

Civics EOC Study Guide
Good Luck!!! ☺

1. How did the writings of Locke and Montesquieu influence ideas about government in what became the United States?

Students should recognize application of ideas about equality, natural rights, and a social contract between a government and its people.

2. How do Locke's ideas help explain why the colonists looked to their legislatures for leadership instead of to the colony's governor?

Legislatures were the colonists' elected representatives, whereas the governor represented the king.

3. How did the writings of people like Locke lead colonists to resent the British government?

Locke wrote that governments should serve the people, whereas the colonists felt they were made to serve the British King.

4. What ideas about government did Jefferson draw upon in writing the Declaration of Independence?

In writing the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson drew on Greek ideas about democracy, John Locke's ideas about social contracts and natural rights, Rousseau's and Voltaire's ideas about people's right to have freedom.

5. How did the English Bill of Rights change the nature of English government?

It made the Parliament more powerful than the monarch. Parliament overthrew King James II. As a condition for allowing William and Mary to become monarchs, Parliament made them agree to the English Bill of Rights, which placed limits on the powers of the monarch.

6. State constitutions based their bills of rights on what English document?

States based them on the English Bill of Rights.

7. How did lawmaking at Jamestown differ from lawmaking at Plymouth?

Answers should express that Jamestown settlers set up a representative democracy in the House of Burgesses, while the Mayflower Compact started a direct democracy. The House of Burgesses made the laws for the

Jamestown Colonists, while the Plymouth colonists made their own laws directly.

8. How were the ideas of colonists affected by events in the American colonies?

The religious Great Awakening, the removal of the French threat after the French and Indian War, and new British taxes on the colonies made the colonists value their individual rights and begin to resent British rule.

9. What were the key events that led to growing colonial support for independence?

Key events that fostered growing colonial support for independence included Parliament's Coercive Acts, King George's attitude, Thomas Paine's 'Common Sense'.

10. What ancient principles, traditions and events have shaped the system of government we have today?

Natural rights, social contract, separation of powers, limited government, the Magna Carta, The Glorious Revolution, The Enlightenment

11. How did the signing of the Magna Carta affect future English kings?

It limited their power.

12. How did the Magna Carta establish the principle of limited government?

It limited the amount of power the king could have over the English citizens and established basic rights that the king could not take away.

13. How did Europe's Enlightenment influence ideas about government in what would become the US?

The Enlightenment encouraged the ideas of philosophers and the government like separation of powers, limited government, and consent of the governed that would be used as the basis for the government of the US.

14. How did the Glorious Revolution inspire Enlightenment thinkers?

The Glorious Revolution inspired Enlightenment thinkers because when Parliament transferred power to William and Mary, it insisted that they agree that English citizens had rights even a king could not violate. John

Locke, an Enlightenment thinker, believed that people had natural rights that no one could take away from them.

15. What natural rights did Locke believe all people had?

The right to life, the right to freedom and the right to own property

16. What events and movements affected colonial attitudes?

Proclamation of 1763, The Coercive Acts, The Tea Act, The Townshend Act, The Declaratory Act and the Sugar Act, Sons of Liberty, Common Sense etc

17. Why were the colonists angered by the Proclamation of 1763?

Their hope of owning land was taken away by the King as a punishment for the French and Indian War.

18. What events increased colonists' anger toward British rule?

The Coercive Acts, The Tea Act, The Townshend Act, The Declaratory Act and the Sugar Act.

19. What did protesters hope to achieve by dumping tea?

The hoped to prevent England from taxing them even more.

20. What ideas about government influenced the Declaration of Independence?

Limited government, consent of the governed, separation of powers, natural rights, social contract, no taxation without representation

21. How did Thomas Paine use Locke's ideas in his pamphlet *Common Sense*?

Used the idea that 'common sense' called for the colonists to rebel against the king's violent abuse of power.

22. What is a Constitution?

A detailed written plan for government.

23. How did the Articles of Confederation create problems for the US?

Lack of power and money, lack of central power, not flexible enough

24. Why were the Articles of Confederation necessary for the new nation?

The Articles of Confederation were necessary because the colonies needed some form of united government to fight the war for independence.

