

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ role is to interpret Texas laws in matters ranging from minor criminal offenses to interpreting the Texas Constitution.
  - A) legislative branch's
  - B) executive branch's
  - C) judicial branch's
  - D) party system's
  
2. The official territory and types of cases over which a court exercises authority, is referred to as
  - A) jurisdiction
  - B) authority
  - C) criminal jurisdiction
  - D) appellate ruling
  
3. The court in which the case is first heard is referred to as
  - A) original jurisdiction
  - B) appellate jurisdiction
  - C) criminal jurisdiction
  - D) original authority
  
4. The authority of a court to review a case first heard by a lower court is referred to as
  - A) original jurisdiction
  - B) appellate jurisdiction
  - C) criminal jurisdiction
  - D) original authority
  
5. Cases in which the government brings suit against the defendant for violating the law and in which the defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) criminal cases
  - B) civil cases
  - C) appeals cases
  - D) political cases
  
6. Cases in which individuals, corporations, or the government bring suit against another party and must prove that the harm was done to them beyond a "preponderance of evidence" are \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) criminal cases
- B) civil cases
- C) appeals cases
- D) political cases

7. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the court also allows for higher courts to check bad decisions or incorrect rulings by lower courts.

- A) criminal nature
- B) adversarial nature
- C) hierarchical nature
- D) political nature.

8. How does Texas compare to other states in terms of the number of trial courts we have inside the state?

- A) Texas ranks #50 in number of trial courts
- B) Texas ranks #1 in number of trial courts
- C) Texas ranks #3 in number of trial courts
- D) Texas ranks #10 in number of trial courts

9. The highest criminal offense under state or federal law is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) misdemeanor
- B) felony
- C) indictment
- D) Class 1-A

10. A Class of criminal offenses that are minor wrongdoings are called \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) misdemeanors
- B) felonies
- C) indictments
- D) Class 1-A's

11. A criminal offense that is more serious than a misdemeanor is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) misdemeanor
- B) felony
- C) indictment
- D) Class 1-A's

12. A criminal offense that is less serious than a felony is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) misdemeanor
- B) felony
- C) indictment
- D) Class 1-A

13. Texas courts interpret law by relying on legal traditions—the Texas Constitution, legislation, and \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) the 10 Commandments
- B) mosaic law
- C) common law
- D) civil law

14. What type of cases do trial courts hear?

- A) criminal cases
- B) civil cases
- C) criminal and civil cases
- D) felony cases only

15. \_\_\_\_\_ in Texas have original and exclusive jurisdiction over violations of city ordinances and over Class C misdemeanors, the lowest level of punishment severity of all misdemeanors.

- A) Justice courts
- B) County courts
- C) District courts
- D) Municipal courts

16. \_\_\_\_\_ are a specific type of local trial court. Contrary to popular belief, justices of the peace who administer these courts do not just issue marriage licenses. In reality, they hear cases that involve small claims, civil actions of \$10,000 or less, and criminal offences punishable by fine but not prison sentences.

- A) Justice courts
- B) County courts
- C) District courts
- D) Municipal courts

17. If your landlord refused to return your security deposit, you might appear before a \_\_\_\_\_ to try to get your deposit back.

- A) District Court Judge
- B) Justice of the Peace
- C) Supreme Court Justice
- D) Trial Court Judge

18. The Texas Constitution vests broad judicial and administrative powers in \_\_\_\_\_ who also oversee a five-member commissioner's court. This court has budgetary and administrative authority over county government operations.

- A) county judges
- B) municipal judges
- C) supreme court justices
- D) district court judges

19. If you sue your roommate for ruining your laptop in justice court and she appeals the case, the case will end up in \_\_\_\_\_. These courts have original jurisdiction on civil matters between \$200 and \$200,000.

- A) municipal court
- B) county court at law
- C) district court
- D) the criminal court of appeals

20. The process by which there is official recognition and registration of the validity of the last will and testimony of a person is referred to as

- A) an appeal
- B) first hearing
- C) probate
- D) final judgment

21. \_\_\_\_\_ are trial courts that handle most major criminal and civil cases, including murder, drug trafficking, contested elections, and civil cases involving high amounts of monetary damages—any amount over \$200.

