

Practice Test 1

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section I

Time—45 minutes

60 Questions

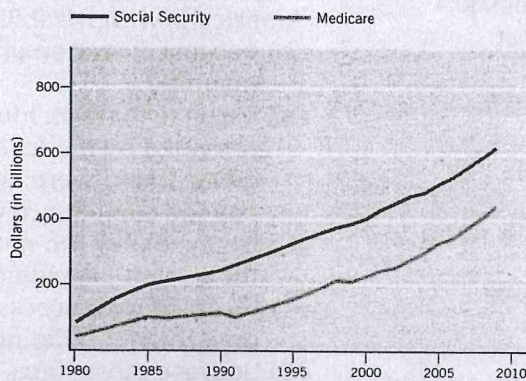
Directions The questions or incomplete statements below are each followed by five suggested answers. Select the best answer.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What kind of federal grants are used for building airports, roads, schools, and other specific undertakings?
 - (A) formula grants
 - (B) block grants
 - (C) revenue sharing
 - (D) project grants
 - (E) broad-based aid
2. Why was the Voting Rights Act successful in meeting its goal of increasing African American voter registration in the South?
 - I. because the goal was clear—to increase African American voter registration
 - II. because federal officials oversaw the law
 - III. because local officials understood the law and were able to carry it out
 - IV. because criminal penalties were provided for interfering with the right to vote
 - (A) I and II
 - (B) I, II, and IV
 - (C) II, III, and IV
 - (D) I, III, and IV
 - (E) II and IV
3. When does a president have the best chance of getting his program enacted?
 - (A) during a honeymoon period at the beginning of his term
 - (B) halfway through his first term, after he has established himself
 - (C) during his second term, after he has had time to develop relationships with members of Congress
 - (D) after he holds a press conference and asks the public to support a program during wartime
4. What was the result of the Court's ruling in *Miranda v. Arizona*?
 - (A) It established the exclusionary rule.
 - (B) It established the good-faith exception to the exclusionary rule.
 - (C) If a suspect has not been informed of his rights, his confession cannot be used as evidence.
 - (D) If a suspect has not been informed of his rights, the charges against him must be dropped.
 - (E) The state must provide an attorney if a defendant cannot afford one.

5. The president has all of the following expressed powers under the Constitution EXCEPT
 - (A) to grant reprieves and pardons for federal offenses
 - (B) to convene Congress in special sessions
 - (C) to exercise the line-item veto
 - (D) to appoint ambassadors, subject to Senate confirmation
 - (E) to commission officers in the armed forces
6. All of the following statements about voter turnout are true EXCEPT
 - (A) voter turnout in presidential elections was at its highest point in the late 1800s
 - (B) people ages 18-21 have the lowest voter turnout rates
 - (C) voter turnout has dropped in every presidential election since 1960
 - (D) voter turnout is higher in federal elections than in state and local elections
 - (E) voter turnout is greater in presidential elections than in midterm congressional elections
7. What encourages a two-party system in the United States?
 - (A) the inclusion of ballot initiatives and referendums
 - (B) the selection of candidates through primaries
 - (C) the selection of candidates through caucuses
 - (D) ticket-splitting by voters between the Republican and Democratic parties
 - (E) the fact that elections are for single-member districts, winner-take-all
8. Which of the following serves as a check by Congress over the executive?
 - (A) Congress can change the number and jurisdiction of the lower courts.
 - (B) Congress can refuse to confirm a person nominated to be a judge.
 - (C) All revenue bills must originate in the House of Representatives.
 - (D) Congress can override a presidential veto by a majority vote of both houses.
 - (E) Congress can remove cabinet secretaries.
9. What role does political party affiliation play in the selection of federal judges?
 - (A) Presidents usually appoint members of their political party, and these people are generally qualified.
 - (B) None. Federal judges are appointed based upon their qualifications rather than their party affiliation.
 - (C) Some. Federal judges are appointed based upon their qualifications, but equally qualified candidates are judged based upon party affiliation.
 - (D) Party affiliation is much more important than qualifications. Many unqualified judges are appointed because they are party faithful.
 - (E) Under the merit rules for civil service, presidents are barred from considering party affiliation in appointing federal judges.
10. Why has the custom of senatorial courtesy been criticized?
 - (A) because senators block the nomination of judges on the basis of party politics
 - (B) because presidents find it difficult to find judicial candidates who would be accepted by their state senators
 - (C) because senators from the opposing party use it to block the president's nominations for partisan purposes
 - (D) because it results in unqualified candidates being confirmed
 - (E) because it amounts to a legislative veto on presidential actions