25. How did uprisings like Shays's Rebellion help lead to a change in the nation's government?

Some people began to wonder if the government could maintain law and order, and began to call for a stronger national government.

26. Why was it difficult to pass laws under the Articles of Confederation?

There were strict voting rules: the legislature could not pass a law unless nine states voted for it.

27. What are the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?

Congress had no power to collect taxes, regulate trade, or enforce its laws. No single leader or group directed government policy, no national court system existed. Congress could not pass laws without the approval of 9 states, Articles could not be changed without agreement of all 13 states.

28. What is the purpose of the legislative branch?

To create laws

29. The executive branch?

To enforce laws

30. The judicial branch?

To interpret laws

31. What are the five principles of government expressed in the Constitution?

The five principles are popular sovereignty, limited government and the rules of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism.

32. What is the difference between a veto and a pocket veto?

In a veto, the president refuses to sign the bill, so it dies. In a pocket veto, the president kills the bill by holding it for 10 days without signing it when Congress is adjourned.

33. Who opposed ratifying the Constitution?

The Anti-Federalists

34. What was their major argument against ratification?

That the new constitution would create a national government so powerful that it would destroy the liberties that were just won in the Revolutionary War

35. How did they finally compromise to get the Constitution passed?

The Federalists offered to have a Bill of Rights passed as the first order of business if the Anti-Federalists would ratify.

36. What are the principles of US government?

Popular sovereignty; limited government and the rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism

37. How does voting ensure 'the consent of the governed'?

Voters can replace officials who do not serve them well by electing others.

38. How does the separation of powers try to prevent abuse of power?

Separating the government into three branches limits the power of any one branch of government

39. How is the will of the people, or popular sovereignty, most strongly expressed according to the Constitution?

The people express their will by voting in elections

40. How is power distributed under federalism?

Power is divided between the national government and the states through enumerated powers, reserved powers and concurrent powers.

41. How is rule of law protected in the Constitution?

Through enumerated powers, separation of powers and checks and balances.

42. Name two ways a person can become a US citizen.

By being born in the United States or to US parents and through naturalization

43. What is the difference between a legal alien and an illegal alien?

A legal alien is a foreign-born resident of the US who has permission to be in the country either permanently or for a set amount of time. An illegal alien is a foreign-born resident who does not have permission to live in the US.

44. Why might a lobbyist work to get a member of Congress to support a particular pork-barrel project?

A lobbyist might work for a business that would benefit from the particular pork-barrel project.

45. Why might a special-interest group work hard to get a rider attached to a bill?

A special-interest group might want a provision to benefit itself or its members and suggest making that provision a rider so it will be easier to pass.

46. How is the role of voters different in primary elections and in general elections?

In primaries, voters have an impact on their party. In general elections, voters are part of a broader process.

47. What role do PACs play in political campaigns today?

Political action committees help raise and channel money to political candidates to help pay for their election campaigns.

48. What are three features of public opinion?

Direction, Intensity, Stability

49. What does each describe?

Direction describes whether public opinion on a topic is positive or negative. Intensity describes how strongly people hold an opinion. Stability describes how firmly people hold to their views.

50. In polling, what are random samples?

Random samples are groups of people chosen by chance for polls.

51. What makes a good random sample?

A good random sample is a smaller version of the entire population.

52. Why do politicians and the media need each other?

Politicians need the media to get their message out; reporters need politicians to have information for their stories.

53. What are two ways freedom of the press is limited?

The federal government can penalize broadcast stations that violate its rules, and there are laws against libel.

54. What are four ways that interest groups promote their viewpoints and try to influence public policy?

Interest groups try to influence elections, bring cases to court, lobby lawmakers and try to gain support among voters for their positions.

55. How do pork-barrel projects affect the view of constituents toward their representative?

Constituents are probably grateful to members of Congress who bring pork-barrel projects to the district or state because these projects bring jobs and money to the community.

56. What are two reasons citizens should vote?

It is a right and a responsibility of being a citizen; gives you a chance to choose your government leaders; express satisfaction or dissatisfaction; gives you a voice in how your community, state and country are run.

