

19. The power of impeachment belongs to
 - a. the Senate.
 - b. the House.
 - c. a Federal Grand Jury.
 - d. the Supreme Court.
 - e. the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

20. The custom followed in Congress specifying that majority party members with the longest record of service will become committee chairs is
 - a. senatorial courtesy.
 - b. ageism.
 - c. the seniority rule.
 - d. elder custom.
 - e. senior incumbency.

Free-Response Questions

1. Occasionally, one party will have control of Congress and the presidency. This will give the majority party advantages in Congress, yet passing legislation is still difficult.
 - a. Describe the legislative advantages of the majority party in Congress with respect to both committee structure and leadership.
 - b. Explain why, even with single-party control, passing legislation is difficult. Use two examples to support your explanation.

2. Congress has several nonlegislative functions. Describe the relevance of each of the following and provide an example.
 - a. oversight of the bureaucracy
 - b. confirmation of political appointees
 - c. impeachment

□ Answers and Explanations

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Which demographic group is the most underrepresented in Congress?
 - (a) is incorrect because African Americans are not as underrepresented in Congress as are women.
 - (b) is incorrect because Latinos are not as underrepresented in Congress as are women.

(c) is incorrect because Asians are not as underrepresented in Congress as are women.

(d) is correct because women make up a small percentage of both the House and the Senate that is far lower than the percentage of women in the general population.

(e) is incorrect because upper income individuals are overrepresented in Congress.

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2. Which of the following is most likely to determine a candidate's chance of getting elected to Congress?

(a) is incorrect because wealth is not as likely to determine a candidate's chance of getting elected to Congress.

(b) is incorrect because connections to the media are not as likely to determine a candidate's chance of getting elected to Congress.

(c) is correct because incumbency is the most important determinant in a candidate's chance of getting elected.

(d) is incorrect because campaign style is not as likely to determine a candidate's chance of getting elected to Congress.

(e) is incorrect because promises made to constituents are not as likely to determine a candidate's chance of getting elected to Congress.

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3. Riders are frequently unpopular with the general public because

(a) is incorrect because the public does understand what a rider is.

(b) is correct because riders are unpopular with the general public when the targeted money does not benefit them.

(c) is incorrect because riders are not secret.

(d) is incorrect because lobbyists do not necessarily oppose riders.

(e) is incorrect because riders are not unconstitutional.

Page reference: 381-382, AP Topics: Congress and The major formal and informal arrangements of power

4. Which of the following would be an attractive committee for a member of Congress from Montana looking to serve his or her constituency?

(a) is incorrect because a representative from Montana would better serve his constituency on the Agricultural committee rather than the Ways and Means committee.

(b) is incorrect because a representative from Montana would better serve his constituency on the Agricultural committee rather than the Rules committee.

(c) is incorrect because a representative from Montana would better serve his constituency on the Agricultural committee rather than the Education committee.

(d) is incorrect because a representative from Montana would better serve his constituency on the Agricultural committee rather than the Government Reform committee.

(e) is correct because being on the Agriculture Committee would enable a member of Congress to assist his or her constituents in farming and ranching.

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5. Descriptive representation refers to

(a) is incorrect because representing the interests groups does not accurately relate to descriptive representation.

(b) is incorrect because serving constituents through pork barrel projects does not accurately relate to descriptive representation.

(c) is correct because the idea behind descriptive representation is that citizens are best represented by people like themselves.

(d) is incorrect because living in the geographical area of one's constituents does not accurately relate to descriptive representation.

(e) is incorrect because all of the choices are not correct.

Page reference: 361–364, AP Topic: Congress

6. A senator can effectively prevent the Senate from voting by

(a) is incorrect because conducting oversight does not stall debate.

(b) is correct because the filibuster stalls the debate process and therefore prevents the Senate from voting.

(c) is incorrect because introducing another bill does not stall debate.

(d) is incorrect because holding hearings does not stall debate.

(e) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate representation of the senate.

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7. Which of the following ends debate in the Senate?

(a) is correct because cloture (which requires 60 votes) ends a filibuster.

(b) is incorrect because a vote by the Rules committee will not stop a filibuster.

(c) is incorrect because a conference committee cannot stop a filibuster.

(d) is incorrect because a markup cannot stop a filibuster.

(e) is incorrect because a rider cannot stop a filibuster.

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8. Most of the time, members of Congress vote with

(a) is incorrect because party affiliation influences member of Congress' vote more than the president.

(b) is incorrect because party affiliation influences member of Congress' vote more than his or her state.

(c) is incorrect because party affiliation influences member of Congress' vote more than celebrities.

