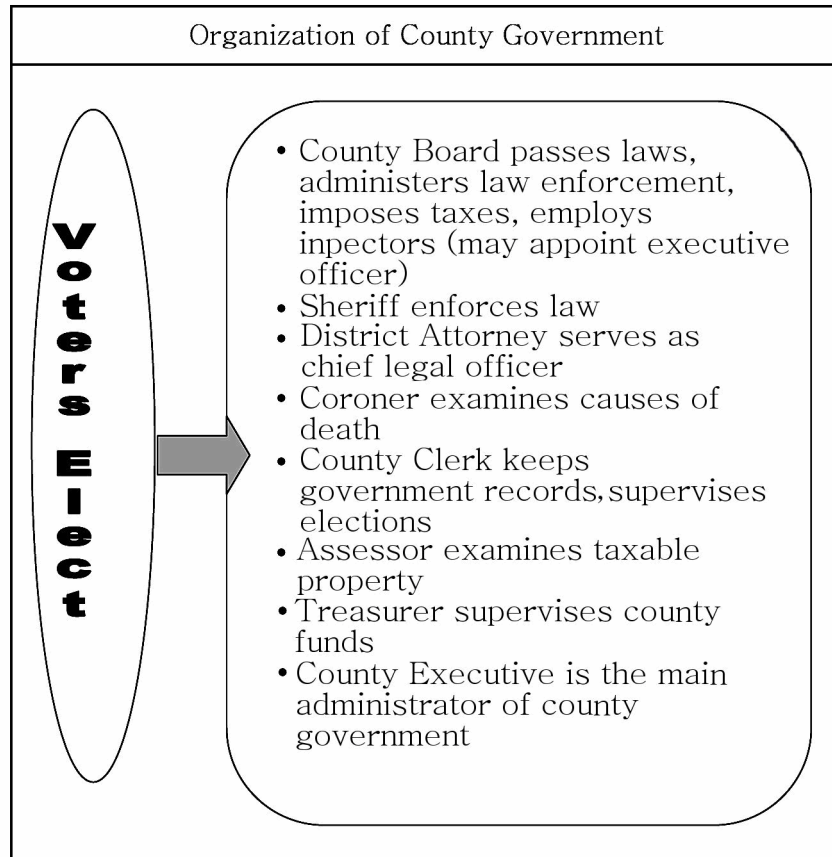
- A to give more power to state governments
- B to do away with the elastic clause in the U.S. Constitution
- C to restore the way of life in the antebellum South
- D to protect the rights of African Americans

35. Who is ultimately responsible for law enforcement at the county level in most North Carolina counties?
- A the chief of police
 - B the citizens
 - C the deputy
 - D the sheriff

36. Who has the power to veto a law?
- A the President
 - B the Senate
 - C the voters
 - D the Attorney General

37. What is the main reason that the U.S. Constitution places no time limit on the terms of the Supreme Court justices?
- A Justices should be free of political or economic pressures that might influence their decisions.
 - B Qualified people will not seek the job without lifetime tenure guarantees.
 - C Successful justices require many years of practice and experience.
 - D Screening and selection of qualified candidates for the Supreme Court is too time consuming for short term appointments.

38.



According to the chart above, which county employee is responsible for maintaining correct voting procedures?

- A assessor
- B county clerk
- C district attorney
- D sheriff

39. In county (or city) government, how are aldermen (or city council members) selected?
- A They are appointed by the mayor.
 - B They are appointed by the city manager.
 - C They are elected by the Electoral College.
 - D They are elected by the public.
40. Which characteristic of the federal government is part of the unwritten constitution?
- A the two-year term for members of the House of Representatives
 - B the development of a two-party system
 - C the age requirement to become President
 - D Senate approval of Supreme Court nominees
41. Which statement best explains why some United States Supreme Court decisions are reversals of earlier decisions?
- A Court decisions reflect changing social, political, and economic conditions.
 - B Presidents elected by a clear majority often demand that the Court implement their policies.
 - C Supreme Court Justices are often pressured by Congress to reflect the views of Congress.
 - D According to the Constitution, Justices have specific responsibility to correct errors of past decisions.
42. In the United States Congress, differences between Senate and House of Representatives versions of a bill are usually resolved by accepting which version?
- A the one preferred by a majority of State legislatures
 - B the one supported by the Supreme Court
 - C the one preferred by the House in which the bill originated
 - D the one agreed to by a conference committee of both Houses

43.



Ohman, Portland Oregonian

What is the main obstacle to solving the problem in the cartoon?

- A the failure of Congress to respond to public opinion
- B the government's inability to pass laws quickly
- C unfair taxation by the government
- D the public's opposition to taxes

44. According to the North Carolina Constitution, which of the following is necessary for an amendment to be ratified?
- A Every member of the General Assembly must approve it.
 - B A majority of North Carolina's voters must be in favor of it.
 - C The governor and the speaker of the house must sign it into law.
 - D North Carolina's members of Congress must make necessary revisions.
45. According to the Constitution of North Carolina, what can be said about state government's powers?
- A they are given exclusively to the governor.
 - B they are divided among the executive branch, legislative branch, and judicial branch.
 - C they are divided among the legislative and judicial branches.
 - D they are given exclusively to the General Assembly.
46. In which pair is the government institution correctly matched up with its function?
- A the General Assembly...make laws
 - B the Presidential Cabinet...interpret the meanings of laws
 - C the Supreme Court...select a new governor every four years
 - D the Governor...ratify international treaties
47. Sources of revenue for local governments include utility user fees, intergovernmental revenues, and what?
- A bonds
 - B property taxes
 - C corporate income tax
 - D temporary spending authority



End of Civics &
Economics Exam