57. What does saying "every vote counts" mean?

Every citizen's vote has the same weight as every other citizen's vote.

58. Why is it important to vote?

It is the citizen's responsibility to tell the government how they are doing.

59. What is a voter turnout rate?

The percentage of eligible voters who actually do go out and vote

60. Why do candidates want endorsements?

Candidates want endorsements to gain the favor of voters who like or admire the person or organization giving the endorsement.

61. How important is it for a candidate to be likeable?

Likeable candidates can be more in tune with voters' feelings and a candidate's experience and record are also important.

62. What is the purpose of campaign advertising?

To make the candidate's ideas known

63. What tools do interest groups use to influence government and public opinion?

Lobbying government; Engaging in election activities; Educating and mobilizing the public

64. How does the Supreme Court communicate with the American public?

Issuing supporting/dissenting opinions from Supreme Court case decisions

65. Why do you think serving on a jury is a civic duty?

Serving on a Jury is a civic duty because all citizens accused of a crime have the right to a jury trial.

66. Why is it every citizen's responsibility to be informed?

Citizens are responsible for being informed because citizens give power to the government, and they need information in order to vote and participate wisely.

67. Why do Americans volunteer?

To give back to our communities and help solve societies problems.

68. Why are civil liberties important to democracy?

Civil liberties allow individuals to develop their own beliefs, meet openly with others, express themselves freely, and share their views on public matters with those who govern.

69. Name the individual rights protected by the First Amendment.

Freedom of religions, speech, of the press, assembly, petition the government

70. What are the rights of the accused found in the Bill of Rights?

The accused is protected against unreasonable searches and seizures, must be indicted by a grand jury in felony cases, cannot be tried twice for the same crime, cannot be forced to testify against himself or herself, is entitled to due process, has the right to know what crimes he or she is accused of, has the right to a speedy and public trial by jury, has the right to confront the accuser, has the right to a lawyer, and has the right to call witnesses.

71. What protections do the 2nd, 3rd, 9th and 10th amendments offer?

The 2nd amendment lets the government control, but not prevent, gun ownership. The 3rd amendment protects people from having to house soldiers. The 7th amendment provides for juries in civil cases. The 9th amendment makes it clear that citizens have rights beyond those listed in the Constitution that cannot be taken away. The 10th amendment limits the power of the national government.

72. How do 4th Amendment rights keep Americans secure in their homes?

The 4th Amendment rights keep people secure in their homes because they know the government cannot invade their homes without sound legal reasons.

73. What is the purpose of the Miranda Warning?

The purpose of the Miranda Warning is to inform individuals in police custody of their constitution right against self-incrimination and their right to a lawyer.

74. Why is it necessary to limit individual rights?

To protect the rights and safety of other individuals, the community and government

75. How does preventing Congress from passing a bill of attainder help safeguard rights?

Preventing Congress from passing a bill of attainder safeguards rights by preventing Congress from punishing someone without allowing a trial.

76. How would a bill of attainder threaten a person's freedom?

A bill of attainder would threaten a person's freedom because it would allow Congress to punish someone without holding a trial.

77. Why do third parties usually not last very long in the American two-party system?

American third parties usually don't last very long because their issues are adopted by major parties or no longer seem important to voters or because they don't last past the defeat of the candidate around whom they formed.

78. Why do political parties create platforms? How are platforms useful to voters?

Political parties create platforms to state their beliefs and positions on issues. Voters can use a party's platform to judge what the party stands for and intends to do if gains office.

79. How did the first two major American political parties differ?

The Federalist Party supported strong central government; the Democratic-Republican Party favored state over national government.

80. How have third parties been important in American history?

Third parties have promoted ideas that gained in popularity and became law.

81. How do the two major political parties of today differ?

Democrats tend to think that government should play a larger role in the economy and citizens' lives, and Republicans usually believe in less regulation and a less active role in the lives of Americans.

82. Describe the general organization of political parties, from the national to the local level.

Each national party is guided by a committee made up of representatives from each state, headed by the national party chairman. Each state also has

its own organizing committee. The state party is further divided into local committees based in counties, cities, and towns, and those local organizations are divided into precincts.