11. Beginning in 1994, it was difficult for President Clinton to get his domestic program passed. What is the best explanation for this?
 - (A) His approval ratings suffered a steady decline.
 - (B) The government was divided.
 - (C) The poor economy made it difficult for Congress to fund new programs.
 - (D) The impeachment process took up the last six years of his presidency.
 - (E) He concentrated on foreign affairs and did not put forth a domestic agenda.
12. Why is the threat of a veto a powerful presidential tool?
 - (A) because Congress does not want the negative media attention associated with a presidential veto
 - (B) because a presidential veto kills a bill until the next session of Congress
 - (C) because it is difficult for Congress to obtain the two-thirds vote necessary to override a presidential veto
 - (D) because the president can use the line-item veto to cut out pet projects favored by certain members of Congress
 - (E) because the public usually supports the president more than it supports Congress
13. What is the basis of James Madison's argument in the *Federalist Paper* No. 10?
 - (A) Factions are dangerous and must be destroyed.
 - (B) The government can eliminate the causes of faction.
 - (C) Political parties should be encouraged to form so that all viewpoints are represented.
 - (D) A balanced government can control factions and prevent one faction from gaining too much power.
 - (E) State government will prevent factions from forming.
14. Why did many states oppose the Americans with Disabilities Act?
 - (A) because it was an unfunded mandate
 - (B) because the matching funds provided by the federal government were not enough to pay for compliance with the law
 - (C) because they did not agree with the goal of providing the disabled with access to government buildings
 - (D) because most states already provided access for the disabled to government buildings
 - (E) because helping people with disabilities is a state, rather than federal, issue
15. One criticism of the media is that it does not cover candidates' speeches in depth. This is best illustrated in which of the following?
 - (A) the rise of the Internet
 - (B) horse-race journalism
 - (C) the shrinking sound bite
 - (D) the liberal bias in the media
 - (E) sensationalism
16. What was the biggest change to campaign financing made by the Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002 (McCain-Feingold)?
 - (A) the elimination of PAC contributions to candidates
 - (B) the elimination of "soft money"
 - (C) new requirements for full disclosure of campaign contributions
 - (D) the creation of a new, nonpartisan, board of directors of the Federal Election Commission
 - (E) the banning of all advertising by any political party in the sixty days before an election



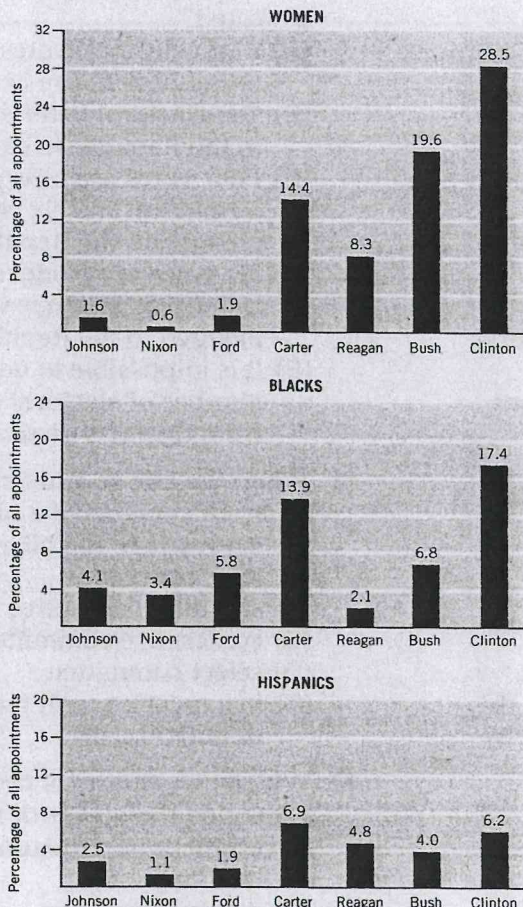
17. The graph above best supports which of the following conclusions?
- (A) The federal debt will continue to rise unless income taxes are raised.
 - (B) Uncontrollable expenditures have resulted in annual deficits since 1980.
 - (C) Discretionary spending is outpacing spending in all other categories.
 - (D) The mandatory retirement age will have to be raised in order to balance the budget.
 - (E) Uncontrollable expenditures have increased since 1990.
18. Under which of the following principles has the due-process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment been applied to protect individuals from violations of fundamental rights by the states?
- (A) equal protection
 - (B) constitutional federalism
 - (C) the incorporation doctrine
 - (D) the inclusionary doctrine
 - (E) the wall of separation
19. What is the primary source of political socialization?
- (A) family
 - (B) peer groups
 - (C) television
 - (D) the Internet
 - (E) public schools
20. The Supreme Court has upheld all of the following restrictions on abortion EXCEPT
- (A) a twenty-four-hour waiting period
 - (B) parental consent
 - (C) prohibition of abortion after the fetus is viable
 - (D) spousal consent
 - (E) required pamphlets with information about alternatives
21. What was the biggest problem with the Articles of Confederation?
- (A) The national government imposed heavy taxes on the wealthy.
 - (B) The states did not have enough power.
 - (C) Individual states could not control their economies.
 - (D) The national government did not have the power to regulate intrastate commerce.
 - (E) The national government could not lay and collect taxes.
22. A judge who believes that the Constitution should be interpreted according to its literal meaning and in its historical context favors what approach?
- (A) judicial activism
 - (B) original intent
 - (C) limited jurisdiction
 - (D) dual federalism
 - (E) states' rights
23. Which of the following is a difference between the House of Representatives and the Senate?
- (A) The Senate has stricter rules for floor debate.
 - (B) There is no leader in the Senate, except for the vice president in case of a tie vote.
 - (C) Revenue bills must originate in the Senate.
 - (D) Floor rules and debate are more casual in the Senate than in the House.
 - (E) The Senate has standing committees, but the House uses only select committees.

