

12.8

Learning Objective 12.8: Assess the role of presidential power in the American democracy and the president's impact on the scope of government. (p. 436)

Understanding the American Presidency

- There is always a fear of a presidential power that is harmful to democracy, however, there are many checks on presidential power.

For Additional Review

Take notes on the following areas of increased presidential power:

1. war powers
2. diplomacy by executive agreements
3. secrecy and executive privilege
4. government by veto

For each of the above areas of presidential power, explain how it has increased presidential power. Use these notes to help prepare for the unit test and the AP Government and Politics Exam.

Create a chart listing the roles of the president. Under each role, list the powers the president exercises when performing the duties for each role. Use this chart when reviewing and studying for the unit test and the AP Government and Politics Exam.

□ Review Questions

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Congress can override a presidential veto of legislation
 - a. by appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court.
 - b. by negotiating a deal with the vice president.
 - c. by getting approval of the bill in three-fourths of the state legislatures.
 - d. with a majority vote of the House Rules Committee.
 - e. with a two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress.

2. According to the Constitution, the vice president
 - a. chairs all cabinet meetings.
 - b. is ineligible to run for president after two terms as vice president.
 - c. is the president of the Senate.
 - d. must be of the same party as the president.
 - e. is an ex officio member of the Council of Economic Advisors.

3. Which of the following presidential appointments requires Senate confirmation?
 - a. press secretary
 - b. chief of staff
 - c. White House counsel
 - d. Council of Economic Advisors
 - e. secretary of state

4. All of the following are true statements about the impeachment process EXCEPT
 - a. the chief justice of the United States presides over the trial.
 - b. the Supreme Court decides guilt or innocence.
 - c. the trial must be held in public.
 - d. the Senate serves as the jury.
 - e. the House of Representatives brings the formal charges against the president.

5. A president is most likely to gain public support for a public policy proposal by
 - a. sending the vice president out to conduct high-profile town hall meetings.
 - b. placing ads in respected newspapers with large circulations.
 - c. vetoing a bill passed by Congress.
 - d. appealing to the public directly via the broadcast media.
 - e. including the proposal in his or her party's campaign platform.

6. The Twenty-Fifth Amendment is significant because it
 - a. clarifies the terms under which the vice president may become president if the president becomes disabled.
 - b. defines the line of succession to the president.
 - c. clarifies the formal roles, duties, and responsibilities of all parties involved in a presidential impeachment trial.
 - d. defines the process to be used for creating new cabinet positions.
 - e. clarifies Congress's role in the realm of U.S. foreign policy.

7. One of the primary tools presidents use to control the bureaucracy is
 - a. the line-item veto.
 - b. congressional oversight committees.
 - c. campaign finance reform.
 - d. the presidential power to appoint and remove top-level administrators.
 - e. the presidential power to pardon.

8. Which of the following statements about the president as commander in chief is true?
 - a. The president has the authority to declare war for up to 60 days without consulting Congress.
 - b. The president decides if and when to use weapons of mass destruction in times of war.
 - c. Presidents with no prior military experience are not allowed to make major military decisions alone.
 - d. The president is required by law to consult with the Joint Chiefs of Staff before deploying the military.
 - e. The president is a nonvoting member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

9. Which of the following are powers of the president?
- I. conducting diplomatic relations
 - II. negotiating treaties
 - III. dismissing Supreme Court justices
 - IV. appointing cabinet officers
- a. IV only
 - b. I, II, and III only
 - c. I, II, and IV only
 - d. I, III, and IV only
 - e. II, III, and IV only
10. Which of the following is NOT in the line of presidential succession?
- a. chief justice of the Supreme Court
 - b. secretary of state
 - c. secretary of the interior
 - d. attorney general
 - e. Speaker of the House
11. The vice president possesses only one real constitutional duty, which is
- a. to break tie votes in the Senate.
 - b. to serve as an advisor to the Supreme Court.
 - c. to break tie votes in the House of Representatives.
 - d. to act as chief diplomat.
 - e. to serve as president of the House of Representatives.
12. This is a formal agreement negotiated by the president of the United States and one or more nations, requiring approval of the Senate by a two-thirds vote.
- a. treaty
 - b. executive order
 - c. executive agreement
 - d. executive memorandum
 - e. mandate
13. All of the following are powers of the president EXCEPT
- a. the power to convene Congress
 - b. the power to nominate federal judges
 - c. the power to veto legislation
 - d. the power to declare war
 - e. the power to recognize diplomats
14. The President and Congress tend to agree
- a. during the first year of a president's first term.
 - b. during the first year of a president's second term.
 - c. when the president is a lame duck.
 - d. when there is an unpopular president.
 - e. when there is an unpopular Congress.

15. The body within the White House Staff of the President that advises the president on economic issues is
- the Treasury Office.
 - the National Economic Council.
 - the Office of Management and Budget.
 - the Council of Economic Advisors.
 - the Federal Reserve.
16. Which of the following are the formal constitutional qualifications for becoming president?
- Must be a resident of the U.S. for at least 14 years.
 - Must be at least 35 years old.
 - Must be a white male.
 - Must be a natural born citizen.
 - Must have served in elective office.
- I and II
 - II, III, and V
 - I, IV, and V
 - I, II, and IV
 - II, IV and V
17. All of the following are in the Executive Office of the President EXCEPT
- the Council of Economic Advisors
 - the General Accounting Office
 - the National Security Council
 - the Office of the Vice President
 - the Office of Management and Budget
18. The annual statement the president presents to Congress and the nation is called the
- State of the Country Address.
 - State of the Budget Address.
 - State of the Union Address.
 - State of the State Address.
 - Congressional Oversight Address.
19. The director of which of the following departments is considered MOST central to the president's agencies?
- Energy
 - Management and Budget
 - Defense
 - Homeland Security
 - Treasury

20. This amendment to the Constitution established term limits for the president.
- a. Twelfth
 - b. Twenty-Second
 - c. Twenty-Fifth
 - d. Twenty-First
 - e. First

Free-Response Questions

1. The president is the single most powerful individual in government. Some of the president's most important responsibilities and powers fall in the area of national security.
- a. Identify and explain two national security powers or responsibilities granted to the president in the Constitution.
 - b. Identify and describe two constitutional limitations on presidential national security power.
2. The president plays an important policymaking role in the federal system.
- a. Identify and explain two ways the president influences policy.
 - b. Identify and describe two limitations on the president's policymaking power.

□ Answers and Explanations

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Congress can override a presidential veto of legislation
- (a) is incorrect because the power to override a veto belongs to Congress.
 - (b) is incorrect because the vice-president does not have a role in overriding a veto.
 - (c) is incorrect because state legislatures do not have a role in overriding a veto.
 - (d) is incorrect because the House Rules committee does not have the power to override a veto.
 - (e) is correct because, while a presidential veto usually effectively kills proposed legislation, Congress can override the veto with a two-thirds majority vote in both houses, and has done so in about four percent of the vetoes. The Constitution gives the president the power to veto as a means to check Congress, and it gives Congress the power to override a veto as a means of checking the president.