



# **GOVERNMENT**

**Practice Test** 





1



- What is the **main** reason that fundraisers are important for a candidate for public office?
  - **A** to help pay for the needs and wants of citizens
  - **B** to provide personal income for the candidate during a campaign
  - **C** to guarantee the candidate wins the election
  - **D** to help pay for advertising and personal appearances
- **2** Read the information.

On July 26, 1948, President Truman issued Executive Order 9981 establishing equality of treatment and opportunity in the armed services.

What was the **most likely** goal of this presidential action?

- A to protect the rights of citizens
- B to weaken national defense
- **C** to strengthen ties with allies
- **D** to increase economic growth





# **3** Read the excerpt.

"The United States, in Congress assembled, shall never engage in a war, . . . nor enter into any treaties or alliances, nor coin money, . . . unless nine states [of thirteen] assent to the same. . . ."

—Articles of Confederation

Which principle of government is **best** exemplified by this excerpt?

- A majority rule
- **B** popular sovereignty
- C checks and balances
- **D** representative government

# 4 Read the excerpt.

"November 15, 1990, marks a milestone in Clean Air Act history . . . [This milestone was] the signing of the 1990 Amendments. These amendments set the stage for protecting the ozone layer, reducing acid rain and toxic [substances], and improving air quality and visibility."

—"Celebrating the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990," Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

What was the **primary** purpose of these amendments?

- A to decrease pollution
- B to increase species diversity
- C to create national parks
- D to establish global land-use agreements



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>assent—agree



#### 5 Part A

What was an impact of the Supreme Court decision in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) on the United States?

- A Federal courts can intervene in redistricting cases.
- **B** The U.S. Supreme Court can rule congressional laws unconstitutional.
- **C** Criminal suspects must be advised of their legal rights.

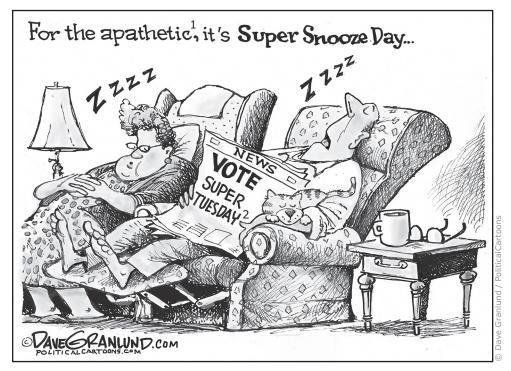
#### Part B

What was an impact of the Supreme Court decision in *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) on the United States?

- **A** Federal courts can intervene in redistricting cases.
- **B** The U.S. Supreme Court can rule congressional laws unconstitutional.
- C Criminal suspects must be advised of their legal rights.



**6** Study the political cartoon.



<sup>1</sup> apathetic—showing or feeling no interest, enthusiasm, or concern

Which conclusion is **best** supported by the perspective illustrated in this cartoon?

- **A** The majority of citizens obtain information about candidates from newspapers.
- **B** Many potential voters do not participate in the political process.
- C The majority of citizens do not donate money to political parties.
- **D** Many potential voters participate in the political process by running for elected office.

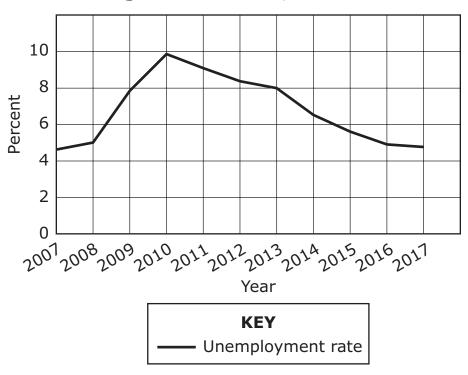


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Super Tuesday—a day on which a large number of U.S. states hold primary elections



# **7** Study the graph.

# Percent of Unemployed Americans\* Ages 16 and Over, 2007–2017



\*Data is from January of each year.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Which action by the Federal Reserve **most likely** contributed to the trend in unemployment from 2010 to 2017?

- A selling securities
- B withholding bank loans
- C lowering the discount rate
- $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{D}}$  increasing the reserve requirement



**8** Read the headline.



Which government action contributed **most** to the implementation of this fine?

- A the ratification of a constitutional amendment banning racial discrimination
- B the enactment of a local law designed to promote economic equity
- **C** the passage of legislation protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities
- **D** the court ruling that individuals hurt on someone else's property can file a civil suit
- **9** Which **two** types of government are generally considered to be **most** efficient in their decision-making processes?
  - **A** representative democracy
  - **B** dictatorship
  - C direct democracy
  - **D** oligarchy
  - **E** confederacy





- Which newspaper headline provides the **best** example of limited government?
  - A Senator Indicted for Accepting a Bribe
  - **B** Military Dictator Refuses to Give Up Power
  - C Individual Donates Money to Political Campaign
  - **D** Supreme Court Justice Retires after Ten Years on Bench
- **11** Study the table and use it to answer the constructed-response question.

