

CONSTITUTION TEST



DIRECTIONS: In the space provided, write the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence or answers each question. *AND write the Article + Clause # that contains that information.*

- _____ 1. When did the Constitution become law? (A) July 4, 1776, (B) June 21, 1788, (C) January 24, 1791, (D) May 1, 1803
- _____ 2. How many states were needed before the Constitution could take effect? (A) all 13, (B) a simple majority, (C) 9 of the 13, (D) at least 3 of the largest
- _____ 3. What is the *main* idea of the Preamble? (A) to state the purpose of the Constitution, (B) to set limits on the authority of the federal government, (C) to establish the relationship of the branches of government, (D) to explain the reasoning behind the break with England
- _____ 4. Which of the following is *not* one of the branches of government? (A) the judicial, (B) the executive, (C) the legislative, (D) the military
- _____ 5. Which of the following is *not* part of Congress? (A) the Supreme Court, (B) the House of Representatives, (C) the Senate, (D) the president *pro tempore*
- _____ 6. How is the membership of the House of Representatives determined? (A) by the legislature of each state, (B) by having two representatives from each state, (C) by the governors of states according to a formula established by Congress, (D) by the apportioned population of the states
- _____ 7. Which of the following is *not* necessary for a person to be elected to the House of Representatives? (A) be a citizen of the United States, (B) be at least 35 years old, (C) live in the state he or she represents, (D) live in the United States at least 7 years
- _____ 8. How long is the term of office for a representative? (A) two years, (B) four years, (C) six years, (D) for life
- _____ 9. The officer who presides over the House of Representatives is called (A) the president, (B) the president *pro tempore*, (C) the speaker, (D) the chairman.
- _____ 10. How is the membership of the Senate determined? (A) by the apportioned population of the states, (B) by having two senators from each state, (C) by the state governors according to a formula established by Congress, (D) by the legislature of each state
- _____ 11. Which of the following is *not* a qualification for senator? (A) must be at least 30 years of age, (B) must have been a citizen for at least 9 years, (C) must live in the state he or she represents, (D) must have previously served in the House of Representatives
- _____ 12. How long is the term of office for a senator? (A) two years, (B) four years, (C) six years, (D) for life
- _____ 13. The officer who presides over the Senate when the Vice President is not in attendance is called (A) the president, (B) the president *pro tempore*, (C) the speaker, (D) the chairman.

CONSTITUTION TEST (Continued)

- ___ 14. To impeach a public official is to (A) remove that person from office, (B) hold a recall election for that office, (C) formally accuse that person of wrongdoing, (D) impose a fine for wrongdoing.
- ___ 15. The group that has the sole power to begin impeachment proceedings is (A) the Senate, (B) the Supreme Court, (C) the House of Representatives, (D) the Electoral College.
- ___ 16. After an officeholder is impeached, the group that has the sole power to try the case is (A) the Senate, (B) the Supreme Court, (C) the House of Representatives, (D) the Electoral College.
- ___ 17. The Constitution says that the Congress must meet (A) at least once every two years, (B) at least once each year, (C) for a total of six months every other year, (D) only whenever it has legislation waiting to become law.
- ___ 18. A bill in the Congress may be sponsored by (A) a state legislator, (B) a member of the Senate, (C) the President or the Vice President, (D) a justice of the Supreme Court.
- ___ 19. The executive branch's power to refuse to sign a bill into law is called (A) right of refusal, (B) legislative bargaining, (C) presidential review, (D) presidential veto.
- ___ 20. If both houses of Congress wish to have a bill become law, but each has changed the original, the bill must go to (A) the President, (B) a conference committee, (C) the Supreme Court, (D) the subcommittee where it originated.
- ___ 21. All of the following are expressed powers of the Congress *except* the power (A) to tax, (B) to borrow money, (C) to coin money, (D) to declare laws unconstitutional.
- ___ 22. Implied powers are not specifically listed in the Constitution but are suggested by (A) the President, (B) the due process clause, (C) the necessary and proper clause, (D) the Supreme Court.
- ___ 23. Which of the following powers is *not* forbidden to Congress? (A) to suspend writs of habeas corpus, (B) to approve or reject presidential appointments, (C) to pass ex post facto laws, (D) to pass bills of attainder
- ___ 24. Article II of the Constitution deals with (A) the executive branch, (B) the judicial branch, (C) the legislative branch, (D) the rights of an individual.
- ___ 25. The executive branch is made up of all of the following *except* (A) the President, (B) the Vice President, (C) senators, (D) cabinet officers.
- ___ 26. The main job of the President is (A) to enforce the laws of the United States, (B) to interpret the Constitution, (C) to initiate legislation, (D) to direct the actions of the standing congressional committees.
- ___ 27. The President is elected by (A) the Electoral College, (B) a direct vote of the citizens, (C) the legislatures of the various states, (D) a majority of the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- ___ 28. How long are the terms of the President and the Vice President? (A) two years, (B) four years, (C) six years, (D) eight years

