

□ Review Questions

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Which demographic group is the most underrepresented in Congress?
 - a. African Americans
 - b. Latinos
 - c. Asians
 - d. women
 - e. upper income

2. Which of the following is most likely to determine a candidate's chance of getting elected to Congress?
 - a. their personal wealth
 - b. their connections to the media
 - c. their incumbency status
 - d. their campaign style
 - e. the promises they make to their constituents

3. Riders are frequently unpopular with the general public because
 - a. the public does not understand them.
 - b. they funnel federal money into targeted areas.
 - c. they are secret.
 - d. lobbyists oppose them.
 - e. they are unconstitutional.

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. Ways and Means
 - b. Rules
 - c. Education
 - d. Government Reform
 - e. Agriculture

5. Descriptive representation refers to
 - a. representing the interests of groups.
 - b. serving constituents through pork barrel projects.
 - c. representing constituents by mirroring their personal, politically relevant characteristics.
 - d. living in the geographical area of one's constituents.
 - e. All of the above.

6. A senator can effectively prevent the Senate from voting by
 - a. conducting oversight.
 - b. filibustering.
 - c. introducing another bill.
 - d. holding hearings.
 - e. no known process, because the rules are very structured.
7. Which of the following ends debate in the Senate?
 - a. cloture
 - b. vote by the Rules Committee
 - c. conference committee
 - d. markup
 - e. rider
8. Most of the time, members of Congress vote with
 - a. the president.
 - b. their state.
 - c. celebrities.
 - d. their party.
 - e. the lobbyists.
9. After a House committee reviews a bill and writes its report, the bill goes to the
 - a. Senate.
 - b. appropriate subcommittee.
 - c. president.
 - d. floor for debate.
 - e. House Rules Committee.
10. Which of the following is the best example of legislative oversight?
 - a. The vice president presides over the Senate.
 - b. The Rules Committee amends a bill.
 - c. Debate is limited.
 - d. A hearing is held to investigate misuse of funds within a federal agency.
 - e. Riders are not allowed.
11. All of the following is true of Congress EXCEPT
 - a. Most members of Congress today are professional politicians.
 - b. The majority of incumbents get reelected.
 - c. More than 50% of legislators are women.
 - d. About 1/3 have studied law.
 - e. Congress was not a career for most of the members during the 19th century.
12. The second most powerful official in Washington, D.C., after the president is the
 - a. U.S. Senate *pro tempore*.
 - b. chief justice of the Supreme Court.
 - c. Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - d. vice president.
 - e. majority party whip.

13. Most of the work in Congress is done
 - a. on the floor of the House.
 - b. in conjunction with the president.
 - c. in meetings with lobbyists.
 - d. in select committees.
 - e. in standing committees.

14. Differences in House and Senate bills are resolved by
 - a. the President.
 - b. the Speaker of the House.
 - c. the Senate Rules committee.
 - d. the standing committee chairs.
 - e. conference committees.

15. All of the following are true of congressional oversight EXCEPT
 - a. Members tend to spend more time on things other than oversight.
 - b. Oversight is administered through the committee system.
 - c. Members spend less time on oversight when there is a scandal.
 - d. The biggest obstacle of oversight is the lack of electoral advantage.
 - e. Members spend more time on oversight when there is a scandal.

16. The term for redrawing Congressional districts to favor a particular political party is
 - a. apportionment paradox.
 - b. gerrymandering.
 - c. redistricting.
 - d. redlining.
 - e. malapportionment.

17. This office is involved in the preparation of Congress' budget.
 - a. Office of Management and Budget
 - b. General Accounting Office
 - c. Congressional Accounting Office
 - d. Office of Congressional Management and Budget
 - e. Congressional Budget Office

18. In the House of Representatives, the _____ controls the scheduling of bills for debate.
 - a. House Ways and Means Committee
 - b. Speaker of the House
 - c. House Rules Committee
 - d. Chief Administrative Officer
 - e. House Administration Committee

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.