83. What is the main method that political parties use to choose candidates for office?

The main method parties use to choose candidates for office is the direct primary.

84. Who takes part in this process in most states?

In most states, these are closed primaries in which only party members can vote.

85. Which principles of democracy are not followed in an authoritarian state? Explain why.

Students should understand that authoritarian states do not support such principles as rule of law, free and fair elections, and equal rights for all individuals and groups.

86. How do direct democracy and representative democracy differ?

In a direct democracy, the people rule themselves. In a representative democracy, they choose others to govern them.

87. What two ancient democracies helped shape the system of government we have today?

Answers should recognize the contributions of Greek and Roman democracies. (direct; representation; senate; judges; etc)

88. What are some reasons that society needs laws?

Societies have laws to keep public order, to ensure public safety, and to settle disputes between individuals and between individuals and the government.

89. What role did English common law have in the US?

English settlers brought the tradition of common law and their belief in individual rights to North America in the 1600's and 1700's. Common law

plays an important role in the US judicial system today, and the importance of individual rights is apparent in law in the US.

90. What is the difference between civil and criminal laws?

Civil laws deal with disputes between people or groups, whereas criminal laws aim to protect public safety; they deal with crimes against people or property.

91. What are the four main categories of civil law?

The four main categories of civil law are contract law; property law; family law; and personal injury law, or torts.

92. Why are some actions defined as crimes?

Some actions are described as crimes because they harm individuals or violate the social order.

93. What are the three levels of the federal court system?

The three levels of the federal courts are the Supreme Court, circuit courts of appeals, and district courts.

94. What kinds of cases are heard by the district courts?

District courts hear original civil and criminal cases that are tried by juries.

95. What happens in a lower or trial court?

A judge or a jury listens to the evidence and reaches a verdict in favor of one party or another in the case.

96. Describe how states choose judges for trial courts and for appellate courts.

Trial court judges are chosen in various ways. Some are selected by governors, state legislators, the state Supreme Court, or city officials. Other judges are elected by voters. Some states use a combination of processes, depending on whether it is a judge's first term or a later term. About half the states elect appellate judges. In the other half, the governor

chooses appellate judges. In some of those states, the appointments must be confirmed by the state legislature or another government body.

97. What six steps occur in a criminal case between arrest of a suspect and sentencing?

The six steps are: booking, initial appearance before a judge, preliminary hearing, arraignment, trial and verdict.

98. Marbury v. Madison

Established the principle of judicial review

99. Plessy v. Ferguson

Established the separate but equal doctrine

100. Brown v. Board of Education

Overruled Plessy v. Ferguson and the separate but equal doctrine

101. Gideon v. Wainwright

Gave the right to an attorney appointed by the government to those who could not afford to hire their own

102. Miranda v. Arizona

Created the "Miranda warning" given by police to suspects

103. in re Gault

Due process is extended to juveniles

104. Tinker v. Des Moines

Granted freedom of speech rights to students in school

105. Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier

Described the limits of students' freedom of speech

106. United States v. Nixon

Established that laws apply to everyone, even the president

107. Bush v. Gore.

George W. Bush became the 43rd president of the United States; Vote recounts were unconstitutional

108. What is a city charter, and what is its purpose?

A city charter is a document granting power to a local government.

109. How do counties vary across the country?

Counties vary greatly in land area and population. Some states have many counties, other just a handful. Not all states use the term county. In Alaska, they are called boroughs, and in Louisiana they are called parishes.

110. How are townships governed?

Most townships elect a small body of officials called the township committee, board of supervisors, or board of trustees, which has lawmaking powers.

111. How are federal and unitary systems of government different? Explain.

In a federal system, the central government cannot dissolve the smaller units of government such as states. In a unitary systems, however, the central government can dissolve the smaller units or reallocate their powers as it sees fit.

112. What is a confederal government?

A confederal government is a group of individual state governments that have united for a common purpose.

113. How is a parliamentary system different from what we have in the US today?

A parliamentary system evolved from groups of advisors to a monarch, not elected as representatives by the people. The monarch was able to dismiss or convene the parliament at any time.

114. Purpose of Articles I, II, and III of the Constitution?

To state the powers and responsibilities of the three branches of our government.