#### **Learner's Permit Holders in Maryland**

Must hold a permit for at least 9 months before becoming eligible for a provisional license

Must complete a minimum of 60 hours of driving practice with someone at least age 21 who has held a driver's license for 3 years or more

Must submit a completed Learner's Permit School Attendance Certification Form if under 16

May not use any wireless communication devices while driving if under 18, unless making a 911 emergency call

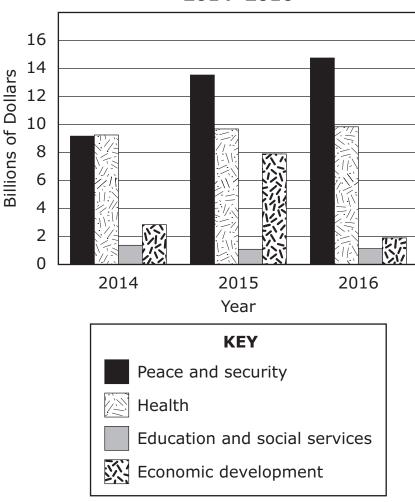
- Explain ways in which state governments regulate driving.
- Explain how the requirements for learner's permit holders influence public safety.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Enter your answer in the space provided.



# **12** Study the graph.

Selected U.S. Foreign Aid Budget, 2014–2016



Source: www.foreignassistance.gov

The data in this graph support the claim that the **primary** purpose of U.S. foreign aid is to

- A ensure domestic safety by promoting peace abroad.
- **B** help countries change their traditional forms of government.
- **C** protect the domestic environment by monitoring global resource use.
- **D** improve the education systems of underdeveloped countries.

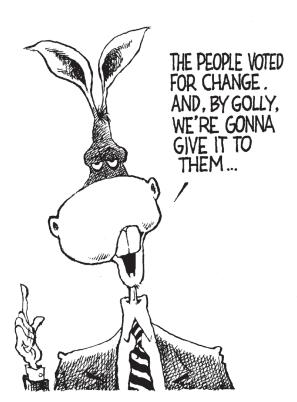


- When a person is denied a job on the basis of race, gender, or religion, it is considered a violation of
  - **A** consent of the governed.
  - **B** equal protection.
  - **C** writ of habeas corpus.
  - **D** eminent domain.





# **14** Study the political cartoon.





COBERT ARIAIL © Spartanburg Herald-Journal. Reprinted with permission of ICMEEL SYNDICATION for UFS. All rights reserved.

Which statement **best** explains why this cartoon illustrates a mixed economy?

- A The employee sells a variety of products to the customers.
- **B** The employee can use the wages earned to pay for living expenses.
- **C** The government tells a private business how much to pay its employees.
- **D** The business sets the prices that customers pay for the food.





### **15** Read the information.

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

-Title IX, Education Amendments Act of 1972

What was the **main** purpose of this legislation?

- A to decrease men's involvement in collegiate activities
- B to reduce funding for men's high school athletics
- C to give women preferential treatment when applying to universities
- D to help ensure women receive equal treatment in school activities



# **16** Study the political cartoon.



\* EPA—Environmental Protection Agency

Which statement is **most related** to the idea illustrated in this cartoon?

- A Policies that support the environment help to increase the revenue of the government.
- **B** Policies designed to protect the environment often conflict with corporate goals.
- **C** The Environmental Protection Agency is viewed favorably by corporations.
- **D** The Environmental Protection Agency is unable to respond to natural disasters.





# **17** Read the excerpt.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.— That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath [shown] that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed."

—Declaration of Independence, 1776

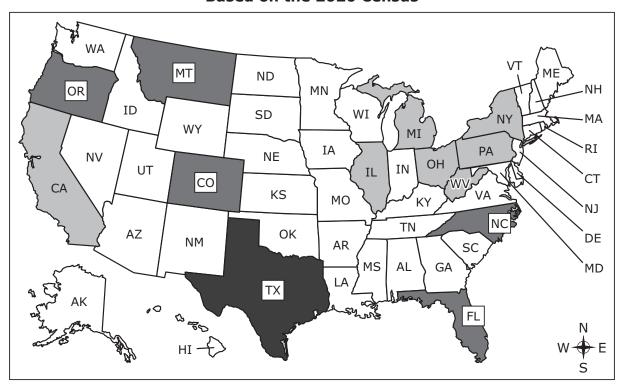
Which **two** phrases **best** exemplify the principle of popular sovereignty?

- A "that all men are created equal . . ."
- **B** "that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness . . ."
- **C** "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed . . ."
- **D** "it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government . . ."
- **E** "Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes . . ."



# **18** Study the map.

# Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives Based on the 2020 Census





Source: U.S. Census Bureau

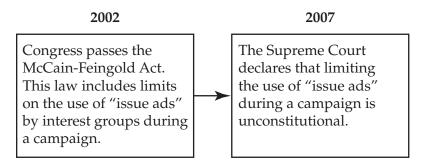
Which conclusion is **best** supported by this map?

- A The population of New York (NY) increased.
- B The population of Oregon (OR) remained the same.
- C The population of Florida (FL) remained the same.
- **D** The population of Texas (TX) increased.