29. If the President is unable to serve, the Vice President assumes the office. After the Vice President, the next federal official in line for the presidency is (A) the secretary of state, (B) the secretary of defense, (C) the president *pro tempore* of the Senate, (D) the speaker of the House of Representatives.
30. All of the following are powers of the President *except* (A) declaring war, (B) granting reprieves and pardons, (C) executing the laws, (D) presenting a State of the Union address each year.
31. Which of the following is a member of the President's cabinet? (A) the speaker of the house, (B) the chief justice of the United States, (C) the president *pro tempore* of the Senate, (D) the secretary of state
32. How are cabinet officers chosen? (A) by the President alone, (B) by the President, with consent of the House, (C) by the President, with consent of the Senate, (D) by the President, with consent of the chief justice
33. Article III deals with (A) the executive branch, (B) the judicial branch, (C) the legislative branch, (D) the rights of an individual.
34. How many justices—including the chief justice—are on the Supreme Court? (A) 5, (B) 7, (C) 9, (D) 11
35. How long does a justice of the Supreme Court remain a member of the Court? (A) two years, (B) four years, (C) six years, (D) for life
36. Which of the following cases does the Supreme Court *not* hear? (A) cases involving ambassadors, (B) a dispute between two states, (C) impeachment of a public official, (D) a dispute between citizens of different states
37. New states can be admitted to the union only with the approval of (A) the President, (B) the Congress, (C) the Supreme Court, (D) two-thirds of the state legislatures.
38. How can an amendment to the Constitution be proposed? (A) by the President, with majority approval of the cabinet, (B) by referendum, (C) by a convention called by two-thirds of the states, (D) by the agreement of a majority of the justices of the Supreme Court
39. How many amendments make up the Bill of Rights? (A) the first 6, (B) 1 through 5 and 9 through 12, (C) the first 10, (D) the first 8 plus 13 and 21
40. Which amendment guarantees freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition? (A) First, (B) Fifth, (C) Ninth, (D) none of these
41. Quartering troops is restricted in the Constitution. *Quartering troops* means (A) putting forts or arsenals in only 25 percent of the states, (B) placing soldiers on the public lands of the states, (C) placing soldiers in private homes, (D) housing soldiers in areas where civilians may otherwise meet.
42. A court order allowing an individual or his or her property to be searched or seized is called (A) a treaty of understanding, (B) a search warrant, (C) executive privilege, (D) writ of habeas corpus.

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DIRECTIONS: Match the article or amendment at the right with the description at the left. Write the correct letter in the space provided.

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| ___ 43. Right to bear arms | a. Article I |
| ___ 44. Equal protection of the laws | b. Article II |
| ___ 45. Executive branch outlined | c. Article III |
| ___ 46. Bail and punishment | d. Article IV |
| ___ 47. Eighteen-year-old vote | e. Article V |
| ___ 48. Amending the Constitution | f. Article VI |
| ___ 49. Abolition of slavery | g. First Amendment |
| ___ 50. Right of women to vote | h. Second Amendment |
| ___ 51. Supremacy clause | i. Third Amendment |
| ___ 52. Freedom of speech | j. Fourth Amendment |
| ___ 53. Legislative branch outlined | k. Fifth Amendment |
| ___ 54. Search and seizure | l. Sixth Amendment |
| ___ 55. Speedy and fair trial | m. Seventh Amendment |
| ___ 56. Judicial branch outlined | n. Eighth Amendment |
| ___ 57. Rights of an accused person | o. Ninth Amendment |
| ___ 58. Civil suits | p. Tenth Amendment |
| ___ 59. Powers reserved to the states | q. Thirteenth Amendment |
| ___ 60. Relations among the states | r. Fourteenth Amendment |
| ___ 61. Powers reserved to the people | s. Nineteenth Amendment |
| ___ 62. Quartering of troops | t. Twenty-sixth Amendment |

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following question on a separate sheet of paper.

What do you think are the main reasons why the Constitution has worked so well for more than 200 years?