115. What determines which the majority party is and which is the minority party in each house?

The majority party in each house is the one to which more than half the members of that house belong; the minority party is the one to which fewer than half the members belong.

116. Why are the two houses of Congress good places to discuss issues that might require new laws?

The two houses of Congress are good places to discuss issues that might require new laws because they have members from every state who can reflect the views of their constituents on the issues.

117. What are 3 examples of expressed powers of Congress?

Expressed powers include the power to lay and collect taxes, borrow money, coin and print money, declare war and provide for all 'necessary and proper' laws.

118. What are two non-legislative powers given to Congress?

Nonlegislative powers include the power to propose Constitutional amendments, to approve or reject the president's nominees for various offices, and to impeach and try officials.

119. What role is given to the vice-president in the constitution?

The vice president presides over the Senate and votes if there is a tie. He or she becomes president if the president should leave office.

120. What three requirements must a person meet to become president or vice-president of the US?

To become president, a person must be a native-born citizen, be at least 35 years old, and have lived in the US for at least 14 years.

121. How does a government corporation operate?

A government corporation is owned by the government. It charges people for the goods and services it provides. It does not aim to make a profit.

122. Where do the federal courts get their powers?

The federal courts get their power from Article III of the Constitution.

123. What role does Congress have in the appointment of federal judges?

The Senate must approve the president's choice of judges.

124. In what cases does the Supreme Court have original jurisdiction?

The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in cases that involve diplomats from foreign countries or disputes between states.

125. Appellate jurisdiction?

The Supreme Court has appellate jurisdiction in cases in which verdicts from lower courts are disputed.

126. What is the key factor in the Court's decision to hear a case?

The key factor is whether the case involves an important constitutional question.

127. What are the four main goals of American foreign policy?

Four main goals of American foreign policy are national security, international trade, world peace and spreading democracy.

128. What types of services does our government provide at the national, state and local levels?

All levels of government provide services that would otherwise be unavailable or left to chance, such as road building, law enforcement, programs for people with disabilities, court systems, and product safety.

129. What is the supremacy clause and why is it important to maintaining order in the US?

The supremacy clause says that the Constitution is the first law of the country and no person or government in the nation can go against it.

130. How are enumerated powers, reserved powers, and concurrent powers similar to and different from one another?

Enumerated, reserved and concurrent powers are all types of powers given to government under the Constitution. Enumerated powers are granted to the federal government; reserved powers are set aside for the states; concurrent powers are carried out by both federal and state governments because they overlap.

131. What is the difference between separation of powers and checks and balances?

Separation of powers is a type of government where separate branches have very distinct powers. Checks and balances prevents any branch of government from gaining too much power over the other.

132. What are the four main goals of American foreign policy?

National security, build trade with other nations, promote world peace and spread democracy.

133. What are two powers that the US and Florida governments share?

They share the power to levy taxes, set up courts, spend for the general welfare, and enact and enforce laws.

134. How are the structures of state and federal governments similar?

Both the federal and state governments are organized into three branches.

135. How are the states involved in the process of ratifying an amendment to the Constitution?

Congress can convene a constitutional convention at the request of 2/3 of the states. The states then can ratify an amendment with 3/4ths vote of the 50 states.

136. What elections laws were affected by the 17th, 19th, 23rd, 24th and 26th Amendments?

The 17th amendment allowed all voters to elect their senators directly; the 19th amendment gave women the right to vote, the 23rd amendment gave D.C. residents the right to vote for president and vice president; the 24th amendment abolished poll taxes, reinforcing the voting rights of African Americans and poor whites; and the 26th amendment extended voting rights to 18 year old.

137. How did the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments extend Africans Americans' rights?

The 13th ended slavery; the 14th defined citizenship and extended equal protection for all citizens, which led to the Bill of Rights being applied to state governments; and the 15th prohibited the denial of voting rights based on race.

138. Why does Congress rely on the committee system?

Congress uses the committee system as a way to manage its huge workload of bills.

139. Why do you think that the House rarely impeaches a top government official?

The House rarely impeaches an official because doing so starts a time-consuming and difficult process.

