

2018-2019 KNOW YOUR CONSTITUTION EXAM

1. The legislative powers of the Federal Government are vested in the:
 - a. Congress
 - b. President
 - c. Supreme Court
 - d. All of the above

2. The right of trial by jury in civil cases is preserved in what provision?
 - a. Fifth Amendment
 - b. Sixth Amendment
 - c. Seventh Amendment
 - d. Twenty-First Amendment

3. What is the minimum age a person must be to serve as a Member of the House of Representatives?
 - a. 18
 - b. 21
 - c. 25
 - d. 30

4. Assuming that a State only has one representative in the House of Representatives, how many electors shall the State appoint to select the President as a part of the Electoral College?
 - a. One
 - b. Two
 - c. Three
 - d. Four

5. The power to declare war is vested in the:
 - a. President
 - b. Senate
 - c. United Nations
 - d. None of the above

6. The President of the United States is empowered to grant a pardon except in cases of:
 - a. Impeachment
 - b. Conviction of First Degree Murder
 - c. Theft involving sums exceeding \$1 million dollars
 - d. Treason

7. Which of the following has the power to *try* an impeachment?
 - a. The United States Supreme Court
 - b. The House of Representatives
 - c. The Senate
 - d. The President

8. Which amendment prevents a State from depriving a person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law?
 - a. Fifth Amendment
 - b. Eighth Amendment
 - c. Ninth Amendment
 - d. Fourteenth Amendment

9. Money shall not be drawn from the United States Treasury unless:
 - a. Congress has passed and the President has signed an appropriation for such money
 - b. The President has issued an Executive Order authorizing the expenditure
 - c. The Supreme Court has ordered the payment of such money
 - d. Any of the above

10. To ratify a treaty, the President of the United States must obtain the advice and consent of:
 - a. A majority of the House of Representatives
 - b. Two-thirds of the Senate
 - c. Three-fourths of the Senate
 - d. Three-fourths of the State Legislatures

11. The right of citizens of the United States who are 18 years of age or older to vote is protected by which provision of the Constitution?
 - a. Article VI
 - b. Thirteenth Amendment
 - c. Sixteenth Amendment
 - d. None of the above

12. Of the following powers, which one does NOT belong to the Congress?
 - a. The power to establish Post Offices
 - b. The power to grant pardons for offenses against the United States
 - c. The power to borrow money on the United States' credit
 - d. The power to maintain a navy

13. The Constitution does not explicitly provide for which of the following?
- The size of the President's Cabinet
 - The power of the Supreme Court to declare a law unconstitutional
 - A right to privacy
 - All of the above
14. Which Article of the Constitution gives Congress the power to ordain and establish inferior federal courts?
- Article I
 - Article II
 - Article III
 - Either (A) or (C)
15. Which act requires a two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress?
- Impeaching and trying the President
 - Declaring War
 - Confirming an appointment to the Supreme Court
 - Overruling the President's veto
16. Which constitutional amendment guarantees women the right to vote?
- Fifth Amendment
 - Fifteenth Amendment
 - Nineteenth Amendment
 - Twenty-sixth Amendment
17. How often must the Congress assemble?
- Once a month
 - Once a year
 - Once every other year
 - Once during each four-year presidential term
18. When could a State not constitutionally engage in war?
- If Congress consents
 - If the President consents
 - If the State is actually invaded
 - If the State is in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay

19. Which of the following is a duty of the Vice President?
- To be Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives
 - To be President of the Senate
 - To be Chairman of the President's Cabinet
 - To be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
20. How long must a person be a citizen of the United States before being able to become a Representative in the House of Representatives?
- Four years
 - Seven years
 - Eight years
 - There is no citizenship requirement for being able to become a Representative
21. A person could not be found guilty of treason if that person only:
- Refused to pay taxes to the United States
 - Levied war against the United States
 - Adhered to an enemy of the United States
 - Gave aid and comfort to an enemy of the United States
22. St. Rose, a private religious high school is having difficulty finding a qualified Latin teacher. The local public school district has agreed to allow the high school's Latin teacher, Ms. Cicero, to work in the afternoons at St. Rose. The district has also agreed to continue paying Ms. Cicero's entire salary for the next school year to help alleviate some of St. Rose's budgetary problems. Which section would most likely be violated by the government's acts?
- The Free Exercise of Religion clause under the First Amendment
 - The Establishment of Religion clause under the First Amendment
 - The Right to Assemble under the First Amendment
 - The Thirteenth Amendment
23. Private property may not be taken for public use without:
- A trial by jury
 - Just compensation
 - A valid warrant
 - Private property may never be taken for public use
24. Which provision of the Constitution explicitly gives Congress the power to lay and collect taxes on incomes?
- Article I
 - Article IV
 - Sixteenth Amendment
 - Twenty-First Amendment