(d) is correct because while party discipline is not required, on most legislative issues members of Congress will vote with their party.

(e) is incorrect because party affiliation influences member of Congress' vote more than lobbyists.

Page reference: 367–368, AP Topics: Congress and The major formal and informal institutional arrangements of power

9. After a House committee reviews a bill and writes its report, the bill goes to the

(a) is incorrect because a bill does not go to the Senate until it has been passed by the House.

(b) is incorrect because a bill does not have to go to a subcommittee.

(c) is incorrect because a bill only goes to the president when it has passed both houses in identical form.

(d) is incorrect because a bill in the House must go to the Rules committee before going to the floor.

(e) is correct because after being discussed and marked up in committee, a bill goes to the Rules Committee, which will schedule it for debate on the floor of the House.

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10. Which of the following is the best example of legislative oversight?
- (a) is incorrect because the vice president presiding over the Senate is not an example of oversight.
 - (b) is incorrect because the vice president presiding over the Senate is not an example of oversight.
 - (c) is incorrect because the vice president presiding over the Senate is not an example of oversight.
 - (d) is correct because oversight committees routinely hold hearings and ask questions of members of an agency to investigate claims of misuse of funds.**
 - (e) is incorrect because the vice president presiding over the Senate is not an example of oversight.

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11. All of the following is true of Congress EXCEPT
- (a) is incorrect because most members of Congress are professional politicians.
 - (b) is incorrect because the majority of incumbents get reelected.
 - (c) is correct because women make up significantly less than 50% in both houses of Congress, with only 78 women in the House and only 20 in the Senate.**
 - (d) is incorrect because 1/3 of the members of Congress have studied the law.
 - (e) is incorrect because being a member of Congress was not a career for most of the members during the 19th century.

Page reference: 362, AP Topic: Congress

12. The second most powerful official in Washington, D.C., after the president is
- (a) is incorrect because the U.S. Senate *pro tempore* has fewer powers than the Speaker of the House.
 - (b) is incorrect because the chief justice of the Supreme Court has fewer powers than the Speaker of the House.
 - (c) is correct because the Speaker of the House is a member of the majority party who has both formal and informal powers and is second in line in presidential succession. The Speaker is the most powerful member of Congress.**
 - (d) is incorrect because the vice president has fewer powers than the Speaker of the House.

(e) is incorrect because the majority party whip has fewer powers than the Speaker of the House.

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13. Most of the work in Congress is done

(a) is incorrect because not all bills make it to the floor.

(b) is incorrect because not all bills make it to the president.

(c) is incorrect because lobbyists are not part of Congress.

(d) is incorrect because select committees have a focused, but limited area of responsibility.

(e) is correct because standing committees are permanent, subject-matter committees that handle bills in different policy areas and through which all bills must pass in both houses.

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14. Differences in House and Senate bills are resolved by

(a) is incorrect because a bill cannot go to the president until the differences are resolved.

(b) is incorrect because the Speaker of the House cannot resolve the differences alone.

(c) is incorrect because the Senate Rules Committee deals with the rules of that body and does not resolve differences in bills.

(d) is incorrect because standing committee chairs cannot resolve the differences.

(e) is correct because conference committees are formed when the Senate and the House pass different versions of the same bill.

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15. All of the following are true of congressional oversight EXCEPT

(a) is incorrect because even though oversight is important, members of Congress spend more time on other matters.

(b) is incorrect because oversight is administered through the committee system.

(c) is correct because oversight is Congress's monitoring of the bureaucracy and its administration of policy, performed mainly through hearings, and occurs especially in times of scandal.

(d) is incorrect because the biggest obstacle of oversight is the lack of electoral advantage.

(e) is incorrect because members do spend more time on oversight when there is a scandal.

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16. The term for redrawing Congressional districts to favor a particular political party is
- (a) is incorrect because apportionment paradox is not an accurate term for the description.
 - (b) is correct because gerrymandering is the drawing of congressional districts to produce a particular electoral outcome (usually in favor of a particular party) without regard to the shape of the district.**
 - (c) is incorrect because redistricting is not an accurate term for the description.
 - (d) is incorrect because redlining is not an accurate term for the description.
 - (e) is incorrect because malapportionment is not an accurate term for the description.

