Chapter 10: Congress

1. Which of the following is not one of the reasons why a number of congressional members have stepped down from office?
   (A) constant fundraising
   (B) to take more prestigious positions
   (C) frustration with Congress’s slow progress toward solving the country’s problems
   (D) being on the go all the time with no opportunity for reflection

   Answer: B

2. Which of the following is not a benefit received by Congress members?
   (A) free mailing privileges
   (B) retirement benefits
   (C) access to exercise rooms and pools
   (D) honoraria

   Answer: D

3. As described in the textbook, a day in the life of a Congress member is
   (A) hectic.
   (B) leisurely.
   (C) spent in floor debate.
   (D) unhurried.

   Answer: A

4. To serve as a member of the House of Representatives, one must be
   (A) at least 35 years old.
   (B) an American citizen for seven years.
   (C) a resident of the district from which one is elected.
   (D) a natural born citizen.

   Answer: B

5. Members of Congress are predominantly
   (A) young.
   (B) female.
   (C) upper middle class.
   (D) Jewish.

   Answer: C
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6. When members of Congress represent constituents by mirroring their personal, politically relevant characteristics, this is called
(A) descriptive representation.
(B) symbolic representation.
(C) substantive representation.
(D) trustee representation.

Answer: A

7. Individuals who already hold office are called
(A) corrupt.
(B) players.
(C) warped.
(D) incumbents.

Answer: D

8. Which of the following activities is not associated with the success for congressional incumbents?
(A) credit claiming
(B) servicing the constituents
(C) their votes on the issues correspond with their constituents
(D) weak opponents

Answer: C

9. When a member of Congress brings federal projects, grants and contracts to his or her district or state, this is known as
(A) pork barrel.
(B) casework.
(C) redlining.
(D) a hole in the bucket.

Answer: A

10. Which of the following may aid a challenger’s attempt to defeat an incumbent member of Congress?
(A) name recognition
(B) redistricting
(C) an optimistic public mood
(D) party identification

Answer: B
11. Which of the following is true about money and its impact on Congress and congressional elections?
(A) PACs buy votes in Congress by contributing to congressional campaigns.
(B) The more money challengers spend, the more votes they receive.
(C) Prolific spending by incumbents guarantees them success.
(D) When a seat is open, spending is unimportant.
Answer: B

12. The committee system in Congress allows members to
(A) choose term limits.
(B) become generalists.
(C) gain more prestige.
(D) specialize.
Answer: D

13. Opponents of term limits argue that they cause
(A) lifetime tenure.
(B) ethics abuses.
(C) policy stagnation.
(D) loss of experienced legislators.
Answer: D

14. The U.S. Congress is
(A) bicameral.
(B) unicameral.
(C) unitarian.
(D) rural.
Answer: A

15. Which of the following is a characteristic that the House has but the Senate doesn’t have?
(A) more centralized
(B) less specialized
(C) more influential in foreign affairs
(D) less turnover
Answer: A

16. The Rules Committee
(A) exists only in the Senate.
(B) reviews only revenue bills.
(C) allots time for debate on bills.
(D) has little power over a bill’s fate.
Answer: C
17. A filibuster occurs when opponents of a bill
(A) call for a floor vote.
(B) issue a press release.
(C) ask for unlimited debate.
(D) table the bill.
Answer: C

18. The only legislative office mandated by the U.S. Constitution is
(A) majority leader.
(B) whip.
(C) president pro tempore.
(D) Speaker of the House.
Answer: D

19. Which of the following is not a power held by the Speaker of the House?
(A) The Speaker schedules bills for House floor debate.
(B) The Speaker presides over the House when it is in session.
(C) The Speaker plays a major role in making House committee assignments.
(D) The Speaker plays a major role in appointing the party’s legislative leaders in the House.
Answer: A

20. Which of the following is not a power held by the Senate majority leader?
(A) The majority leader corals votes.
(B) The majority leader assigns bills to the Rules Committee.
(C) The majority leader schedules the floor action.
(D) The majority leader influences committee assignments.
Answer: B

21. The committee that investigated the Watergate scandal was a
(A) standing committee.
(B) joint committee.
(C) conference committee.
(D) select committee.
Answer: D

22. Most legislative oversight is conducted through
(A) passing legislation.
(B) reviewing agency budget requests.
(C) hearings.
(D) floor debate.
Answer: C
23. Congress primarily exercises oversight over the
   (A) the federal bureaucracy.
   (B) U.S. Supreme Court.
   (C) state legislatures.
   (D) state governors.

   Answer: A

24. Members of Congress do not seek committee membership to
   (A) exhibit party discipline.
   (B) seek reelection.
   (C) have influence.
   (D) make policy in areas they think are important.

   Answer: A

25. The personal staff of Congress members spend most of their time on
   (A) pork barrel.
   (B) casework.
   (C) hearings.
   (D) writing legislation.

   Answer: B

26. The members of a legislator’s district overwhelmingly favor more defense spending but the legislator
   does not vote for increased defense spending because he believes it is not in the best interests of the people.
   This legislator is acting as a
   (A) delegate.
   (B) político.
   (C) whip.
   (D) trustee.

   Answer: D

27. On a typical issue, the prime determinant of a congressional member’s vote is
   (A) constituent opinion.
   (B) vote swapping with other legislators.
   (C) personal ideology.
   (D) pleasing the president.

   Answer: C
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28. Differences between the voting behavior of Democrats and Republicans are sharpest on questions of
(A) foreign policy.
(B) social welfare policy.
(C) education policy.
(D) energy policy.
Answer: B

29. The wave of congressional reforms in the 1960s and 1970s was aimed primarily at
(A) increasing efficiency.
(B) creating more hierarchy.
(C) decentralizing power.
(D) increasing the influence of senior members of Congress.
Answer: C

30. Which of the following is true about bills?
(A) Most bills are private bills.
(B) Most bills are introduced as a favor to a group or a constituent.
(C) Few bills are introduced in Congress.
(D) Most bills are killed off early in the legislative process.
Answer: D