24. All of the following statements about filibusters are true EXCEPT
- (A) either political party may use the filibuster
 - (B) senators who vote for cloture risk having their own filibusters ended the same way
 - (C) filibusters have been used to block judicial appointments
 - (D) cloture votes are rare, because they require seventy-five votes
 - (E) both filibusters and cloture votes are becoming more common
25. What are political action committees?
- (A) registered organizations that donate money to campaigns and causes
 - (B) committees that work as part of an iron triangle to change bureaucratic regulations
 - (C) interest groups that have raised more than \$200,000 in a single fiscal year
 - (D) groups of people who are interested in a cause and lobby on its behalf
 - (E) organizations whose primary purpose is to lobby Congress
26. How does an executive order differ from legislation?
- (A) Executive orders are submitted by the president to Congress for approval; bills are submitted by the Congress to the president for approval.
 - (B) Executive orders have the force of law but do not have to be approved by Congress.
 - (C) Executive orders expire after five years.
 - (D) Executive orders require ratification by the Senate but not the House.
 - (E) The Supreme Court cannot rule on the constitutionality of an executive order.
27. Compared to citizens of other nations,
- (A) Americans place more value on maintaining good relations with colleagues.
 - (B) Americans are more willing to respect authority.
 - (C) Americans place more value on individualism and competition.
 - (D) Americans are more sensitive to the personal needs of others.
 - (E) Americans are more likely to defer to experts and specialists in decision making.
28. Which of the following are valid criticisms of the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary?
- I. Too much attention is paid to them because they are early.
 - II. It is difficult for a candidate to gain momentum in either of these states.
 - III. These states' populations are not representative of the country as a whole.
 - IV. Because these states are small, these contests do not get enough media coverage.
- (A) I and II
 - (B) II and III
 - (C) I, II, and III
 - (D) I and III
 - (E) II and IV

