

**U.S. Government**  
**End of Course Exam Review Guide**

**Format of the test:**

- 40-50 multiple choice questions (all taken online)

**Important Notes:**

- The EOC covers the entire semester of **U.S. Government**.
  - Feel free to use both your **class notes** and your **textbook** to find the answers.
  - Feel free to use your **textbook index** if you're having trouble finding something.
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**Principles of Government**

1. What is a government?
2. Define the terms **power** and **authority**, and explain how they relate to government.
3. Define sovereignty.
4. What is public policy?
5. Briefly describe the following public policies:
  - a. domestic
  - b. foreign
  - c. monetary
  - d. fiscal
6. What is politics?
7. What is majority rule?
8. What is limited government? How is that different from a totalitarian government?
9. Define the following government forms:
  - a. Monarchy
  - b. Theocracy
  - c. Oligarchy
10. How is direct democracy different from indirect democracy (representative democracy)?
  - a. (Or, how is a democracy different from a republic?)
11. How is parliamentary democracy different from presidential democracy?
12. Define the following distributions of government power:
  - a. Unitary system
  - b. Confederal system
  - c. Federal system
13. What is an economy?
14. Describe the following economic systems:
  - a. Traditional economy
  - b. Capitalism (market economy)
  - c. Communism
  - d. Socialism
  - e. Mixed economy
15. What is a *laissez-faire* government?

## History of the Constitution

16. How did **Greece** and **Rome** influence American government?
17. Summarize the importance of the following documents:
  - a. Magna Carta
  - b. Mayflower Compact
18. What was the Enlightenment?
19. Summarize the importance of the following Enlightenment thinkers:
  - a. Thomas Hobbes
  - b. John Locke
  - c. Baron de Montestquieu
  - d. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
20. What was the Declaration of Independence? Who wrote it? What key ideas are in it?
21. What was the Articles of Confederation? Why did it fail?
22. What was Shays' rebellion, and how did it influence American government?
23. What was the Philadelphia Convention? Why were they supposed to meet, and what did they do instead?
24. Who wrote most of the Constitution? (He is sometimes called the "Father of the Constitution.")
25. Describe the following:
  - a. The Virginia Plan
  - b. The New Jersey Plan
  - c. The Great Compromise
  - d. The 3/5ths Compromise
26. Who were the Federalists and Antifederalists?
27. What were the Federalist Papers?
28. Briefly summarize the content of the following:
  - a. Federalist No. 10
  - b. Federalist No. 51

## Structure of the Constitution

29. Describe the following principles of the Constitution:
  - a. Federalism
  - b. Checks and balances
  - c. Separation of powers
  - d. Representation
  - e. Popular sovereignty
  - f. Due process of law
  - g. Rule of law
  - h. Judicial review
30. Which Constitutional principle was established in the case of *Marbury v. Madison*?
31. Briefly summarize the Electoral College.
32. What is described in the following?
  - a. Article I
  - b. Article II
  - c. Article III
33. What does the Full Faith and Credit Clause do?
34. What is the most common way to amend the Constitution?

35. Describe the following kinds of powers and limits, giving an example or two for each:
  - a. Enumerated (or expressed) powers
  - b. Implied powers
  - c. Concurrent powers
  - d. Reserved powers
  - e. Restricted powers
36. Briefly describe the following:
  - a. No Bill of Attainder
  - b. No suspension of *habeas corpus*
  - c. No *Ex post facto*
37. Describe the significance *McCulloch v. Maryland*.
38. Define the following:
  - a. apportionment
  - b. gerrymandering
  - c. redistricting

### **Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**

39. What are civil liberties?
40. What is the Bill of Rights?
41. What rights are protected in the First Amendment?
42. What is the Establishment Clause?
43. What is the Free Exercise Clause?
44. What is freedom of expression?
45. Define the following:
  - a. pure speech and symbolic speech
  - b. “clear and present danger”
  - c. libel and slander
  - d. prior restraint
46. What does the Second Amendment protect?
47. Answer the following related to the Fourth Amendment:
  - a. What is a warrant?
  - b. What is probable cause?
  - c. How is *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* related to warrants and probable cause?
  - d. What is the exclusionary rule?
48. Answer the following related to the Fifth Amendment:
  - a. What is due process?
  - b. What is double jeopardy?
  - c. What is eminent domain?
  - d. What was the case of *Miranda v. Arizona*? What are the Miranda Rights?
49. Describe why the following Supreme Court cases are important:
  - a. *Gideon v. Wainwright*
  - b. *Roe v. Wade*
50. What is incorporation? What amendment to the Constitution is used to incorporate others?
51. What are civil rights?
52. What were the Civil War Amendments?
53. Describe the significance of the following Supreme Court cases:
  - a. *Plessy v. Ferguson*

- b. *Brown v. Board of Education*
54. Describe the significance of the following laws:
- a. Civil Rights Act of 1964
  - b. Voting Rights Act of 1965

### **Political Beliefs and the Political System**

55. What is a civic responsibility? Give a few examples and explain how it is different than a civic duty.
56. What is “suffrage?”
57. How did the following change suffrage?
- a. Fifteenth Amendment
  - b. Nineteenth Amendment
  - c. Twenty-Sixth Amendment
58. Define the term **ideology**.
59. Contrast liberals and conservatives.
60. What is a political party?
61. Contrast Democrats and Republicans on the following issues:
- a. abortion
  - b. death penalty
  - c. military spending
  - d. taxes
62. Which of the two political parties are the following groups most likely to vote for?
- a. liberals
  - b. conservatives
  - c. union workers
  - d. white Christians
63. What is an interest group?
64. For each of these interest groups, briefly state what they stand for and what political party they tend to support:
- a. National Rifle Association (NRA)
  - b. National Education Association (NEA)
  - c. American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
  - d. American Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO)
65. What is Social Security? What interest group would tend to support it?
66. What is lobbying?
67. What is a political action committee (PAC)?

### **The Legislative Branch**

68. What is the primary function of the legislative branch?
69. What is a **bicameral legislature**?
70. What are the qualifications and term of office for the House?
71. What are the qualifications and term of office for the Senate?
72. Provide examples of the following different powers of Congress:
- a. Military power
  - b. Economic power
  - c. The “necessary and proper clause” (elastic clause)
73. List the powers unique to the House.

74. List the powers unique to the Senate.
75. Who is the chair of the House? Who is the chair of the Senate?
76. What are majority and minority leaders?
77. What are majority and minority whips?
78. Describe how a bill becomes a law.
79. What is a veto?
80. What is a pocket veto?
81. What is a filibuster? How do you stop a filibuster?
82. What is impeachment? What are the steps for impeachment?

### **The Executive Branch**

83. What is the primary function of the executive branch?
84. What are the qualifications and term of office for the President?
85. What did the Twenty-Second Amendment do the Presidency?
86. List the first five positions in the presidential order of succession.
87. What is a pardon?
88. What is the Cabinet?
89. What is the federal bureaucracy? Give a couple of examples.
90. Define the following:
  - a. budget surplus
  - b. budget deficit
  - c. national debt
  - d. progressive income tax

### **The Judicial Branch**

91. What is the primary function of the judicial branch?
92. What are the qualifications and term of office for federal judges?
93. List the levels of the federal court system.
94. What is the difference between original and appellate jurisdiction?
95. What is precedent (*stare decisis*)?
96. What is the difference between civil law and criminal law?

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