

US Government - Formative Content Assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to measure how well you know the content of the US Government Course. Some of these ideas you may have learned last year in your US History class, however much of information will be new. This content assessment will not be graded, however you will receive your results.

1. The purpose of the *Declaration of Independence* was to:
 - A. Call for the separation of the 13 colonies from Britain.
 - B. Establish a confederation of 13 states.
 - C. Provide a supreme law of the land for the new United States
 - D. Establish fundamental personal freedoms for each American citizen

2. *"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."*

These words from the US Declaration of Independence were drawn from which of the following Enlightenment thinkers?

- A. Montesquieu's separation of powers
- B. John Locke's Natural Rights Philosophy
- C. Voltaire's beliefs in the freedom of speech and religion
- D. Rousseau's Social Contract

3. Which document below is considered the supreme law of the land and begins with the following words:

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity..."

- A. The Declaration of Independence
- B. The US Constitution
- C. The Bill of Rights
- D. The Articles of Confederation

4. In the US, the powers of government are divided between a national government and state governments. This demonstrates the concept of

- A. Limited Government
- B. Federalism
- C. Checks and Balances
- D. Separation of Powers

5. Which type of power in the Constitution gives Congress the powers to coin money, declare war, and regulate commerce?

- A. Inherent Powers
- B. Expressed Powers
- C. Implied Powers
- D. Police Powers

6. Adding amendments to the US Constitution is a two-step process, including a:

- A. Proposal by the US House of Representatives and ratification by the Senate
- B. Proposal by the US Senate and ratification by the House of Representatives
- C. Proposal by and ratification by both houses of Congress
- D. Proposal by the United States Congress and ratification by the states

7. Which branch of government is responsible for making the laws of the nation?

- A. The Legislative Branch
- B. The Executive Branch
- C. The Judicial Branch
- D. The President's Cabinet

8. What are the two parts of Congress?

- A. The President and the Supreme Court
- B. The House of Representatives and the Senate
- C. The Senate and the Supreme Court
- D. The President and the House of Representatives

9. The number of Representatives each state receives is based on its population. Every 10 years this number is adjusted according to a process called:

- A. Redistricting
- B. Reapportionment
- C. Gerrymandering
- D. Realignment

10. Look at the steps in a bill becoming a law and identify the missing step:

Bill in House Committee Approved --> _____ --> Bill Voted on By House
--> Bill Approved by Senate --> Bill sent to President's Desk to be signed

- A. Bill in Conference Committee
- B. Bill debated on House Floor
- C. Vetoed Bill returns to Congress for Override Vote
- D. Bill Filibustered

11. Who may sign or veto a bill from Congress?
 - A. The President
 - B. The Supreme Court
 - C. The Senate
 - D. The House of Representatives

12. How long is a President's elected term in office?
 - A. Two Years
 - B. Four Years
 - C. Six Years
 - D. Eight Years

13. Which institution of government decides if a law is unconstitutional?
 - A. The President
 - B. The Senate
 - C. The House of Representatives
 - D. The Supreme Court

14. Which Amendment in the *US Bill of Rights* guarantees citizens of US freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly, and petition?
 - A. The First Amendment
 - B. The Second Amendment
 - C. The Fourth Amendment
 - D. The Tenth Amendment

15. Which amendment to the Constitution ensures a fair and speedy trial by jury?
 - A. Second Amendment
 - B. Fourth Amendment
 - C. Fifth Amendment
 - D. Sixth Amendment

16. Which amendment to the Constitution extended voting rights to former male slaves?
 - A. Thirteenth Amendment
 - B. Fourteenth Amendment
 - C. Fifteenth Amendment
 - D. Nineteenth Amendment

17. Which of the following Supreme Court decision gave the Supreme Court the right of judicial review?
 - A. Marbury v Madison
 - B. McCulloch v Maryland
 - C. Gibbons v Ogden
 - D. United States v Nixon

18. Which of the following Supreme Court decisions struck down “separate but equal” segregation, allowing the integration of southern schools?
- A. Plessy v Ferguson
 - B. Brown v Board of Education
 - C. Regents of the University of California v Bakke
 - D. Dred Scott Decision
19. Which branch of our government is responsible for a declaration of war?
- A. The President
 - B. The Congress
 - C. The Supreme Court
 - D. Three quarters of state governments may vote to go to war
20. What are the two major political parties in the United States today?
- A. Democrats and Republicans
 - B. Federalists and Democratic-Republicans
 - C. Green Party and the Republicans
 - D. Republicans and the Bull Moose Party
21. Each political party picks their nominee to run against the opposing party in the:
- A. Electoral College
 - B. General Election
 - C. Primary Elections and Caucuses
 - D. Swearing In Ceremony
22. In the steps of running for President below, identify the missing step:
Caucuses and Primaries --> _____ --> General Election
- A. The Electoral College
 - B. The Party Conventions
 - C. The Swearing In Ceremony
 - D. The Invisible Primary
23. According to our constitution the US President is selected by winning the majority of the:
- A. Popular vote
 - B. Congress
 - C. States
 - D. Electoral College
24. The President meets with key leaders of various government departments called:
- A. the Cabinet
 - B. Independent Agencies
 - C. The Civil Service
 - D. Regulatory Agencies

25. Which groups in our society is responsible for informing the public about political issues and candidates?

- A. Lobbyists
- B. Political Action Committees
- C. Congressional Oversight Committees
- D. The Media