

## Government/Political Science (0930)

### Test at a Glance

Test Name	Government/Political Science		
Test Code	0930		
Time	2 hours		
Number of Questions	120		
Format	Multiple-choice questions		
	Content Categories	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Questions
	I. United States Constitutional Theory and Development: Civil Rights; Landmark Court Decisions	15	12%
	II. United States Government: Federal, State, and Local Institutions	62	52%
	III. United States Politics: Political Parties, Interest Groups, Campaigns and Elections, Political Participation, Political Socialization, and Public Opinion	23	19%
	IV. Comparative Politics: Government, Ideologies, and Public Policies	20	17%

### About This Test

The Government/Political Science test is designed for prospective teachers of government or political science in secondary schools. The 120 multiple-choice questions assess knowledge of the major concepts, theories, historical developments, and facts of government and political science across the content areas of U.S. constitutional theory and development; U.S. government institutions; the politics of U.S. government; and comparative politics, government, ideologies, and public policies.

In this test, 100 of the questions will be used for scoring, and 20 questions will be used as pretest questions and will not be scored.

## Topics Covered

Representative descriptions of topics covered in each category are provided below.

### I. United States Constitutional Theory and Development: Civil Rights; Landmark Court Decisions

- Foundations of constitutional development: Anglo-Saxon tradition and common law, 16th- through 18th-century political philosophy, the Declaration of Independence, and the structure and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation
- The Constitutional Convention: participants, issues, and compromises
- The Constitution: federalism, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, enumerated and implied powers, the ratification and amendment process, statehood, national supremacy contrasted with states' rights, and the principle of popular sovereignty
- Civil rights and landmark decisions: statutes such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Supreme Court decisions such as *Marbury v. Madison*, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, and *Miranda v. Arizona*; the impact of the Fourteenth Amendment on the development of civil rights and civil liberties

### II. United States Government: Federal, State, and Local Institutions

- Executive branch: the presidency, including formal and informal qualifications, powers and limitations, roles such as commander-in-chief and head of state, and succession; the bureaucracy, including methods of qualification and selection, the role of the bureaucracy, and its structure and processes
- Legislative branch: formal and informal qualifications, selection and succession, roles, and powers and limitations
- Judicial branch: qualifications, the process and politics of selection, role, standards for legal reasoning, structure and process, and powers and limitations, including jurisdiction, appeals provisions, and review
- State and local government: powers and limitations; responsibility for education, public safety, and health;

interstate relations; structure and organization; unique aspects of state/local government; and finance

- Relationships among federal, state, and local institutions

### III. United States Politics: Political Parties, Interest Groups, Campaigns and Elections, Political Participation, Political Socialization, and Public Opinion

- Political parties: roles and functions, the causes and effects of having a two-party system, minor parties, and the organization and membership of the political parties
- Interest groups: characteristics and activities of interest groups, the effects of interest groups and Political Action Committees (PAC's) on the political process
- Campaigns and elections: voting, including the expansion of the franchise and state and federal laws; campaign issues, including structure, strategies, funding, and participants; election issues, including structure, types, candidate recruitment, and systems of candidate nomination
- Political participation: activities such as voting, financial contributions, candidacy, grass roots organizations, petitions, and protests
- Political socialization: transmission of political values through agents such as the media, American political culture, and the nature of ideologies such as conservatism and liberalism
- Public opinion: types of publics, measurement, the role of the mass media and government, and the impact of opinion on the political process

### IV. Comparative Politics: Government, Ideologies, and Public Policies

- The nature of political systems (representative democracy, democratic versus authoritarian systems, parliamentary versus presidential systems, etc.)
- The nature of economic systems (capitalism, socialism, communism, mixed systems, etc.)
- Relationships between national governments and supranational organizations
- Ideologies: Marxism, fascism, nationalism
- Public policy: definitions, processes, and policy areas

## Sample Test Questions

The sample questions that follow illustrate the types of questions in the test. They are not, however, representative of the entire scope of the test in either content or difficulty. Answers with explanations follow the questions.

**Directions:** Each of the questions or statements below is followed by four suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case.

- The Supreme Court has upheld the power of the national government to prohibit privately owned businesses from discriminating in public accommodations. The Court held that the necessary authority was granted to the national government by the
  - commerce clause
  - supremacy clause
  - equal protection clause
  - due process clause
- The number of presidential electors each state has in the electoral college is equal to which of the following?
  - A specified percentage of the population of the state
  - The number of representatives the state has in the House
  - The number of senators and representatives the state has in Congress
  - The number of delegates the state sends to national party conventions
- The legal power of the president to conduct foreign policy was established by which of the following Supreme Court decisions?
  - Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company v. Sawyer* (1952)
  - United States v. Carolene Products Company* (1938)
  - United States v. Curtiss-Wright Export Corporation* (1936)
  - Marbury v. Madison* (1803)
- The power granted to the House of Representatives to impeach the president is an example of
  - bicameralism
  - checks and balances
  - federalism
  - legislative oversight
- Which of the following kinds of jurisdiction does the Supreme Court most often exercise?
  - Concurrent
  - Appellate
  - Original
  - Inherent
- The term “gender gap” is used in a political science context to refer to differences in survey response data from women and men in which of the following areas?
  - The relative importance of domestic versus foreign policy issues
  - Attitudes regarding such social issues as gun control or pornography
  - Specific foreign policy issues such as military issues
  - I only
  - II only
  - I and III only
  - I, II, and III
- Which of the following best describes the apportionment of power between the state and national governments in the United States?
  - Any action by the national government can be rescinded by the states.
  - States may exercise powers delegated to them by the national government.
  - The national government has all powers not specifically assigned to the states.
  - All powers not specifically assigned to the national government are reserved to the states or to the people.