# **19** Study the timeline.



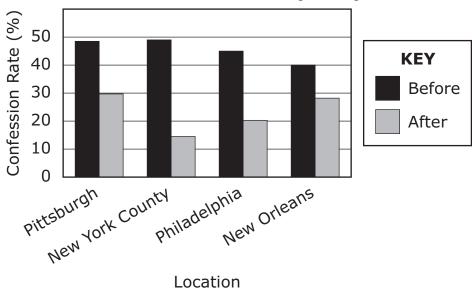
Which of these arguments would a supporter of the Supreme Court's 2007 decision make?

- **A** The McCain-Feingold Act violates freedom of speech.
- **B** The Supreme Court has judicial authority over the President.
- **C** Election advertising is regulated by the Electoral College.
- **D** A lobbyist's rights are protected by the 14th Amendment.
- **20** What is one benefit of an open primary?
  - **A** It allows those not associated with any particular political party to vote.
  - **B** It allows those who have not registered to vote to have a voice in the election.
  - **C** It limits voter choice to the candidates of two main political parties.
  - **D** It expands voting to those under 18 years of age.



# 21 Study the graph.

# Confession Rates Before and After *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966)



Source: Paul G. Cassell,

"Miranda's Social Costs: An Empirical Reassessment,"

Northwestern Law Review 90, 1996, p. 387

Which conclusion about the impact of *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) on the rights of the accused does this data support?

- A Defendants more often request a public trial.
- **B** Defendants more often stay silent during questioning.
- **C** Defendants more often appeal the outcome of a trial.
- **D** Defendants more often agree to plead guilty.



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19

- Which government action would **most** encourage population growth in Maryland?
  - **A** decreasing the budget for public transportation
  - **B** enacting stricter labor regulations
  - **C** funding renewal projects in urban areas
  - **D** designating land for a national park



#### 23 Part A

Read the excerpt.

The President . . . with the Advice and Consent of the Senate . . . shall appoint Judges of the Supreme Court.

—Article II, U.S. Constitution

Which constitutional principle is **best** illustrated by this excerpt?

- **A** checks and balances
- **B** separation of powers
- **C** popular sovereignty

#### Part B

Read the excerpt.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union . . . do ordain and establish this Constitution.

—Preamble, U.S. Constitution

Which constitutional principle is **best** illustrated by this excerpt?

- A checks and balances
- B separation of powers
- **C** popular sovereignty



- Which issue would a candidate **most likely** address to attract the votes of senior citizens?
  - A local curfew laws
  - B commuter carpool lanes
  - **C** college tuition aid
  - **D** social security benefits
- The state of Maryland is a leader in environmental preservation and restoration. For example, Maryland aims to protect the state's farmland and other natural resources while enhancing existing communities.

Select the **three** government actions or strategies that would help meet these aims.

- **A** improve public transportation
- **B** encourage cities to expand into suburbs
- **C** create bicycle lanes along highways
- **D** build tourist attractions in the Chesapeake Bay region
- **E** design workplaces and homes in the same buildings
- F offer tax incentives to bring new employers to Maryland



# **26** Read the excerpt.

"The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has rescheduled public hearings on whether to allow companies to build wind turbines in state forests in Western Maryland."

-Baltimore Sun, January 2008

The situation described in the news article illustrates a possible conflict between finding alternative sources of energy and

- A protecting the environment.
- **B** funding national defense.
- **C** enhancing the quality of education.
- **D** promoting economic equity.



A student has been learning about the foreign policy goals of the United States, including national security, and about individual freedoms guaranteed to citizens. Her teacher has asked her to consider whether the government should prioritize individual freedoms or national security when making new policies. The student's compelling question is this:

# In times of national crisis, should the government be able to limit individual freedoms to protect national security?

The student has found the following sources. Use the sources to answer the questions that follow.

#### **Background Information**

On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the United States. This led to massive changes in how the United States addressed national security. The Department of Homeland Security was created to oversee the national strategy to safeguard the country against terrorism and respond to any future attacks.

The USA PATRIOT Act (2001) was designed to give law enforcement officers the ability to detect and prevent terrorism. It included provisions that allowed law enforcement to expand their use of surveillance and wiretapping to investigate terrorism. An amendment in 2008 allowed the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to authorize warrantless surveillance of Americans' international electronic communications (such as emails, Internet calls, etc.).

Critics of these provisions claim that they infringe upon individual rights. This increased focus on protecting the United States from national security threats since 9/11 has led to a debate over the nation's priorities.

# **Key Terms**

- surveillance—close observation, especially of a suspected spy or criminal
- wiretap—an act of using a listening device to conduct surveillance, typically over a phone line



#### Source A

Procon.org is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public charity that uses professional research to review controversial issues and create pros and cons for each side. Researchers cite multiple sources to support both sides of the issue being evaluated.

#### **Pros and Cons of the USA PATRIOT Act**

Pro	Con
Gives the federal government the tools they need to effectively protect the nation from terrorism	Was passed too quickly after 9/11 without much consideration of the effects on personal liberties
Updates U.S. laws in response to current Internet environment	Gives unnecessary and permanent powers to the federal government that violate civil liberties
Actually enhances civil liberties by protecting national freedoms	Violates the Fourth Amendment protection of unreasonable search and seizure



#### Source B

John Ashcroft served as the U.S. Attorney General from 2001 to 2005 during the George W. Bush administration. He gave this speech in Boise, Idaho, while touring the country to promote the USA PATRIOT Act.