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17. This office is involved in the preparation of Congress' budget.
- (a) is incorrect because the Office of Management and Budget prepares the president's budget.
 - (b) is incorrect because the General Accounting Office is the audit and investigative arm of Congress.
 - (c) is incorrect because the Congressional Accounting Office does not deal with the budget.
 - (d) is incorrect because the Office of Congressional Management and Budget does not deal with the budget.
 - (e) is correct because the Congressional Budget Office advises Congress on the probable consequences of its decisions, and forecasts revenues.**

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18. In the House of Representatives, _____ controls the scheduling of bills for debate.
- (a) is incorrect because the House Ways and Means Committee does not control the scheduling of bills for debate.
 - (b) is incorrect because the Speaker of the House does not control the scheduling of bills for debate.
 - (c) is correct because the House Rules Committee reviews most bills coming from a House committee before they go to the full House.**

(d) is incorrect because the Chief Administrative Officer does not control the scheduling of bills for debate.

(e) is incorrect because the chief justice of the Supreme Court does not control the scheduling of bills for debate.

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19. The power of impeachment belongs to

(a) is incorrect because the Senate does not possess the power of impeachment.

(b) is correct because the power of impeachment, the political equivalent of indictment in criminal law, was given to the House of Representatives by the Constitution.

(c) is incorrect because a federal grand jury does not possess the power of impeachment.

(d) is incorrect because the Supreme Court does not possess the power of impeachment.

(e) is incorrect because the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court does not possess the power of impeachment.

Page reference: 403-405, AP Topics: Congress and The major formal and informal institutional arrangements of power

20. The custom followed in Congress specifying that majority party members with the longest record of service will become committee chairs is

(a) is incorrect because senatorial courtesy is a tradition related to the appointment of federal judges.

(b) is incorrect because ageism refers to discrimination based on age.

(c) is correct because the seniority rule is a legislative practice that assigns the chair of a committee or subcommittee to the member of the majority party with the longest continuous service on the committee.

(d) is incorrect because the elder custom is not an accurate term for the description.

(e) is incorrect because senior incumbency is not an accurate term for the description.

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Free-Response Questions

This rubric provides examples of many, but not all of the possible correct responses to the free-response questions.

1. Occasionally, one party will have control of Congress and the presidency. This will give the majority party advantages in Congress, yet passing legislation is still difficult.
 - a. Describe the legislative advantages of the majority party in Congress with respect to both committee structure and leadership.
 - The majority party in Congress has numerous advantages in the legislative process. All committee chairs come from the majority party and there are more members of the majority party on committees. The chair of the committee can decide to hold a vote on moving a piece of legislation to the next stage, and is usually successful since he has more members from his party on the committee. The majority party also selects the Speaker of the House, who chairs the Rules Committee, schedules legislation, oversees the rules for the legislation, and oversees the debate on the legislation.
 - b. Explain why, even with single-party control, passing legislation is difficult. Use two examples to support your explanation.
 - Even when one party controls both the White House and Congress, passing legislation is still difficult. There are many things that can stop legislation from passing. First, there is no guarantee of party discipline. One defecting member of a political party has the potential to slow the legislation. Oftentimes members within a party will disagree significantly during the markup process. One committee chair can also essentially hold a piece of legislation hostage in committee. Finally, in the Senate, there are maneuvers that give the minority party power, such as filibustering. All a minority party senator has to do is declare their intent to filibuster, and then there is a requirement that 60 votes cut off the filibuster. If the majority party does not have 60 in the Senate, passing any legislation will be difficult.
2. Congress has several nonlegislative functions. Describe the relevance of each of the following and provide an example.
 - a. oversight of the bureaucracy

- One nonlegislative function of Congress is oversight of the federal bureaucracy. This occurs when a committee investigates how a federal department or agency is doing its job. Normally, Congress does this by holding hearings and asking questions of federal employees. This information-gathering process results in reports, recommendations and, often, new legislation. This is done publicly, and video clips of these hearings are often shown on television. One example is the 9/11 Commission. This commission was created to try to figure out how our intelligence system could perform better and avoid another 9/11 catastrophe. Hearings were held and a major report was published, which resulted in the reorganization of U.S. intelligence services.

b. confirmation of political appointees

- Another nonlegislative function of Congress is confirming presidential appointees. Most often, the Senate Judiciary Committee performs this function. The committee holds a hearing and interviews the potential nominee. Former employers and those who know the nominee may also testify. The committee makes a recommendation about whether or not to approve the nominee and then the full Senate must vote by a simple majority in order for the nominee to be confirmed. One recent example is Michael Mukasey's nomination as U.S. attorney general.

c. impeachment

- Finally, impeachment is a nonlegislative function. If the president has committed a "high crime or misdemeanor," then the House may conduct an investigation of wrongdoing. The House then votes by simple majority and the Senate can conduct a trial to see if the allegations warrant removal of the president from office. The Senate is required to vote by a two-thirds majority in order to remove the president.