Chapter 11: The Presidency

1. Which of the following is true about presidential power in the United States?
   (A) Presidents are the government’s command center, issuing orders and having them carried out immediately.
   (B) Presidents can rely on unwavering support from their political party.
   (C) Presidents operate in an environment filled with competing centers of power.
   (D) Presidents can trust that their own appointees will be completely loyal to them.
   Answer: C

2. Richard Neustadt, a prominent presidential scholar, has argued that presidential power is the
   (A) power to command.
   (B) power to persuade.
   (C) power to coerce.
   (D) power to impress.
   Answer: B

3. The most central tenet of American political culture that limits presidential power is
   (A) the belief in liberty.
   (B) the desire for equality.
   (C) the need for strong leadership.
   (D) its antigovernment character.
   Answer: D

4. The U.S. Constitution states that presidents must be
   (A) at least 35 years old.
   (B) white males.
   (C) immigrants.
   (D) military commanders.
   Answer: A

5. The constitutional amendment which limits presidents to two terms of office is the
   (A) Twenty-First Amendment.
   (B) Twenty-Second Amendment.
   (C) Twenty-Third Amendment.
   (D) Twenty-Fourth Amendment.
   Answer: B
6. Which of the following is true about the presidents who have served in office?
(A) Most presidents have served two or more full terms in the White House.
(B) Former Supreme Court justices have frequently served as president.
(C) For almost half of American history, the presidency has actually been occupied by an individual not elected to office.
(D) Only two presidents in American history have actually been impeached.
Answer: D

7. A case of presidential impeachment is tried before the
(A) House of Representatives.
(B) U.S. Supreme Court.
(C) U.S. Senate.
(D) Comptroller General.
Answer: C

8. The constitutional amendment which addressed the problem of presidential disability in office and permits the vice president to become acting president is the
(A) Twelfth Amendment.
(B) Twentieth Amendment.
(C) Twenty-Third Amendment.
(D) Twenty-Fifth Amendment.
Answer: D

9. Which of the following is not one of the agreed upon points regarding impeachable offenses?
(A) The offense should be grave.
(B) The offense must be a crime.
(C) A matter of policy disagreement is not adequate grounds for impeachment.
(D) Impeachable offenses are whatever Congress decides they are.
Answer: B

10. Which of the following is not a national security power granted to the president by the Constitution?
(A) commander in chief power
(B) nominate ambassadors with majority consent from the Senate
(C) declare war
(D) make treaties with two-thirds consent from the Senate
Answer: C
11. Which of the following is not a legislative power granted to the president by the Constitution?
(A) appropriate money to state governments
(B) convene both houses of Congress on extraordinary occasions
(C) veto legislation
(D) give the State of the Union address to Congress

Answer: A

12. The most recently created cabinet department is the department of
(A) veterans affairs.
(B) homeland security.
(C) education.
(D) energy.

Answer: B

13. Which of the following is not part of the Executive Office of the President?
(A) Environmental Protection Council
(B) Council of Economic Advisors
(C) National Security Council
(D) Office of Homeland Security

Answer: A

14. The responsibility for preparing the president’s budget resides primarily with the
(A) General Accounting Office.
(B) Congressional Budget Office.
(C) Office of Management and Budget.
(D) Council of Economic Advisors.

Answer: C

15. The First Lady to hold the most responsible and visible leadership position ever was
(A) Lady Bird Johnson.
(B) Laura Bush.
(C) Nancy Reagan.
(D) Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Answer: D

16. The most powerful tool at the president’s disposal for preventing legislation is
(A) the veto.
(B) the State of the Union address.
(C) his party leadership role.
(D) the ability to adjourn Congress.

Answer: A
17. Presidents can count on their own party members for support about
(A) one-third of the time.
(B) fifty percent of the time.
(C) two-thirds of the time.
(D) three-fourths of the time.
Answer: C

18. The President has the power to
(A) pass omnibus bills.
(B) rescind funds in appropriations bills.
(C) line item veto.
(D) pocket veto.
Answer: D

19. When voters cast their ballots for congressional candidates of the president’s party because those candidates support the president, this is known as
(A) unified government.
(B) presidential coattails.
(C) the two presidencies.
(D) party balancing.
Answer: B

20. Which of the following is true about the effects of public support on presidential power?
(A) Members of Congress pay little attention to public opinion polls regarding presidential performance.
(B) Public approval of presidents operates mostly in the background and sets limits on what Congress will do for or to the president.
(C) Widespread public approval saves the president from embarrassing impeachment proceedings.
(D) Frequently, public support of a president causes opponents to dig in and offer even more resistance to presidential proposals.
Answer: B

21. The perception that the voters strongly support the president’s character and policies is called
(A) a landslide.
(B) a litmus test.
(C) an electoral mandate.
(D) a random survey.
Answer: C
22. To bargain effectively and enhance legislative success, presidents must bargain with
(A) the public.
(B) all members of Congress.
(C) key leaders in Congress.
(D) most members of Congress.
Answer: C

23. Which of the following presidential legislative strategies has been most successful as a rule?
(A) moving slowly and deliberately to introduce legislation
(B) introducing as many policy proposals as humanly possible
(C) focusing on foreign affairs and holding off on domestic legislation
(D) moving fast and setting priorities on legislative initiatives
Answer: D

24. Perhaps the most important role for presidents—and their heaviest burden—is their responsibility for
(A) national security.
(B) legislation.
(C) party leadership.
(D) budgeting.
Answer: A

25. The president has the sole power in American defense and foreign policy to
(A) approve treaties.
(B) extend diplomatic recognition to foreign governments.
(C) sell arms.
(D) fund executive agreements.
Answer: B

26. Which of the following is true about the War Powers Resolution?
(A) It successfully limits the president’s ability to send American troops into hostile environments abroad.
(B) It successfully limits the president’s ability to withdraw forces once they are committed to a hostile action.
(C) It is often ignored despite heavy casualties as presidents do not effectively consult with Congress.
(D) It has been rigorously enforced by Congress as evident in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.
Answer: C

27. Which of the following is true about the role of Congress in national security policy?
(A) Congress has no central constitutional role to play in making national security policy.
(B) Congress may refuse to appropriate monies to support presidential actions abroad.
(C) Congress is extremely well equipped to take the lead on national security matters.
(D) Congress has no checks and balances on the president in the area of national security policy.
Answer: B
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28. The notion that the president has more success in leading Congress on matters of national security than on matters of domestic policy refers to the
(A) personal presidency thesis.
(B) schizoid presidency thesis.
(C) untethered presidency thesis.
(D) two presidencies thesis.
Answer: D

29. Which of the following groups are predisposed to support the president?
(A) politically independent
(B) those who identify with the president’s party
(C) economic conservatives
(D) pocketbook voters
Answer: B

30. Which of the following appears to be of least concern to the press corps’ coverage of the president?
(A) policies that presidents endorse
(B) how presidents present themselves
(C) presidential bloopers and blunders
(D) positive actions taken by presidents
Answer: A