"First, the Patriot Act provides critical investigative tools to law enforcement. The Patriot Act gives investigators the ability to fight terror, using many of the court-approved tools that have been used successfully for many years in drug, fraud, and organized crime cases. For instance, the Patriot Act allows agents to conduct investigations without tipping off terrorists. . . .

"Second, the Patriot Act brings our laws up to date with modern technology. In an age when terrorists have cellular, even satellite, phones, we must anticipate, out-think, and adapt to the new tactics and technology of our terrorist foes. Under the Patriot Act, prosecutors may now use a 'roving wiretap' to track a terror suspect's communication even when the suspected terrorist switches, changes, or abandons phones to avoid detection. . . .

"Third, the Patriot Act has expanded our capacity to build strong teams—teams that many of you are a part of—teams dedicated to uncovering and stopping terrorists before they strike. We have stronger teams today because law enforcement and federal prosecutors can now share information and cooperate better with each other. From police officers to FBI agents to prosecutors and intelligence agents, the Patriot Act allows our expanded teams to 'connect the dots' and save lives."

—Attorney General John Ashcroft, August 25, 2003



#### Source C

This article was written by a staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) shortly before a federal appeals court was scheduled to review the constitutionality of a federal surveillance program. The ACLU is a nationwide nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works to defend and preserve individual rights and liberties protected by the U.S. Constitution.

"A federal court will be [carefully examining] one of the National Security Agency's worst spying programs on Monday. The case has the potential to restore crucial privacy protections for the millions of Americans who use the internet to communicate with family, friends, and others overseas.

"The unconstitutional surveillance program at issue is called PRISM<sup>1</sup>, under which the NSA,<sup>2</sup> FBI,<sup>3</sup> and CIA<sup>4</sup> gather and search through Americans' international emails, internet calls, and chats without obtaining a warrant. . . .

"The government attempts to defend this spying by pointing out that its 'targets' are foreigners located abroad. But this is no defense at all. Americans regularly communicate with individuals overseas, and the government uses . . . surveillance to collect and sift through many of these private communications. . . .

"Now the courts must do their part to ensure that Americans' online communications receive the full protection of the Fourth Amendment."

—Patrick Toomey,

"The NSA Continues to Violate Americans' Internet Privacy Rights." ACLU.org

<sup>1</sup>PRISM—stands for "Planning Tool for Resource Integration, Synchronization, and Management," and is a "data tool" designed to collect and process "foreign intelligence" that passes through American servers

<sup>2</sup>NSA—National Security Agency

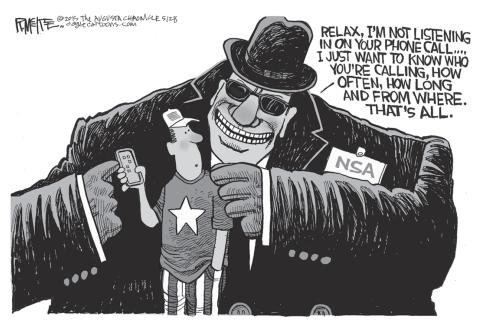
<sup>3</sup>FBI—Federal Bureau of Investigation

<sup>4</sup>CIA—Central Intelligence Agency



#### Source D

Rick McKee is the staff political cartoonist for the *Augusta Chronicle* and a syndicated cartoonist for over 850 newspapers.



\* The National Security Agency (NSA) is a national-level intelligence agency of the United States Department of Defense.

Source: Rick McKee, 2015



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#### Source E

Stuart S. Taylor was a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy organization in Washington, D.C. He is currently a freelance writer and author focusing on legal and policy issues and a contributing editor at *National Journal*, a media outlet covering U.S. political news. He occasionally practices law.

"When dangers increase, liberties shrink. That has been our history, especially in wartime. And today we face dangers without precedent . . .

"How can we avert catastrophe and hold down the number of [civilian casualties]? Our best hope is to prevent al-Qaida from getting nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons and smuggling them into this country. . . .

"The urgency of penetrating secret terrorist cells makes it imperative for Congress—and the nation—to undertake a candid, searching, and systematic reassessment of the civil liberties rules that restrict the government's core investigative and detention powers. Robust national debate and deliberate congressional action should replace what has so far been largely ad hoc¹ presidential improvisation. While the USA-PATRIOT Act—no model of careful deliberation—changed many rules for the better (and some for the worse), it did not touch some others that should be changed.

"Carefully crafted new legislation would be good not only for security but also for liberty. . . ."  $\,$ 

—Stuart S. Taylor, "Rights, Liberties, and Security: Recalibrating the Balance after September 11." Brookings Institution, 2003

<sup>1</sup>ad hoc—when necessary or needed



#### **27** Read the claim.

Claim: By 2001, technological advances had often gone beyond what the existing legal system could address.

Which part of Source A provides the best evidence that the USA PATRIOT Act tried to address this claim?

