

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. The Constitution of the United States divides the government into branches and provides for a system of checks and balances. The Supreme Court can "check" the executive branch by

- A. overriding a veto by the president on a bill.
- B. approving an appointment to the cabinet.
- C. declaring war on an enemy of the United States.
- D. deciding that an act by the president is unconstitutional.

2. Many government officials are elected by the people. What can a citizen do if he believes that an elected official is not doing a good job?

- A. not pay them their salary
- B. impeach and remove them from office
- C. not vote for them if they run again
- D. force them to resign from office

3. There are many different ways to describe America. Which of the following BEST describes America?

- A. Everyone can go to college.
- B. We live in a country of many cultures.
- C. Everyone can own a house.
- D. We live where everyone can drive.

4. There are many laws that might not be popular with all Americans, but most Americans support them. Why is this important?

- A. to limit the power of the government
- B. to keep the government strong
- C. to encourage more people to live here
- D. to protect the common good

5. Your class has been learning about pollution. One problem is that places are running out of space to store garbage. Which of the following would be an example of civic participation to solve the problem?

- A. You and your friends visit the town's landfill.
 - B. You write a report about the garbage problem for class.
 - C. You volunteer to take the garbage to the street.
 - D. You and your class start a school recycling program.
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6. Which of the following is an example of participation in the political process?

- A. saving money to pay for a college education
 - B. moving to a different state for a better job
 - C. volunteering to take meals to the elderly
 - D. handing out campaign materials for a candidate
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7. People have to follow rules at home, at school, at work, and in the community. A person is expected to be at work on time. If this person is ill and cannot be at work that day, what would be the MOST appropriate action for him to take?

- A. This person should call his employer explaining why he cannot be at work.
 - B. This person should contact a friend to state that he is not going to work.
 - C. This person should write a letter to his employer explaining why he cannot be at work.
 - D. This person should explain why he missed work when he goes to work the next day.
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8. There are governments in the United States at the local, state, and national levels. The elected officials in these governments are MOST directly responsible to the

- A. president.
 - B. legislature.
 - C. people.
 - D. courts.
-

9. American citizens may get involved in the political process to try and make changes. Which of the following is the BEST way a responsible citizen can help to make a change?

- A. by refusing to vote
 - B. by breaking the law
 - C. by helping on a campaign
 - D. by having a job
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10. The United States government is divided into three branches. The President of the United States is part of which branch?

- A. judicial
 - B. executive
 - C. legislative
 - D. international
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11. Which statement BEST explains why many people decide to run for an elected office?

- A. They want to do away with all taxes.
- B. They want to meet other people in politics.
- C. They want to stop other people from running for office.
- D. They want to help make the government work better.

12. Each branch of the national government of the United States includes different positions. The head of the executive branch of government is the

- A. Attorney General.
 - B. president.
 - C. chief justice.
 - D. Speaker of the House.
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13. Why is democracy referred to as self-government?

- A. The government runs itself.
 - B. People pay for the government themselves.
 - C. People choose representatives who make decisions.
 - D. The citizens are free to do whatever they want.
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14. Every day your town throws away lots of plastic bottles. What can you do to show better citizenship?

- A. take the trash to an incinerator
 - B. support a recycling center
 - C. take the trash to the next town
 - D. use a larger trash receptacle
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15. The Constitution of the United States divides the powers of the government among three branches. It also provides a way for each branch to check (control) and balance the other branches. Which of the following is an example of checks and balances?

- A. The President vetoes a bill; Congress overrides the veto.
 - B. The national government gives money to the states for school lunches.
 - C. The president signs a treaty limiting nuclear weapons.
 - D. The national government works with state governments to build roads.
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16. Citizens can be involved in the political process. What is the BEST way to help get a candidate elected to office?

- A. refuse to vote
 - B. organize a protest
 - C. work on the candidate's campaign
 - D. read information about the candidate
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17. The powers of government are divided at the national level. A system of checks and balances is also used to control the branches. What can the Supreme Court do to control the legislative branch?

- A. approve an appointment to the Cabinet
- B. decide that a law passed by Congress is unconstitutional
- C. approve a treaty with another country
- D. decide that a senator should be removed from office

18. There are times when citizens of the United States might not agree with a decision made by the government. What is one way citizens can take part in our political system to try and make changes?

- A. becoming teachers
 - B. organizing a protest
 - C. buying American goods
 - D. not voting in an election
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19. The president of the United States has "checks" over the other two branches of government. Which is a check the president has over the judicial branch?

- A. deciding the meaning of a law
 - B. making a treaty with another country
 - C. nominating a Supreme Court justice
 - D. rejecting a law passed by Congress
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20. Which of these is a requirement to vote in the United States?

- A. You must be able to drive.
 - B. You must be in the United States.
 - C. You must be over age twenty-one.
 - D. You must be a United States citizen.
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21. People run for office, get elected, and fill many positions in government. Which of the following is true about running for office?

- A. A candidate must prove that he or she has always voted.
 - B. A candidate must meet certain requirements.
 - C. A candidate must have the support of the newspapers.
 - D. A candidate must be a member of the Democratic party.
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22. In the United States, the government's powers are divided between the three branches. Which branch is responsible for deciding what the laws mean?

- A. the judicial branch
 - B. the legislative branch
 - C. the international branch
 - D. the executive branch
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23. Citizen participation is an important part of self-government. Which of the following is an example of citizen participation in government?

- A. attending a school
 - B. driving a car
 - C. owning a business
 - D. running for elected office
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24. One of the most important rights and privileges for United States citizens is voting. How could voting lead to political change?

- A. Voting raises money for the government.
 - B. Voting ensures that people belong to a political party.
 - C. Voting keeps the same people in office for life.
 - D. Voting leads to putting new and different people in office.
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25. Members of the United States Congress (the Senate and the House of Representatives) are voted into office to represent and serve the citizens of their states. There are two senators elected from every state. How many congressmen/women are elected from every state?

- A. There are also two congressmen/women from every state.
- B. The number of congressmen/women from each state depends on the population of the state.
- C. The number of congressmen/women depends on the number of counties in each state.
- D. The number of congressmen/women depends on the number of political parties in each state.

Answer Key

1. D) deciding that an act by the president is unconstitutional.
2. C) not vote for them if they run again
3. B) We live in a country of many cultures.
4. D) to protect the common good
5. D) You and your class start a school recycling program.
6. D) handing out campaign materials for a candidate
7. A) This person should call his employer explaining why he cannot be at work.
8. C) people.
9. C) by helping on a campaign
10. B) executive
11. D) They want to help make the government work better.
12. B) president.
13. C) People choose representatives who make decisions.
14. B) support a recycling center
15. A) The President vetoes a bill; Congress overrides the veto.
16. C) work on the candidate's campaign
17. B) decide that a law passed by Congress is unconstitutional
18. B) organizing a protest
19. C) nominating a Supreme Court justice
20. D) You must be a United States citizen.
21. B) A candidate must meet certain requirements.
22. A) the judicial branch

23. D) running for elected office

24. D) Voting leads to putting new and different people in office.

25. B) The number of congressmen/women from each state depends on the population of the state.