8. Which of the following is most likely to contribute to the continuation of a two-party system?
- (A) Extreme political homogeneity
  - (B) Single-member legislative districts
  - (C) Proportional representation
  - (D) A written constitution
9. Which of the following ideologies proposes that basic economic conditions determine political structures?
- (A) Liberalism
  - (B) Fascism
  - (C) Conservatism
  - (D) Marxism
10. Which of the following statements is a difference between parliamentary systems and presidential systems?
- (A) Unlike in a presidential system, the head of government in a parliamentary system also serves in the legislature.
  - (B) Unlike in a presidential system, the legislature in a parliamentary system is chosen by direct election.
  - (C) Unlike in a parliamentary system, the electoral system in a presidential system is based on universal suffrage.
  - (D) Unlike in a parliamentary system, minority parties are often represented in the cabinet of presidential systems.
11. Which of the following is a primary function of the Federal Reserve Board?
- (A) To make decisions about national educational policy
  - (B) To appoint the presidents of major United States banks
  - (C) To decide on key interest rates in the United States
  - (D) To make appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security
12. After the Second World War, corporatism came to be seen by many social scientists as a new economic system, possibly a successor to capitalism. Which of the following defines a corporatist state?
- (A) A state in which different interest groups take turns drafting public policy
  - (B) A state in which labor, business, and government negotiate policy
  - (C) A state in which labor unions decide how to run the government
  - (D) A state in which companies servicing contracts for the government directly determine public policy

## Answers

1. The correct answer is A. In two 1964 cases, *Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States* and *Katzenbach v. McClung*, the Supreme Court upheld the power of Congress to pass Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 banning discrimination in public accommodations based on the commerce clause; that is, the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce.
2. Choice C is correct because Article II, Section 1, of the United States Constitution specifies that “Each State shall appoint . . . a Number of Electors equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress.” This number includes at least two senators and the number of representatives based on population, with a minimum of one for each state.
3. Choice C is correct because *Curtiss-Wright* upheld the “plenary and exclusive power of the President as the sole organ of the federal government in the field of international relations.”
4. The correct answer is B. The impeachment power is a form of checks and balances because it allows the legislative branch to hold the executive branch accountable and correct any excesses in the use of executive power. Bicameralism refers to the structure of a two-chamber legislature. Federalism refers to the division of powers between a central government and regional governments. Legislative oversight is the ability of Congressional committees to monitor the actions of executive agencies.
5. B is the correct answer. Most cases arise under appellate jurisdiction granted in Article III, Section 2, of the Constitution, subject to regulations made by Congress.
6. D is the correct answer. Survey research has typically shown significant differences between men and women in terms of responses to each of the three areas cited.
7. The correct answer is D. The Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution reserves all “powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States,” to the states or to the people. The states are deemed to have police powers, and inherent governmental power to protect the health, safety, welfare, and morals of the community.
8. B is the correct answer. Single-member districts tend to encourage competing political formations or factions to aggregate in the largest possible groups or risk being totally unrepresented if the opposition can put together a much larger aggregate. Thus, the logic of competition pushes both toward two competing groups vying for a majority to win the single representative.
9. The correct answer is D. The core of Marxist theory is that the way economic life is organized, including class structures, is the driving force of politics and culture. Liberals believe that politics is about the interaction of individual interests, including but not limited to economic concerns. Fascism holds that politics is driven mainly by national interests and the will of leaders. Conservatism can be compatible with many views of how economics and politics relate, but is at odds with the conflict-based worldview that Marxist theory implies.
10. The correct answer is A. Parliamentary systems fuse the executive and legislative branches, by drawing the head of government and cabinet from the legislature. The scenarios in options B, C, and D can be true or false in either a parliamentary or a presidential system.
11. The correct answer is C. The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve is an independent federal government agency. There are seven members on the Board of Governors who serve across multiple presidential and congressional terms. Members are appointed to the Board of Governors by the president. After their appointment they function independently. The Board of Governors, specifically the Federal Open Market Committee, is responsible for the formulation of monetary policy, most visibly seen in the setting of interest rates. The Board also supervises and regulates the operations of the Federal Reserve Banks and United States banking system in general.
12. The correct answer is B. Contemporary comparative politics defines a corporatist state as one in which there is an institutionalized process of bargaining between labor, capital, and government. This typically happens in open economies such as those of Germany and Sweden. Many political scientists believe that effective corporatism is possible only in societies in which labor is highly organized and various labor unions are hierarchically ordered into a single labor federation. The word “corporatism” is derived from the Latin word for body, *corpus*, and is not connected with the specific notion of a business corporation.



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