29. What is judicial review?
- (A) the review of judicial appointments by members of the Senate, who have the power to confirm nominees
 - (B) the ability of the Supreme Court to overturn rulings by federal district court judges
 - (C) the power of the Supreme Court to overturn rulings by federal appeals court judges
 - (D) the power of the chief justice of the Supreme Court to preside over impeachment hearings
 - (E) the power of the Supreme Court to declare acts of Congress or the states unconstitutional
30. Which of the following programs are entitlements?
- I. Medicaid
 - II. Medicare
 - III. Food Stamps
 - IV. Social Security
- (A) I and II
 - (B) I, III, and III
 - (C) II and IV
 - (D) I and IV
 - (E) II, III, and IV
31. Some evidence suggests that in the 1980 election, voters did not vote for Ronald Reagan as much as they voted against Jimmy Carter. What best describes this kind of voting behavior?
- (A) prospective voting
 - (B) ideological voting
 - (C) retrospective voting
 - (D) group-benefits voting
 - (E) no-issue-content voting
32. What advantage does Congress have by sending bills to the president more than ten days before the end of a congressional session?
- (A) The president will not have much time to write a veto message.
 - (B) The bill cannot be pocket vetoed.
 - (C) The president cannot use a line-item veto.
 - (D) Congress has time to rewrite the bill if the president does not like it.
 - (E) Congress will have the time to call a special session if necessary.
33. Which of the following statements best describes the accuracy of public opinion polls?
- (A) Even in a close election, most public opinion polls accurately predict the winner.
 - (B) The bigger the sample, the more room there is for sampling error.
 - (C) Different polling organizations often have different results, even when they ask the same question.
 - (D) The sampling error is usually plus or minus 3 percent.
 - (E) Public opinion polls cannot predict elections with any degree of accuracy.
34. All of the following are necessary for an accurate public opinion poll EXCEPT
- (A) the question must be asked in an unbiased manner
 - (B) the persons interviewed must be selected based on a random sample
 - (C) the questions must be understandable
 - (D) the answer categories must offer people a choice between different responses
 - (E) the number of people sampled must be at least 10% percent of the population
35. Which constitutional provision gives states most of their powers?
- (A) the Ninth Amendment
 - (B) the Tenth Amendment
 - (C) the commerce clause
 - (D) the necessary and proper clause
 - (E) the full faith and credit clause

36. What is the main reason for the shift from dual to cooperative federalism?
- (A) court decisions that required the states and federal government to coordinate policies
 - (B) inconsistent welfare policies at the state level, which required national coordination
 - (C) the increase in federal grants-in-aid to the states
 - (D) the global economy and the importance of improving the trained workforce
 - (E) revenue sharing, which occurred during budgetary surpluses
37. What is the role of the federal courts of appeals?
- (A) to send cases to the Supreme Court when there is a constitutional issue involved
 - (B) to hear appeals from the federal district courts
 - (C) to hear new testimony in cases being retried
 - (D) to hear appeals from state supreme courts when there is a constitutional issue involved
 - (E) to review acts of Congress before they are sent to the Supreme Court for final judicial review
38. The College Board filed briefs in the affirmative action cases brought by college applicants against the University of Michigan. What is the best description of these briefs?
- (A) *amicus curiae*
 - (B) *stare decisis*
 - (C) *per curiam*
 - (D) reply briefs
 - (E) appellate briefs
39. Which of the following is the best example of fiscal federalism?
- (A) the use of the commerce clause to regulate public places and accommodations
 - (B) the Court's decision in *United States v. Lopez*
 - (C) categorical, project, and block grants
 - (D) the Court's decision in *McCulloch v. Maryland*
 - (E) state budget cuts as a result of rising inflation
40. A state, which is not Maine or Nebraska, has eight members in the House of Representatives. In a presidential election, that state's population votes 40 percent for the Democratic candidate and 60 percent for the Republican candidate. How are that state's electoral votes allocated?
- (A) Eight electoral votes are pledged to the Republican candidate.
 - (B) Ten electoral votes are pledged to the Republican candidate.
 - (C) Four votes are pledged to the Democrat, and six votes are pledged to the Republican.
 - (D) Six votes are pledged to the Democrat and four votes are pledged to the Republican.
 - (E) It is impossible to determine the number of electoral college votes from the facts given.
41. When the House and Senate pass different versions of a bill, where is the language of the bill resolved?
- (A) joint committee
 - (B) standing committee
 - (C) conference committee
 - (D) select committee
 - (E) in a meeting with the leadership of both houses
42. Which constitutional provision has expanded the power of the federal government in regulating privately owned businesses?
- (A) commerce clause
 - (B) Tenth Amendment
 - (C) full faith and credit clause
 - (D) power to lay and collect taxes
 - (E) power to borrow money
43. All of the following are likely to vote for a candidate from the Democratic party EXCEPT
- (A) African Americans
 - (B) non-Cuban Hispanics
 - (C) union members
 - (D) women
 - (E) small business owners