- A "Updates U.S. law in response to current Internet environment"
- **B** "Violates the Fourth Amendment protection of unreasonable search and seizure"
- **C** "Was passed too quickly after 9/11 without much consideration of effects on personal liberties"
- **D** "Actually enhances civil liberties by protecting national freedoms"
- 28 Source B can **best** be described as
  - **A** an illustration of an event.
  - **B** a transcript of a political speech.
  - **C** a social media post about a famous speech.
  - **D** an unbiased account of a political rally.
- Which claim is made in both Source C and Source D?
  - A Congress should increase cell phone regulation.
  - B Telephone regulation should be limited to international calls.
  - **C** Privacy rights prevent effective national security.
  - **D** Government surveillance is a privacy violation.



- **30** Why was Source E created?
  - **A** to describe the tragic events of September 11, 2001
  - **B** to outline legal violations associated with executive power
  - **C** to explain the powers of the executive and legislative branches during times of war
  - **D** to persuade lawmakers to develop new laws that better balance safety and individual rights
- Assume that the information provided in the sources is credible. Complete the following extended-response question:

# In times of national crisis, should the government be able to limit individual freedoms to protect national security?

- Develop a claim in response to the question.
- Cite evidence from the provided sources to support your claim.
- Use your knowledge of government in your response.

Enter your answer in the space provided.



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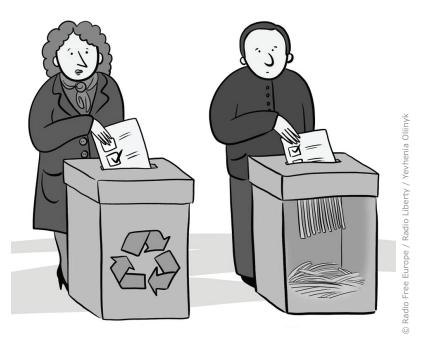


Government Practice Test 33



- **32** Which specific action is protected by the U.S. Bill of Rights?
  - A a journalist publishing an article that exposes government corruption
  - **B** a female citizen registering to vote in a local election
  - C a local business owner refusing to pay quarterly taxes
  - **D** a high school student signing up for a foreign-exchange program
- **33** Study the political cartoon.

#### **Voters at Ballot Boxes**



Which type of government is **most likely** the focus of this political cartoon?

- **A** dictatorship
- **B** parliamentary democracy
- **C** constitutional monarchy
- **D** presidential democracy



- **34** The **primary** purpose of a political action committee (PAC) is to
  - A keep citizens informed about political issues.
  - **B** monitor the actions of elected officials.
  - **C** promote laws designed to improve the economy.
  - **D** raise money for political campaigns.
- **35** Read the scenario.

A local store owner has accused a college student of theft. The college student was arrested by a police officer and is awaiting trial. The student's attorney has requested a jury trial.

Who is the defendant in this case?

- **A** the jury
- **B** the attorney
- **C** the store owner
- **D** the college student



- **36** Select the **three** characteristics of a command economy.
  - **A** Independent individuals or groups own businesses but must follow strict government regulations.
  - **B** The government owns the land and natural resources of the country.
  - **C** The government provides small business loans to promote entrepreneurship.
  - **D** Independent individuals or groups lease the rights to state-owned land and resources for commercial use.
  - **E** The laws of supply and demand are typically ignored.
  - **F** Consumer demand determines what is produced and when.
  - **G** The government controls the means of production, including factories.
- Congress plans to pass legislation designed to prevent the use of the Internet to steal personal information.

What is the **most likely** reason Congress would take this action?

- A to strengthen regulations on the content of electronic advertising
- **B** to encourage more business investment in computer technology
- C to protect the public from becoming victims of identity fraud
- **D** to provide due process rights to individuals illegally copying software



- **38** Which headline **best** illustrates an example of representative democracy?
  - A New Poll Shows Most Florida Citizens Favor Ending Cuban Trade Embargo
  - **B** Maryland College Students Sign Petition to Support Lowering Voting Age
  - C West Virginia Holds Special Election to Choose New U.S. Senator
  - D Local Activists Protest Recent Cuts in Kentucky's Transportation Spending
- **39** Read the headline.



Which government regulatory agency **most likely** took the social media influencer to court?

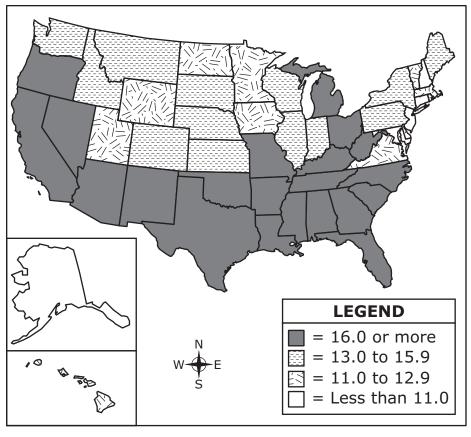
- **A** Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- **B** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- **C** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- **D** Federal Trade Commission (FTC)





### **40** Study the map.

Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months in the United States, 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The federal government would **most likely** use this information to

- A pass new laws regarding cyber security.
- **B** justify an increase in spending on national defense.
- **C** establish new environmental guidelines for national parks.
- **D** create programs to improve economic equity.



