

UNIT ONE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following was NOT an important political value of Enlightenment philosophers?

- D
- (A) democracy
 - (B) liberty for individuals
 - (C) controlling the effects of self-interest on society
 - (D) demagoguery
 - (E) consent of the governed

2. Which of the following is a central assumption of John Locke's social contract theory?

- B
- (A) Humans are irrational.
 - (B) Humans are self-interested.
 - (C) Humans are immoral.
 - (D) Rulers do not value individual liberty for their subjects.
 - (E) Rulers grant life, liberty, and property to their subjects.

3. One reason that the founders were skeptical about using direct democracy as a model for the Constitution was that

- C
- (A) direct democracy had not worked very well for the Ancient Greeks
 - (B) direct democracy does not allow ordinary people much input into government decisions
 - (C) they feared that direct democracy would lead to chaos and violence
 - (D) they feared that representatives would be allowed too much political power
 - (E) direct democracy allows minorities to be over represented in the legislature

4. Elite theory holds that a representative democracy

- E
- (A) is based on the will of the people
 - (B) does not encourage the brightest people to seek political office
 - (C) is prone to the influence of demagogues
 - (D) is more likely than a direct democracy to encourage majoritarianism
 - (E) allows an elite class to make the most important political decisions

5. Which of the following principles of the Constitution is most directly grounded in John Locke's concept of "consent of the governed"?
- A
- (A) popular sovereignty
 - (B) separation of powers
 - (C) checks and balances
 - (D) federalism
 - (E) limited government
6. Which of the following was a provision of the Articles of Confederation that contributed directly to a weak central government?
- C
- (A) Representation in Congress was based on states' populations.
 - (B) The President's decisions could be overridden by state legislatures.
 - (C) The central government could not levy taxes.
 - (D) States could not tax one another's trade goods.
 - (E) The federal courts were granted only limited jurisdictions.
7. Shay's Rebellion reinforced the founders' common belief that
- C
- (A) state governments needed to be granted more powers
 - (B) ordinary Americans had too many freedoms
 - (C) the "excesses of democracy" needed to be checked
 - (D) only property owners should have the franchise
 - (E) small states were able to avert domination by the central government
8. The Great Compromise at the Constitutional Convention created a(n)
- E
- (A) electoral college
 - (B) presidency with separate powers from the legislature
 - (C) independent judiciary
 - (D) political party system
 - (E) bicameral legislature
9. Which principle of the Constitution is most directly reflected in the procedures for creating formal amendments?
- D
- (A) popular sovereignty
 - (B) separation of powers
 - (C) checks and balances
 - (D) federalism
 - (E) limited government

10. A main purpose of the *Federalist Papers* was to
- (A) encourage states not to ratify the Constitution
 - (B) limit the power of the central government
 - C (C) explain the rationale behind Constitutional provisions
 - (D) encourage partisan support for the Federalist Party
 - (E) promote the addition of the Bill of Rights to the Constitution
11. Which of the following best explains the difference between a unitary and a confederal political system?
- (A) A unitary system is generally not democratic; a confederal system is.
 - (B) Policymaking power in a unitary system is geographically concentrated; it is dispersed in a confederal system.
 - B (C) Policymaking power in a unitary system is centralized; in a confederal system it is divided between the central government and sub-governments.
 - (D) A unitary system tends to exist in small countries; confederal systems seem to work best in large countries.
 - (E) Confederal systems are more common than unitary systems are.
12. Which of the following is usually seen as a power reserved for the states?
- (A) establishing local governments
 - (B) taxation
 - A (C) coining money
 - (D) passing naturalization laws
 - (E) regulating interstate commerce
13. Thomas Jefferson's view that the powers of the national government should be narrowly construed is called
- (A) consent of the governed
 - (B) strict construction
 - B (C) the wall of separation
 - (D) loose construction
 - (E) national supremacy

14. John Marshall's ruling in *McCulloch vs. Maryland* that the "power to tax is the power to destroy" had the effect of establishing
- B
- (A) state supremacy
 - (B) national supremacy
 - (C) strict construction of the Constitution
 - (D) the policy of nullification
 - (E) dual federalism
15. Which court case was most important in broadening the jurisdiction of the national government through the commerce clause?
- C
- (A) *Marbury vs. Madison*
 - (B) *McCulloch vs. Maryland*
 - (C) *Gibbons vs. Ogden*
 - (D) *United States vs. Lopez*
 - (E) *Baron vs. Baltimore*
16. The marble cake analogy is often used to describe
- E
- (A) dual federalism
 - (B) national supremacy
 - (C) sovereignty of the states
 - (D) federal mandates
 - (E) cooperative federalism
17. The national Congress has the most power to establish policy when federal funding is derived from
- D
- (A) matching grants
 - (B) federal mandates
 - (C) block grants
 - (D) categorical grants
 - (E) revenue sharing
18. The most important reason that federal mandates are controversial is that they usually
- D
- (A) put too many restrictions on states
 - (B) promote creeping categorization
 - (C) come in the form of block grants
 - (D) don't provide states with adequate funding to carry them out
 - (E) provide aid to state welfare systems, but not for anything else

19. Which of the following is a direct advantage of federalism?
- (A) Diversity of policies among states encourages experimentation and creativity.
 - (B) A strong executive branch keeps the legislative branch from becoming too powerful.
 - A (C) Judicial review helps to prevent arbitrary application of the President's policies.
 - (D) Local governments can establish their own sphere of power separate from that of the state.
 - (E) Federalism protects civil liberties from abuse by the national government.
20. The "devolution revolution" is a movement that promotes giving more policy-making power to the
- (A) federal bureaucracy
 - (B) Senate
 - E (C) Supreme Court
 - (D) President
 - (E) states