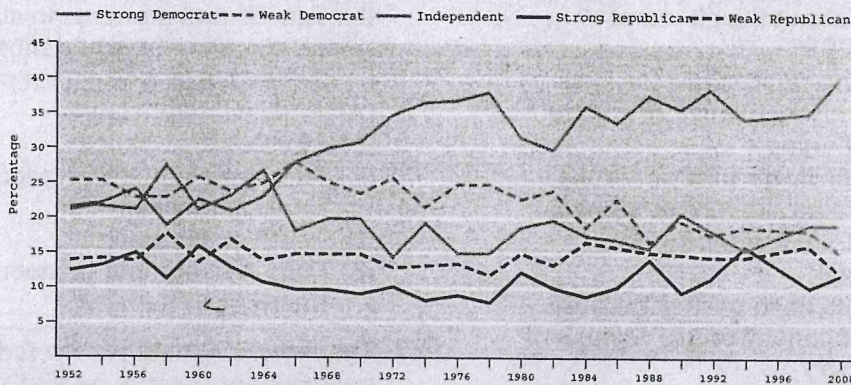
44. What is the term for a sharp, lasting shift that occurs in the popular coalitions supporting one or both parties?
- (A) readjustment
(B) deviating election
(C) electoral shift
(D) critical realignment
(E) party reorganization



45. The chart above best supports which of the following conclusions?
- (A) From 1963 until 2000, Democratic presidents appointed more blacks to the judiciary than Republican presidents did.
(B) Blacks being appointed to the judiciary are appointed to the district court level, rather than to the appellate courts.
(C) Twenty percent of the judges appointed by Clinton were black.

- (D) President George H. W. Bush appointed more black judges than President Johnson did.
(E) The percentage of black judges appointed by President Carter mirrored the percentage of blacks in the population.
46. When the Supreme Court ruled that laws against flag-burning are unconstitutional, many citizens disagreed with the Court's ruling and wanted Congress to take action. What could Congress do to make flag-burning illegal?
- (A) pass a federal law that bans flag-burning
(B) pass a constitutional amendment banning flag-burning
(C) with a two-thirds vote, approve a constitutional amendment, to be ratified by three-fourths of the states
(D) pressure the president for an executive order banning flag-burning
(E) there is nothing Congress can do once the Supreme Court rules a law unconstitutional; the Supreme Court is a court of last resort
47. Congressional committees do all of the following tasks EXCEPT
- (A) revise bills
(B) kill bills
(C) refer bills to subcommittees
(D) delay bills
(E) enact legislation
48. The equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment would be used to decide all of the following types of cases EXCEPT
- (A) school segregation
(B) affirmative action
(C) sex discrimination
(D) abortion
(E) racial profiling

Figure 7.1 Decline in Party Identification, 1952-2000



Source: National Election Studies, *The NES Guide to Public Opinion and Electoral Behavior, 1952-2000*, table 20.1.

49. The chart above best supports which of the following statements?
- In 2000 there were more Republicans than Democrats.
 - The biggest gap between strong Republicans and strong Democrats occurred in 1984.
 - In 2000 the number of independent voters was the highest in any year since 1952.
 - Since 1980 there has been steady increase in the number of voters who identify themselves as Republican.
 - The number of weak Republicans has outnumbered strong Republicans since 1976.
50. What is the typical method for becoming a member of the White House staff?
- be a longtime associate of the president who has served on his campaign staff
 - be a longtime member of Congress with substantial experience in policy making
 - serve on the staff of the president's predecessor if the former president was a member of the president's political party
 - have experience in business and industry and apply for the job based upon qualifications
 - have experience in academia, preferably as a professor at an Ivy League college
51. How do delegates to national conventions differ ideologically from most party members?
- They are more moderate because they represent the interests of an entire state.
 - The Republicans are more right wing, and the Democrats are more moderate.
 - The Democrats are more left wing, and the Republicans are more moderate.
 - The Democrats are more left wing, and the Republicans are more right wing.
 - There is no significant difference in ideology between the ideology of the delegates and that of party members.
52. The census is important for which of the following purposes?
- to determine the number of representatives a state will have in the House of Representatives
 - to determine the number of senators each state will have
 - for the purpose of receiving categorical grant money
 - to determine the number of electoral college votes a state will have
- I and III
 - I, II, and III
 - II, III, and IV
 - I and IV
 - I, III, and IV
53. All of the following are advantages of incumbency for members of Congress EXCEPT
- the recognition they receive by sitting on oversight committees
 - the use of franking privileges to let members of their districts know what they have been doing
 - the ability to provide casework
 - the ability to bring pork-barrel projects to their states
 - name recognition

54. All of the following arguments have been made about the electoral college EXCEPT
- (A) it benefits small states because they receive a disproportionate share of votes
 - (B) it benefits large states because they receive a disproportionate share of attention from the candidates
 - (C) it benefits third parties because they can control entire regions of the country
 - (D) it is undemocratic because the winner of the popular vote may not win in the electoral college
 - (E) states with large urban populations get more attention from the candidates