41 Study the political cartoon and use it to answer the constructed-response question.





- Describe the viewpoint presented in the cartoon.
- Explain why election districts may be gerrymandered.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

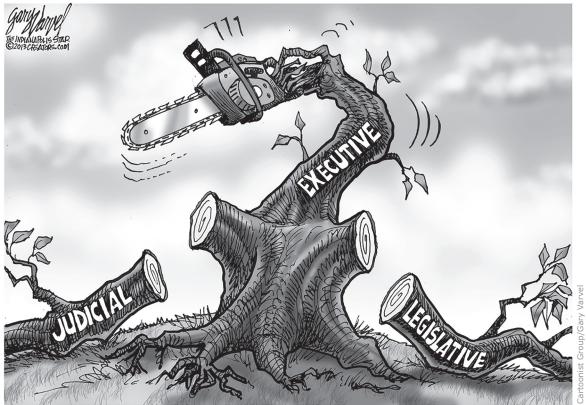
Enter your answer in the space provided.



- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) would be **most directly** involved in which situation?
  - **A** the establishment of global environmental regulations
  - **B** the creation of an international trade agreement
  - **C** a military attack on a member country
  - **D** an economic recession in a member country
- **43** Which legal principle must be met in order to obtain a search warrant?
  - A just compensation
  - **B** probable cause
  - C reasonable doubt
  - **D** double jeopardy



### **44** Study the political cartoon.



garyvarvel.com

Which principle of U.S. government does the political cartoonist imply the President is destroying?

- **A** federalism
- **B** individual rights
- **C** checks and balances
- **D** consent of the governed





**45** This photograph shows a 2017 rally in Maryland.



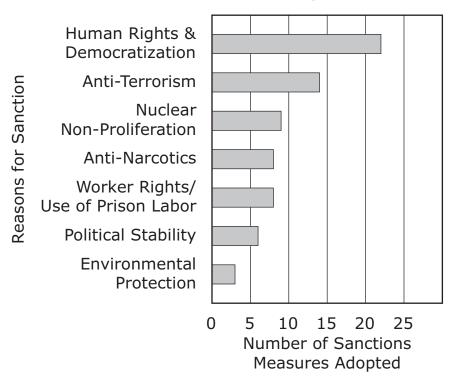
What was the **most likely** goal of this environmental rally?

- A to influence public policy in the state
- **B** to support equality for minority groups
- C to campaign for a particular state candidate
- $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{D}}$  to expose corrupt political practices



**46** Study the graph and use it to answer the constructed-response question.

### Reasons for Unilateral\* U.S. Sanctions on Other Countries, 1993–1996



Source: National Association of Manufacturers, 1997

- How has the United States used unilateral sanctions to achieve its foreign policy goals?
- Explain an alternative strategy that could also help accomplish these goals.
- Include details and examples from the graph to support your answer.

Enter your response in the space provided.



<sup>\*</sup>Unilateral—an action or decision performed by or affecting only one group or country without the agreement of others

### **47** Study the timeline.

- 1963 Equal Pay Act requires employers to pay all employees equally for equal work, regardless of whether the employees are male or female.
- 1978 Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 prohibits employment discrimination against female workers who are (or intend to become) pregnant, including discrimination in hiring, failure to promote, and wrongful termination.
- 2009 Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 clarifies discriminatory compensation laws and extends the time in which an employee has to file a lawsuit.

Which group of people are the acts on the timeline **most** designed to protect?

- **A** women
- **B** Asian Americans
- **C** persons with disabilities
- **D** African Americans



**48** Read the headline.

# U.S. President Signs Agreement with European Country U.S. to Purchase New Military Technology

The President most likely took the action mentioned in this headline to

- A protect the national security of the United States.
- **B** punish human rights violations by leaders of other countries.
- **C** support a focus on science education in the United States.
- **D** force democratic reforms in authoritarian countries.
- **49** Which federal policy would violate the powers reserved to the states?
  - A negotiating with leaders of foreign countries
  - **B** establishing military bases in state capitals
  - C drafting citizens for military service
  - **D** requiring states to teach a specific curriculum





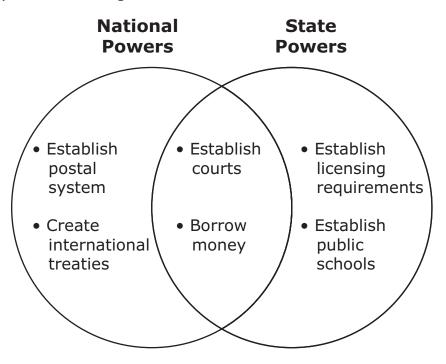
Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have arrested a suspect in a number of bank robberies.

Before bringing charges against this suspect, the government must first

- A provide the court with a written confession.
- **B** select an attorney for the defendant.
- **C** receive an indictment from a grand jury.
- **D** assign a judge to hear the case.
- Why would political candidates **most likely** use digital communications during election campaigns?
  - A to save money on campaign posters
  - **B** to share ideas directly with voters
  - C to avoid participating in political debates
  - **D** to hide information from the mainstream media
- Which type of government provides the **best** protection of individual rights?
  - **A** absolute monarchy
  - **B** parliamentary democracy
  - **C** dictatorship
  - **D** oligarchy



**53** Study the Venn diagram.



How does this diagram effectively illustrate the concept of federalism?

