

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. A document that lays out the principles and responsibilities of government and specifies the powers of the branches of government and elected officials is usually referred to as a
 - A) bill of rights
 - B) law brief
 - C) constitution
 - D) platform

2. A formal declaration of the rights of the citizens within government is usually referred to as a
 - A) statement of separation
 - B) bill of rights
 - C) policy
 - D) constitution

3. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, political thinkers rejected the idea of a “divine right” of kings and instead argued that government should depend on
 - A) “liberty and faith”
 - B) “consent of the ruling class”
 - C) “parties in power”
 - D) “consent of the governed”

4. An agreement in which the governed give up freedoms in return for government protection is referred to as a
 - A) social contract
 - B) declaration of rights
 - C) constitution
 - D) political power

5. Two themes that are woven into the many constitutions that have governed Texas have been
 - A) safety and equality
 - B) individual rights and separation of powers
 - C) individual rights and judicial power
 - D) executive authority and separation of powers

6. The “Father of Texas” who traveled to Mexico City to request the continuation of his

father's colony in Mexico and served as an empresario for the Anglo settlers was named

- A) Moses Austin
- B) Sam Houston
- C) Stephen F. Austin
- D) James Polk

7. A government run by a single individual, often a king or queen, until death or abdication is called a

- A) democracy
- B) republic
- C) oligarchy
- D) monarchy

8. A form of government in which people rule indirectly through elected representatives is called

- A) republic
- B) monarchy
- C) theocracy
- D) democracy

9. Authority over a political entity, such as a province or a state is the definition of

- A) leadership
- B) political power
- C) sovereignty
- D) authority

10. The Mexican president who took steps to centralize power in 1835 by sending his vice president into exile, disbanding Congress and dissolving the state legislatures was named

- A) Jose Perez
- B) Gomez Farias
- C) Sam Houston
- D) Santa Anna

11. Which of the following were included in the Texas Declaration of Independence as a grievance against the Mexican government

- A) citizens forced to alter their religion by adopting Catholicism
- B) refused right to trial by jury
- C) incarceration with no just cause of Stephen F. Austin

D) all of the above

12. A system that vests political, judicial, and policymaking authority in different branches of government adheres to

- A) separation of powers
- B) divided government
- C) unicameral legislature
- D) federalism

13. In the 1836 Constitution there were hints of

- A) rights for women
- B) aversion to centralized power
- C) distrust of executive authority
- D) b and c are both true

14. The “statehood constitution” was created after Texas formally joined the United States. It was passed in what year

- A) 1776
- B) 1836
- C) 1845
- D) 1861

15. The right to participate in the electoral process by voting is called

- A) individual rights
- B) voting
- C) suffrage
- D) majority rule

16. A law that prevents Texans from losing their homes in the event of bankruptcy or other financial problems is referred to as

- A) a homestead law
- B) a property tax aversion
- C) bankruptcy protection
- D) financial security

17. How many constitutions did Texas go through during the 1860s?

- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 3

D) 4

18. Texas seceded from the Union largely because of the election of which president?

- A) Abraham Lincoln
- B) James K. Polk
- C) Ulysses Grant
- D) Franklin Delano Roosevelt

19. Which notable Texan was against leaving the Union?

- A) Dan Patrick
- B) Stephen F. Austin
- C) Moses Austin
- D) Sam Houston

20. The “confederacy constitution” certified the state's membership in the Confederate States of America and added a clause granting supreme sovereign rights to the state. This constitution was passed in

- A) 1836
- B) 1845
- C) 1861
- D) 1866

21. The 1861 Constitution included protections for which type institution

- A) slavery
- B) cattle breeding
- C) cotton production
- D) oil production

22. The primary historical event surrounding the Texas Constitution of 1866 was the

- A) the victory of the South over the North
- B) readmission of Texas back into the Union
- C) secession
- D) reconstruction

23. The 1869 Constitution could be referred to as the

- A) “Confederacy Constitution”
- B) “Statehood Constitution”
- C) “Readmission Constitution”
- D) “Reconstruction Constitution”

24. The Constitution of 1869 extended full voting rights to which group for the first time?

- A) white males
- B) Mexican citizens
- C) white females
- D) African Americans

25. The 1869 elections swept which controversial Republican governor into office?

- A) Sam Houston
- B) Miriam Ferguson
- C) Edmund Davis
- D) Greg Abbott

26. Governor Davis was defeated by 50,000 votes in the 1873 election and reacted by

- A) refusing to leave office right away
- B) leaving office right away
- C) sabotaging the governor's office in the capital building
- D) appealing to the people for another election

27. The state of Texas currently operates under the Constitution of

- A) 1861
- B) 1876
- C) 1992
- D) 1776

28. With the 1876 Constitution delegates sought to fix several problems in the 1869 Constitution, namely:

- A) centralized executive power
- B) an unwieldy judiciary
- C) duplicative state offices
- D) all of the above

29. "Popular sovereignty" is defined as

- A) the people control every choice in the executive branch
- B) rule of the mob
- C) one person controls the government
- D) rule by the people

30. Which group of voters was initially excluded from voting under the original version of the 1876 Constitution?

- A) white males
- B) Hispanic
- C) African-Americans
- D) women

31. The 1876 Constitution includes how many articles?

- A) 1
- B) 10
- C) 7
- D) 17

32. A political system in which the government's functions and powers are restricted to protect individual liberty is called:

- A) limited government
- B) unlimited government
- C) popular government
- D) democratic-socialism

33. Diffusion of authority and power throughout several entities in the executive branch is referred to as what type of executive?

- A) single
- B) dual
- C) plural
- D) chief

34. What is the purpose behind the idea of separation of powers for in the Constitution?

- A) To encourage democracy
- B) To add a layer of complication and confusion
- C) To keep one branch from becoming too powerful
- D) To keep the executive branch from becoming too powerful

35. The Texas Constitution of 1876 includes a Bill of Rights. This Bill of Rights is located in which section of the Constitution?

- A) Article 1
- B) Article 2
- C) Article 3
- D) at the end

36. Any change to state government that requires expansion of state authority must be approved by a
- A) delegates at a constitutional convention
 - B) the governor
 - C) constitutional amendment
 - D) the federal government
37. Which of the following amendments are the voters most likely to approve by a high percentage?
- A) tax increases
 - B) reorganizing a branch of government
 - C) reducing or eliminating a tax
 - D) extending additional powers to politicians
38. How many times has the current constitution of Texas been amended?
- A) 27
 - B) 150
 - C) 498
 - D) 633
39. Voter participation and turnout for constitutional amendments is
- A) typically high
 - B) typically low
 - C) mandatory
 - D) roughly 50%
40. Which of the following is NOT a step in the Texas constitutional amendment process?
- A) two-thirds of both houses of the legislature propose an amendment
 - B) the secretary of state and attorney general approve the proposal
 - C) the voters approve with a majority vote
 - D) the governor provides his signature

Answer Key - Chapter 2 Quiz

- 1. C
- 2. B
- 3. D

4. A
5. B
6. C
7. D
8. A
9. C
10. D
11. D
12. A
13. D
14. C
15. C
16. A
17. C
18. A
19. D
20. C
21. A
22. B
23. D
24. D
25. C
26. A
27. B
28. D
29. D
30. D
31. D
32. A
33. C
34. C
35. A
36. C
37. C
38. C
39. B
40. D