55. What does the above drawing illustrate?
- (A) political machines
 - (B) gerrymandering
 - (C) aggressive foreign policy
 - (D) divided government
 - (E) the hostile press

56. A state law that requires posting of the Ten Commandments in all public school classrooms would most likely be challenged as a violation of the
- (A) establishment clause
 - (B) free exercise clause
 - (C) First Amendment protection of symbolic speech
 - (D) Tenth Amendment
 - (E) First Amendment protection of the right to petition
57. The Patriot Act allows the federal government to tap a person's phones with a court order without having to get a separate search warrant for each phone. What rights are balanced in this case?
- (A) privacy and the Freedom of Information Act
 - (B) expression and information gathering
 - (C) privacy and national security
 - (D) expression and speech
 - (E) this case does not involve balancing competing rights
58. Those who attempt to influence governmental decisions, especially legislation, often on behalf of interest groups, are best described as
- (A) PACs
 - (B) influence peddlers
 - (C) social movements
 - (D) lobbyists
 - (E) campaign strategists
59. Which of the following groups voted most heavily in favor of Ronald Reagan?
- (A) moderate conservatives
 - (B) pure conservatives
 - (C) moderate liberals
 - (D) pure liberals
 - (E) independent voters

60. In the following scenario, the Senate has fifty Republicans and fifty Democrats and the president is Republican. What would be the result if one Republican senator changed his affiliation to become an independent?

- (A) No major changes would occur in the conduct of the Senate.
- (B) The Senate would have a Democratic majority, and it

would become impossible for the president to enact his program.

- (C) The Republican whip would be used to make sure the independent senator voted with the Republicans.
- (D) The Republican committee heads would be replaced with Democrats.
- (E) The vice president would no longer be the president of the Senate.

STOP

END OF SECTION I

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION. DO NOT GO ON TO SECTION II UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

Answer Key for Multiple-Choice Questions

1. D	11. B	21. E	31. C	41. C	51. D
2. B	12. C	22. B	32. B	42. A	52. E
3. A	13. D	23. D	33. D	43. E	53. A
4. C	14. A	24. D	34. E	44. D	54. C
5. C	15. C	25. A	35. B	45. D	55. B
6. C	16. B	26. B	36. C	46. C	56. A
7. E	17. E	27. C	37. B	47. E	57. C
8. B	18. C	28. D	38. A	48. D	58. D
9. A	19. A	29. E	39. C	49. C	59. B
10. E	20. D	30. C	40. B	50. A	60. D

ANSWERS TO MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

- Answer: D. Project grants are based on competitive applications for specific undertakings (*American Government*, 9th ed., page 62 / 10th ed., pages 63-64).
- Answer: B. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 had a clear goal of increasing registration and voting by blacks. Federal officials oversaw its implementation, and criminal penalties were provided for interfering with voting rights (*American Government*, 9th ed., page 135 / 10th ed., page 182).
- Answer: A. A president's popularity tends to be highest right after he is elected, and this is the best time for him to get programs enacted (*American Government*, 9th ed., page 354 / 10th ed., page 394).
- Answer: C. In *Miranda v. Arizona*, the court held that suspects must be read their rights. Otherwise, their confessions are not admissible in court (*American Government*, 9th ed., page 517 / 10th ed., page 118).
- Answer: C. While the president may veto a bill in its entirety, he cannot veto a portion of a bill (*American Government*, 9th ed., page 340 / 10th ed., page 379).
- Answer: C. The turnout in the 2000 election was slightly above 50 percent, while turnout in 1996 was slightly above 49 percent (*American Government*, 9th ed., page 137 / 10th ed., page 184).
- Answer: E. Single-member districts with winner-take-all elections favor two parties and make it difficult for third parties to compete (*American Government*, 9th ed., pages 171-173 / 10th ed., pages 217-219).
- Answer: B. Congress can refuse to confirm a judge nominated by the president. This is a check on both the executive and judicial branches (*American Government*, 9th ed., page 29 / 10th ed., page 29).
- Answer: A. Presidents usually appoint judges from the ranks of their political party. These candidates are also chosen based upon their qualifications (*American Government*, 9th ed., page 413 / 10th ed., pages 447-448).
- Answer: E. Senatorial courtesy allows a senator to block the nomination of a federal district judge from his or her home state. This has been criticized as a legislative veto, which reverses the balance of powers (*American Government*, 9th ed., pages 412-413 / 10th ed., page 447).