- **A** by showing the relationship between duties of local and state governments
- **B** by demonstrating the difference between domestic and foreign policies
- **C** by showing how power is shared between the national and state governments
- **D** by listing the functions of territorial and state governments



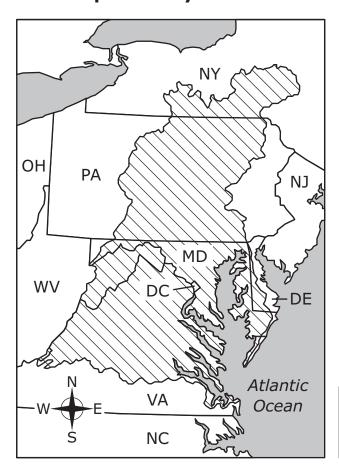
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49

**54** Study the map.

### **Chesapeake Bay Watershed**





The states in this region would **most likely** cooperate to

- A ensure citizens have access to natural gas and oil.
- **B** offer open spaces for economic development.
- **C** protect animal and plant life in the Chesapeake Bay.
- **D** work against federal regulation of the Chesapeake Bay.



### **55** Read the excerpt.

"The President wants me to argue that he is as powerful a monarch as Louis XIV, only four years at a time, and is not subject to the processes of any court in the land except the court of impeachment."

—attorney James St. Clair

#### Part A

Which court case is being referred to in this quotation?

- **A** Marbury v. Madison (1803)
- **B** *Baker v. Carr* (1962)
- **C** United States v. Nixon (1974)

### Part B

Which **two** statements **best** describe the impact of the Supreme Court case related to this quotation?

- A Presidents must comply with any legitimate demands of the other branches of government.
- **B** The Supreme Court can review legislative acts to determine their constitutionality.
- **C** Presidents are limited to serving two consecutive terms in office.
- **D** The use of executive privilege is limited to certain specific boundaries.
- **E** The Supreme Court can use the Fourteenth Amendment to review reapportionment cases.



### **56** Read the information.

There are 164 members of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Of all of the nonmembers in the world, Iran has the largest economy. In 2016, Iran reapplied to become a member of the WTO.

Which statement describes how Iran's membership would **most likely** affect the global economy?

- **A** Free trade would create monopolies on goods.
- **B** Lower tariffs would benefit consumers.
- **C** Production times for consumer goods would decrease.
- **D** New trade rules would encourage the use of nuclear energy.
- **57** Which headline illustrates civil law?
  - A Man Accepts Plea Bargain While Awaiting Trial
  - **B** Grand Jury Hands Down Two Count Indictment
  - C Mother Sues Grocery Store after Slipping on Spill
  - **D** Suspect Arrested in Local Fast Food Restaurant Burglary



This excerpt is from an article written by General Colin Powell. The ideals of military intervention explained in this article, known as the Powell Doctrine, heavily influenced U.S. foreign policy decisions through much of the 1990s and early 2000s.

"When the political objective is important, clearly defined and understood, when the risks are acceptable, and when the use of force can be effectively combined with diplomatic and economic policies, then clear . . . objectives must be given to the armed forces. These objectives must be firmly linked with the political objectives. We must not, for example, send military forces into a crisis with an unclear mission they cannot accomplish. . . .

"When force is used . . . in smooth coordination with diplomatic and economic policy—bullets may never have to fly. [War] should always be toward the end of the plan."

—General Colin Powell, 1992

Select the **two** statements with which a supporter of the views expressed in this excerpt would **most likely** agree.

- A Armed conflict is the best way to resolve global political disputes.
- **B** Military intervention should be used as a last resort to achieve foreign policy objectives.
- **C** U.S. citizens should clearly understand the foreign policy objectives of military actions.
- **D** Military intervention is most effective when followed by economic sanctions.
- **E** Military intervention is best utilized in combination with other foreign policy tools.
- **F** U.S. government officials should make most military decisions.



- **59** Which headline illustrates a power of local government?
  - A Plan Developed for Garbage and Litter Clean-up
  - **B** Constitution Amended to Change Voting Age
  - **C** New Requirements Enacted for Driving Licenses
  - **D** Post Offices to Close for Federal Holiday



A student is doing a report on the use of plea bargains in criminal trials. The compelling question is this:

### For a defendant, do the advantages of plea bargaining outweigh the disadvantages?

The student has found the following sources. Use the sources to answer the questions.

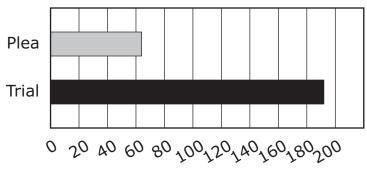
### **Background Information:**

In a plea bargain, prosecutors promise a lesser penalty or reduced criminal charge in exchange for a defendant's guilty plea. The majority of criminal cases are resolved using a plea bargain.

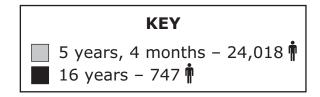


#### Source A

## Average Sentence for Federal Drug Defendants by Plea/Trial (Fiscal Year, 2012)



Average Prison Sentence (months)



Source: Human Rights Watch analysis of United States Sentencing Commission FY 2012 Individual Datafiles.