140. What qualifications must a person have to be a candidate for the House of Representatives?

Must be at least 25, live in the state, and have been a US citizen for at least 7 years

141. The Senate?

Must be at least 30 years old, live in the state and have been a US citizen for at least 9 years

142. What are three major responsibilities of members of Congress?

Three major responsibilities of members of Congress are making laws, doing casework, and helping their districts or states.

143. What is the difference between public and private bills?

Public bills apply to the entire nation; private bills concern individual people or places.

144. Why does a bill have to pass both houses of Congress to reach the president's desk?

The Framers wanted to make sure that bills were thoroughly considered and debated before being passed into law.

145. For what reasons might the 25th Amendment be used to replace a president?

The president could become disabled and be unable to do the job, could die in office, could resign, or could be removed from office.

146. What influence does the president have over Congress?

The president can call special sessions, veto proposed laws, propose laws to Congress, and influence members to vote for or against bills.

147. How is the president's role as chief diplomat connected with the roles of head of state and commander in chief?

In the roles of chief diplomat and head of state, the president interacts with leaders of other countries. As commander in chief, he has the power to use force to support foreign policy if needed.

148. What foreign policy tools does the president have that could be used to deal with international terrorism?

The president can deal with international terrorism by using trade sanctions and embargoes against nations that harbor terrorists, and by using military force against terrorists, their bases, and the countries that harbor them.

149. What are the main functions of members of the cabinet?

The main functions of cabinet members are to advise the president on issues related to their departments and to lead their departments in carrying out the president's policies.

150. What is the most important power of the Supreme Court? Explain.

The power of judicial review, which checks the other branches of government and protects citizens from unconstitutional laws.

151. How does a candidate for president win the office?

A candidate for president must win a majority of the votes in the Electoral College, at least 270 votes.

152. How has the treatment of juveniles changed over time?

Originally juveniles were treated more or less like adult offenders, and punishments were harsh. Then reformers moved the system toward rehabilitation.

153. What options exist for treating juvenile offenders besides locking them up?

Probation and release to parents; referral to social services or diversion programs.

154. What jobs do state legislators carry out?

They pass laws, approve appointments made by the governor, and help people from their districts deal with the government.

155. Why do states face more difficult budget problems than the federal government?

States must balance their budgets and generally cannot borrow money to meet regular expenses. The federal government does not have to balance the budget and can borrow to meet expenses.

156. What is the chief duty of a governor?

The chief duty of a governor is to carry out the laws of the state.

157. Many executive department heads are elected in their own rights, not appointed by the governor. How can that affect the governor's ability to direct them?

Since they are elected on their own, these department heads may choose not to be directed by the governor.

158. What advantage does a city manager have over a mayor in running city government?

A city manager is a trained professional hired for the job, while a mayor is an elected official who may have no special training and who must make decisions with consideration of being reelected.

159. How did town government develop in the US?

Town government grew out of the New England town meeting. As towns grew and meetings became impractical for governing, townspeople chose selectmen to run the town on a daily basis.

160. How do Americans benefit from a foreign policy that promotes trade?

A policy that promotes trade benefits Americans by making imported goods available and making it possible for Americans to sell products abroad.

161. What are some examples of human rights?

Human rights include the right to food, safety, shelter, and protection under the law; and freedom of thought.

162. Why do some countries allow little freedom?

Because rulers want to stay in power and control ideas and behavior

163. What role do trade organizations play in trade?

Trade organizations, such as the World Trade Organization, oversee trade agreements between nations, settle trade disputes among its members, and help countries trying to build their economy.

164. Why would the US trade with a country they have disagreements with?

The US would trade with a country they disagree with because the US needs the product that nation provides more than the disagreement.

165. Why do nations and individuals form international organizations?

People and governments form international organizations to communicate, to defend one another, to resolve disputes, and to provide aid to people who need it.

166. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of governmental organizations?

Advantages: Many nations are represented in the large organizations; member governments endorse actions; funding comes from reliable sources.

Disadvantages: Different points of view (and vetoes) can lead to inaction; powerful nations may control an organization or units within the organization; unfriendly nations may be suspicious of one another.