25. A law criminalizing peaceful protests in public would most likely violate which of the following constitutional amendments:
- First Amendment
 - Fourth Amendment
 - Fifth Amendment
 - Tenth Amendment
26. Who presides over an impeachment trial of the President?
- The Attorney General
 - The Vice President
 - The Speaker of the House
 - The Chief Justice of the United States
27. Vice President Jack Kinnick is elected in November 2020 and becomes President on November 20, 2022, when the President passes away unexpectedly. Assuming President Kinnick runs for reelection as often as he is eligible under the Constitution and wins any such election(s), when will his term as President expire?
- January 20, 2025
 - January 20, 2029
 - November 20, 2030
 - January 20, 2033
28. While attending a session of Congress, a Senator could be arrested for which of the following crimes?
- Breach of the peace
 - Treason
 - Any felony
 - All of the above
29. Why can't the Marines force you to house and feed them?
- The Second Amendment
 - The Fourth Amendment
 - The Third Amendment
 - The Tenth Amendment
30. What Amendment gave persons of all races the right to vote?
- Fifteenth Amendment
 - Fifth Amendment
 - Tenth Amendment
 - Article II

31. Which of the following proposed constitutional amendments would be properly adopted and valid for all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution?
- A proposed amendment that is approved in identical form by a two-thirds vote in each of 40 state legislatures
 - A proposed amendment that is approved by a constitutional convention called by Congress upon application of the legislatures of 40 states
 - A proposed amendment that is approved by a two-thirds vote of both the House and Senate and by a majority vote in each of 40 state legislatures
 - All of the above
32. The power of impeachment is vested in the:
- Attorney General
 - House of Representatives
 - Senate
 - Supreme Court
33. Tomás Martínez was born in Mexico in 1988. He immigrated to the United States in 1994 and became a United States citizen in 2004. He now lives in Iowa. Would it be lawful under the U.S. Constitution for Martínez to be elected in 2018 and begin serving in 2019 as a member of the United States Senate representing Iowa?
- Yes
 - No, he is not old enough
 - No, he has not been a United States citizen for long enough
 - No, people born in foreign countries cannot be United States Senators
34. A State can be punished for denying the right of any of its citizens to vote by:
- Reducing the number of its Representatives.
 - Reducing the number of its Senators.
 - Imposing a fine.
 - Withholding funding of all federal programs.
35. Which of the following is NOT a method by which a bill can become a law?
- Congress passes a bill and the President signs it
 - Congress passes a bill and the President does not sign it
 - Congress passes a bill, the President vetoes it, and Congress overrides the veto
 - The President signs a bill that Congress has not passed

36. All legislation raising revenue must originate from the:
- a. House of Representatives
 - b. Senate
 - c. President
 - d. Department of the Treasury
37. Members of the House of Representatives serve terms lasting:
- a. One year
 - b. Two years
 - c. Four years
 - d. Six years
38. Which of the following appointments could the President make without the advice and consent of the Senate?
- a. The Ambassador to China, if Congress first passed a law stating that the President alone could make the appointment.
 - b. The Vice President.
 - c. A justice of the Supreme Court, if the Senate was in recess when the appointment was made.
 - d. All of the above.
39. The Constitution explicitly vests which of the following powers with the Congress?
- a. The power to raise and support armies
 - b. The power to provide and maintain a Navy
 - c. The power to call forth the Militia, to execute the laws of the Union, to suppress insurrections, and to repel invasions
 - d. All of the above
40. Which of the following activities does the Constitution prohibit a State from doing?
- a. Coining and printing money
 - b. Making laws
 - c. Conducting a census of its citizens
 - d. Imposing a sales tax on goods and services
41. How many Judicial officers does the Constitution require?
- a. 9
 - b. 13
 - c. 1
 - d. None