- A) Municipal courts
- B) County courts at law
- C) District courts
- D) Criminal courts of appeal

22. When a single judge presides and decides guilt or innocence and punishment, it is a called a \_\_\_\_\_ trial.

- A) common

- B) bench
- C) jury
- D) municipal

23. When a group of individuals selected for service decides on guilt or innocence, this is a called a \_\_\_\_\_ trial.

- A) common
- B) bench
- C) jury
- D) municipal

24. How often are defendants in Texas convicted for driving while intoxicated?

- A) 10%
- B) 21%
- C) 68%
- D) 85%

25. How often are defendants in Texas convicted for murder?

- A) 10%
- B) 21%
- C) 68%
- D) 85%

26. How often do prosecutors in Texas dismiss a case for lack of evidence or other reasons?

- A) 10%
- B) 21%
- C) 68%
- D) 85%

27. What type of court has original jurisdiction in all divorce cases?

- A) municipal courts
- B) county courts at law
- C) district courts
- D) criminal courts of appeal

28. Courts that review legal issues of cases decided by lower courts are called

- A) justice courts
- B) county courts at law

- C) district courts
- D) appellate courts

29. The justices in \_\_\_\_\_ may decide the case based upon the brief alone or they may hear oral arguments, during which attorneys for both sides present their cases in person to the justices.

- A) justice courts
- B) county courts at law
- C) district courts
- D) appellate courts

30. "Amicus Curiae" briefs can be filed by interested parties that are not directly involved in the case, providing an avenue for outside groups to have a say in the judicial process. "Amicus Curiae" means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) "enemy of the court"
- B) "friend of the court"
- C) "advisor of the court"
- D) "lawyer of the court"

31. A document that can express the view of the judges and often takes the form of a majority opinion, when written by a justice representing the majority, may be a concurring or dissenting \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) statement
- B) opinion
- C) sentence
- D) viewpoint

32. After making a decision, the justices can either write or choose not to write a/an \_\_\_\_\_ to explain their reasoning.

- A) statement
- B) opinion
- C) sentence
- D) viewpoint

33. The appellate courts in Texas are divided into two types: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) intermediate appellate courts; appellate courts of last resort
- B) criminal; civil
- C) juvenile appellate courts; intermediate appellate courts
- D) civil appellate courts; appellate courts of last resort

34. \_\_\_\_\_ is where all of the justices of the court hear and consider the case.
- A) “amicus curiae”
  - B) “en banc”
  - C) “amantes sunt amentes”
  - D) “caritate patriae”
35. Texas has a system of two supreme courts. This is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) dual structure
  - B) uni-structure
  - C) diffusion of power
  - D) appellate duo
36. The \_\_\_\_\_ was designed for efficiency but is also based on mistrust. The framers of the Texas Constitution were suspicious of centralizing universal power of legal decision-making in any one court.
- A) dual structure
  - B) uni-structure
  - C) diffusion of power
  - D) appellate duo
37. The courts of appeals are organized into \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) 10 geographical areas
  - B) 12 geographical areas
  - C) 14 geographical areas
  - D) 20 geographical areas
38. The \_\_\_\_\_ makes final determinations in all criminal matters, including applying (or not) the death penalty.
- A) district supreme court
  - B) Texas Supreme Court
  - C) Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
  - D) county court of criminal appeals
39. How many justices sit on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals?
- A) eight justices and a presiding judge

- B) three justices and a presiding judge
- C) two justices and a presiding judge
- D) seven justices and a presiding judge

40. Most of the caseload of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, about \_\_\_\_\_ of its cases, consists of mandatory review of sentencing and direct death penalty appeals.

- A) 40%
- B) 80 %
- C) 30%
- D) 75%

41. The \_\_\_\_\_ deals primarily with civil matters and juvenile justice.

- A) district supreme court
- B) Texas Supreme Court
- C) Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
- D) county court of criminal appeals

42. The Texas Supreme Court is comprised of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) eight justices and a chief justice
- B) three justices and a presiding judge
- C) two justices and a chief justice
- D) seven justices and a presiding judge

43. The workload (in cases) of the judiciary are referred to as the court's \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) caseload
- B) per diem
- C) working structure
- D) hourly load

44. Taking a case off the court's docket, generally by being heard or dismissed, is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) clearing
- B) disposing
- C) cleaning the docket
- D) wiping



45. A non-partisan way to select judges in which a commission selected by state officials sends recommendations to the governor and the governor selects the nominees from that list is referred to as

- A) partisan elections
- B) gubernatorial selection
- C) merit selection
- D) non-partisan elections

46. Nearly all judges in Texas are chosen by

- A) partisan elections
- B) gubernatorial selection
- C) merit selection
- D) non-partisan elections

**Answer Key - Quiz 10**

- 1. C
- 2. A
- 3. A
- 4. B
- 5. A
- 6. B
- 7. C
- 8. B
- 9. B
- 10. A
- 11. B
- 12. A
- 13. C
- 14. C
- 15. D
- 16. A
- 17. B
- 18. A
- 19. B
- 20. C
- 21. B
- 22. B
- 23. C
- 24. D
- 25. C
- 26. B

- 27. C
- 28. D
- 29. D
- 30. B
- 31. B
- 32. B
- 33. B
- 34. B
- 35. A
- 36. A
- 37. C
- 38. C
- 39. A
- 40. B
- 41. B
- 42. A
- 43. A
- 44. B
- 45. C
- 46. A