### Source B

This 2010 interview was hosted by National Public Radio (NPR) host Neal Conan. The interviewees are Laurie Levenson, a former federal prosecutor who is currently a professor at Loyola Law School, and Barry Scheck, co-director of the Innocence Project<sup>1</sup> at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and former president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Conan is interviewing them about the plea bargain process.

### Interview:

**Conan:** Can you give us an illustrative example of a case where you got an indictment, you think somebody is guilty and offer a plea instead of going to trial?

**Professor Laurie Levenson:** Oh, yes. It happens all the time. . . . Plea bargains sometimes come at the initiative of the defense, where they say, "Look. We, you know, we think that this would be a fair deal. We can individualize justice if you let us plea guilty." Nobody wants to spend the time going to trial. They don't want the judges to hear all the information. They don't want to put the victims through it . . .

**Barry Scheck:** Very frequently, a defendant will take a look at the evidence. It's overwhelming . . . And you can get a better deal than you would if you're convicted after . . . So you take it. On the other hand, and this is what's really troubling, is that there are lots of defendants who are facing . . . really severe mandatory minimums or really severe sanctions under the federal sentencing guidelines that will plead guilty to crimes that they didn't commit. . . .

**Conan:** In other words, if they're facing 18 counts<sup>2</sup> . . . that would put them in jail for a very, very long time, they might say, "I really don't want to take my chances in front of a jury. Even though I think I'm innocent, I will take the lesser charge and do five to 15 [years]" or whatever it is.

—interview by Neal Conan, National Public Radio, 2010



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Innocence Project—a nonprofit legal organization that works to help people wrongly convicted of a crime and promotes reforms to the criminal justice system

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>counts—charges

### Source C

### **Advantages and Disadvantages of Plea Bargaining**

### Advantages

- Criminal defendants may receive a lighter sentence and/or reduced charge for the crime.
- Plea bargains save the courts time and money by avoiding trials.
- Prosecutors can use plea bargains to encourage one defendant to testify against another defendant.

### Disadvantages

- Criminal defendants give up the opportunity to be found not guilty at trial.
- Criminal defendants may feel pressured to accept a plea bargain if they are facing a harsh sentence.
- Criminal defendants are giving up their right to appeal a guilty verdict.

Source: Adapted from Douglas A. Smith, "The Plea Bargaining Controversy." Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, 1987



### Source D

Carolyn E. Demarest was a New York Supreme Court Justice; the New York Supreme Court is the highest appellate court in New York state.

"Apart from the simple reality of too many cases for the limited resources available, there are substantial benefits to be derived from plea bargaining . . .

"Often a crime victim is very young or elderly, or otherwise infirm<sup>1</sup> and does not want to be subjected to the rigors of a trial . . . In such cases, acceptance of a plea to a lesser crime, with a less-than-maximum sentence, may be mercy not only for the accused but also for the accuser . . .

"In some cases, the judge and lawyers know of compelling evidence of guilt . . . but know the jury will have to decide the case without such evidence because it has been suppressed . . . under applicable rules of law. At times a witness . . . may be unreliable . . . which will render his or her testimony less credible before a jury. In those cases a plea will insure a conviction where a trial may result in acquittal."

—Justice Carolyn E. Demarest, letter to the editor, the New York Times, 1994

<sup>1</sup>infirm—not physically or mentally strong, especially through age or illness



- **60** Why was Source A **most likely** created?
  - A to compare the outcomes of plea bargaining and jury trial
  - **B** to illustrate that going to trial is the best option for a defendant
  - **C** to show that plea bargaining is more expensive than jury trials
  - **D** to support the argument that defendants receive harsh sentences
- Source B contains an interview excerpt. Interviewer Neal Conan worked for National Public Radio for 36 years and had his own talk show during this time.

Why did Conan **most likely** choose the two people quoted in Source B for this particular interview on his talk show?

- **A** They show both sides of the argument about plea bargaining.
- **B** Conan wants to persuade his listeners to support plea bargaining.
- **C** Conan wants to persuade his listeners to stop supporting plea bargaining.
- **D** They hope to make society question the validity of plea bargaining.



**62** 

"Criminal defendants may feel pressured to accept a plea bargain if they are facing a harsh sentence." (Source C)

Which part of Source B best corroborates this claim from Source C?

- A "Plea bargains sometimes come at the initiative of the defense,"
- **B** "We can individualize justice if you let us plea guilty."
- C "They don't want to put the victims through it."
- **D** "[T]here are lots of defendants . . . that will plead guilty to crimes that they didn't commit."

63

Douglas A. Smith was an assistant professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, and taught students about many concepts, including criminal law. His journal article was used to create Source C.

Why did Smith **most likely** include the information used to create Source C in his journal article?

- A to show both sides of plea bargaining
- **B** to deter future lawyers from using plea bargaining
- C to ensure citizens know their options if accused of a crime
- **D** to review the reasons why one person would sue another



Assume that the information provided in the sources is credible. Complete this extended-response question:

### For a defendant, do the advantages of plea bargaining outweigh the disadvantages?

- Develop a claim in response to the question.
- Cite evidence from the provided sources to support your claim.
- Use your knowledge of government in your response.

Enter your answer in the space provided.



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# GOVERNMENT PRACTICE TEST