

## MAJOR FIELD TEST IN POLITICAL SCIENCE SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following questions illustrate the range of the test in terms of the abilities measured, the disciplines covered, and the difficulty of the questions posed. They should not, however, be considered representative of the entire scope of the test in either content or difficulty. An answer key follows the questions.

### Questions 1 - 3 refer to the following excerpt from an article in the *Washington Post*.

With the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) in serious trouble, a prominent business leader recently laid it on the line: Business groups are prepared to cut off campaign contributions to House members who oppose the pact.

"If you [lawmakers] are going to vote against it, it's going to cost you," Thomas J. Donohue, president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, warned recently during a meeting on Capitol Hill of leaders of a 500-plus business-trade association coalition with more than 500 members.

President Bush has declared ratification of CAFTA his top trade priority of the year. The pact would create a NAFTA-like free-trade zone between the United States and five Central American countries plus the Caribbean's Dominican Republic.

But both sides agree that without a major push from the White House and the GOP leadership, CAFTA is likely to become the first major trade deal to be defeated in more than 40 years and a major embarrassment for the administration.

Rep. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), who is coordinating the opposition among House Democrats, said the percentage voting against trade agreements has steadily grown from the 60 to 65 percent range in the early 1990s, and predicted 90 percent will oppose CAFTA.

The major threat in the committee is that all the Democrats could line up with two Republicans, Michael D. Crapo (Idaho) and Craig Thomas (Wyo.), to pass a nonbinding but politically damaging amendment eliminating sugar provisions.

Some of the biggest winners if the pact is approved would include the pharmaceutical industry, which would get protection from producers of generics; the high-tech and telecommunications industries, which would get intellectual property protections and access to the Caribbean Internet, cellular and land-line phone systems; and exporters including the National Pork Producers and Procter & Gamble, which would see tariff barriers lowered or eliminated.

But they are up against formidable opponents, including organized labor, the sugar industry, most House Democrats and some conflicted southern Republicans, who want to support Bush and the GOP's free trade policies but are under pressure to protect producers in their districts from overseas competition.

House Democrats overwhelmingly oppose the agreement, largely because of concerns of labor unions that the agreement would not adequately protect the rights of low-paid workers in Central America who would be competing more directly with U.S. workers.

Many pro-trade, centrist Democrats are also declaring their opposition in order to voice their broader disagreement with Bush administration tax and domestic spending policies that they argue are not doing enough to equip the workforce to deal with a changing global economy.

The leaders of the Republican opposition to CAFTA are Reps. Walter B. Jones Jr. (N.C.) and Virgil H. Goode Jr. (Va.), both former Democrats. A number of Republicans who represent once-Democratic southern congressional districts heavily dependent on agricultural subsidies and tariff and quota protections for textiles also object to the treaty.

Under CAFTA, the United States would make permanent the temporary suspension of tariffs set by the Caribbean Basin Initiative. In return, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua would reduce or eliminate tariffs on most imports, open state monopolies to foreign competition, and remove legal barriers to foreign investment.

Brown and Jones predicted the administration will begin offering special favors to wavering lawmakers. "They are going to open the bank for these guys," said Brown, citing past offers of bridges and other public works projects to win votes on controversial trade bills.

*Washington Post*, June 12, 2005

1. According to the excerpt, which of the following is true concerning support for major free trade legislation in the United States Congress?
  - (A) Such legislation is more likely than ever to be introduced by a Democrat.
  - (B) Such legislation is supported by all major United States industries.
  - (C) Bipartisan support for such legislation is at an all-time high.
  - (D) General support for such legislation is at its lowest point in decades.
  - (E) Support for, or opposition to, free trade legislation is not tied to any other issue.
2. According to the excerpt, which of the following methods is the White House most likely to use to effect the passage of the free trade legislation?
  - (A) Executive order
  - (B) Daily press releases
  - (C) Discharge petition
  - (D) Pocket veto
  - (E) Logrolling
3. Which of the following policies is NOT considered part of a free trade regime?
  - (A) Subsidies
  - (B) Tariff reductions
  - (C) Privatization of industry
  - (D) Foreign direct investment
  - (E) Capital control reductions

4. Which of the following terms is used when voters make decisions based on how well the economy performed during an incumbent's time in office?
  - (A) Directional voting
  - (B) Prospective voting
  - (C) Proximity voting
  - (D) Retrospective voting
  - (E) Party-line voting
  
5. The exclusionary rule of the Constitution of the United States prohibits
  - (A) the federal government from discriminating based on race or gender
  - (B) the Senate from introducing revenue bills
  - (C) the president from entering into agreements with other nations without securing Senate approval
  - (D) the Supreme Court from issuing opinions that are not based upon real cases or controversies
  - (E) courts from using evidence seized in violation of the Fourth Amendment
  
6. In the United States, the total size of the electoral college is determined by which of the following?
  - (A) The total number of members in the United States House of Representatives only
  - (B) The total number of members in the United States Senate only
  - (C) The total combined number of members in both the United States House of Representatives and Senate only
  - (D) The total combined number of voting members in both the United States House of Representatives and Senate and the delegates of the District of Columbia only
  - (E) The total combined number of members in both the United States House of Representatives and Senate, delegates of the District of Columbia, and the representatives of United States territories
  
7. Which of the following terms is used to describe a sharp and enduring change in the partisan loyalties of the electorate, often brought about by a war, economic crisis, or divisive issue?
  - (A) Realignment
  - (B) Dealignment
  - (C) Bipartisanship
  - (D) Divided government
  - (E) Responsible party system
  
8. Typically, developing countries endowed with large deposits of oil experience which of the following?
  - (A) Rapid democratic consolidation
  - (B) Slower economic growth than other developing countries
  - (C) Insulation from economic threats posed by changes in the global economy
  - (D) Low levels of corruption, on average
  - (E) Rapid industrialization because they can invest oil profits in other areas of the economy

9. A semipresidential system has a
- (A) dual executive selected by a council of military and civilian leaders
  - (B) single executive selected by direct popular vote
  - (C) single executive and a unicameral legislature
  - (D) head of government chosen by the head of state
  - (E) president and a prime minister who share executive power
10. The international economic order established by the Bretton Woods agreements included all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) trade liberalization
  - (B) a gold standard for currency
  - (C) a means for currency liquidity
  - (D) assistance for reconstruction and development
  - (E) floating exchange rates
11. In international relations, which of the following posits the peaceful benefits of having one dominant power in the international system?
- (A) Hegemonic stability theory
  - (B) World system theory
  - (C) Balance of power theory
  - (D) Dependency theory
  - (E) Neoliberal theory
12. A measure of a concept is considered valid if it
- (A) will be scored the same by multiple observers
  - (B) can be used to predict behavior that occurs later in time
  - (C) relates theoretically to other variables in the study
  - (D) captures the substantive meaning of the concept
  - (E) is composed of items that correlate with one another
13. The argument that mass culture tends to stabilize a system of political domination is most characteristic of which of the following?
- (A) Liberalism
  - (B) Conservatism
  - (C) Critical theory
  - (D) Leninism
  - (E) Libertarianism

ANSWER KEY

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|------|-------|
| 1. D | 8. B  |
| 2. E | 9. E  |
| 3. A | 10. E |
| 4. D | 11. A |
| 5. E | 12. D |
| 6. D | 13. C |
| 7. A |       |