42. Which provision of the Constitution safeguards the right to be free from excessive bail, excessive fines, and cruel and unusual punishments?
- Sixth Amendment
 - Seventh Amendment
 - Eighth Amendment
 - None of the above
43. The president is required to give the Congress information on the state of the union
- Once a year
 - In a public address before a joint session of the House and Senate
 - Once a term
 - From time to time
44. Who is prohibited from receiving an emolument from any king, prince, or foreign state?
- Any person holding an office of profit or trust under the United States unless the President grants consent.
 - Any person holding an office of profit or trust under the United States unless Congress consents.
 - Only persons holding elective office.
 - All United States Citizens.
45. Which of the following ways is NOT a constitutional method for the Vice President to be selected?
- By a majority vote of the Electors (the Electoral College) appointed by each State
 - By a majority vote of the states in the House of Representatives
 - By a majority vote of the Senate
 - By nomination of the President and confirmation by a majority vote of the Senate and House of Representatives
46. Which of the following acts would be improper for the United States Senate to perform:
- Sitting in joint session with the House of Representatives
 - Passing a bill that previously passed the House that sets emissions standards for power plants when states have already created their own set of emissions limitations
 - Adjudicating a dispute between two state governments
 - Defining qualifications for being a member in good standing of the United States Senate

47. Which of the following is not a power of the President enumerated in Article II?
- a. To levy and collect taxes
 - b. Appoint ambassadors
 - c. Grant pardons for offences of the United States
 - d. Fill vacancies during the recess of the Senate
48. Which of the following is true?
- a. The Constitution requires nine Supreme Court justices
 - b. The Constitution requires a dispute between citizens of different states to be heard by the state court of the person who files the lawsuit
 - c. The Constitution requires that the U.S. Supreme Court review decisions of state Supreme Courts involving only state law
 - d. The Constitution prevents the pay of federal judges from being cut while they are in office
49. How long may a person hold the office of Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court?
- a. 18 years
 - b. For life
 - c. During good behavior
 - d. None of the above
50. When may the Writ of Habeas Corpus be suspended?
- a. When Congress determines it should be suspended
 - b. When the President determines it should be suspended
 - c. When there is rebellion or invasion
 - d. When the Supreme Court determines public safety may require it

ESSAY QUESTION

Constitutional crisis! The President of the United States, Oscar T. Grouch, is under investigation. President Grouch was caught using personal funds for campaign expenses during his last election and failing to disclose the use of those funds as donations. The President's conduct violated the Federal Campaign Finance and Disclosure Act (the FCFDA). The FCFDA states that the conduct President Grouch is accused of is a misdemeanor.

When the allegations against the President reached the newspapers, the Attorney General of the United States appointed a special counsel to investigate the President. The Attorney General was appointed by the President, and the special counsel is an executive department official.

The Special Counsel soon filed charges against President Grouch's campaign manager, Beauregard "Big" Bird. Big Bird was eventually convicted. Soon after the conviction, President Grouch pardoned Big Bird. President Grouch issued a statement saying, "My close friend Big Bird is innocent, and I will not have my administration distracted by this WITCH HUNT! I will pardon all my friends who are charged with crimes during my administration, including myself. If the Special Counsel keeps up this investigation, I will tell her YOU'RE FIRED!"

The next day, Congress unanimously passed the Special Counsel Protection Act, which states:

- (1) The Special Counsel shall not be removed from office, except by a vote of a majority of both houses of Congress;
- (2) The President of the United States shall comply with all subpoenas issued by the Special Counsel; and
- (3) The President of the United States shall not pardon any individual who is a subject of the Special Counsel's investigation.

President Grouch vetoed the legislation, but Congress quickly voted unanimously to overturn his veto. President Grouch responded, "The so-called Special Counsel Protection Act is UNCONSTITUTIONAL! WITCH HUNT!!!" The President then issued an executive order firing the Special Counsel and issued a blanket pardon to everyone involved in his campaign, including himself, for all criminal violations.

Write an essay between 200 and 1000 words analyzing (1) whether the Special Counsel Protection Act is constitutional, (2) whether President Grouch's self-pardon was valid, and (3) what Congress could do next to reign-in the President. Make specific references in your answer to any applicable Constitutional Articles and Amendments, and any other surrounding contextual constitutional authority on which you can reasonably rely. You may include actual historical examples of the application of any relevant constitutional authority. This is an open-ended question, and you are free to take any position you wish.