AP U.S. Government and Politics Practice

Choose one answer per question. Circle A, B, C, or D.

1. Which article of the U.S. Constitution vests federal judicial power in the Supreme Court and any lower federal courts that Congress establishes?
   A. Article III
   B. Article I
   C. Article II
   D. Article IV

2. A president nominates someone to fill a vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court. Which chamber considers whether to consent to the appointment?
   A. A joint session of both houses voting as one chamber
   B. The U.S. House of Representatives
   C. The U.S. Senate
   D. The legislature of the nominee’s home state

3. Residents send Congress a written request to fix a public problem. Which First Amendment protection most directly describes this action?
   A. The freedom of the press
   B. The right to petition the government
   C. The right to assemble peaceably
   D. The free exercise of religion

4. The U.S. Constitution delegates some powers to the national government and reserves others to the states or the people. Which principle describes this division?
   A. Popular sovereignty
   B. Judicial review
   C. Bicameralism
   D. Federalism

5. A fictional student develops views about government through conversations at home, civics classes, and events covered in the news. Which process does that describe?
   A. Reapportionment
   B. Political socialization
   C. Judicial review
   D. Congressional oversight

6. A president vetoes a regular bill. On reconsideration the House reaches the required two-thirds vote, but the Senate supports it by only a simple majority. What happens to the veto?

A. It stands because each chamber must reach two-thirds to override it.
B. It is overridden because the House reached two-thirds.
C. It is overridden because both chambers supported the bill by a majority.
D. It is set aside until state legislatures vote on the bill.

7. In a fictional federal program, states can choose whether to accept money. Participating states can spend it only on digitizing government records. Which term best describes this funding?

A. A direct tax on state governments
B. A block grant for broad administrative costs
C. An unfunded mandate
D. A categorical grant

8. In a fictional case, a public school restricts students' quiet symbolic expression. The court asks whether the school could reasonably expect the expression to disrupt its work. Which finding would most directly address that question under Tinker?

A. The message is unpopular outside the school.
B. Several officials disagree with the viewpoint the students expressed.
C. Specific facts support a forecast of material and substantial disruption to schoolwork.
D. The students had never shared the message at school before.

9. In a fictional case, an agency proposes to draw money from the U.S. Treasury for a program. No appropriation law covers the proposed spending. What would supply the missing constitutional authority?

A. An appropriation enacted into law
B. A request from an agency director
C. A resolution by one state legislature
D. An opinion issued by an advisory committee

10. In a fictional poll, randomly assigned groups see the same library plan. One question calls it a proposal and 42% support it. The other calls it an overdue improvement and 58% support it. What does the comparison suggest?

A. The larger percentage is a better estimate because it reports more support.
B. Public opinion changed by 16 percentage points over time.
C. The second group necessarily understood the proposal better.
D. The wording may have influenced how people answered.

11. An original classroom summary says Madison thought a larger republic would contain a wider range of interests. Which result ties that observation to his argument in Federalist No. 10?

A. A single faction can more easily control government as the number of interests grows.
B. All citizens in a larger republic will eventually hold the same interests.
C. A faction may find it harder to form a majority and act against others’ rights.
D. Each faction gains an automatic veto over national decisions.

12. A student summarizes the national bank dispute by saying Congress may use only tools named explicitly in the Constitution. Which revision best reflects the Supreme Court’s reasoning in McCulloch v. Maryland?

A. Congress may choose any end it wants as long as it states a reason in the law.
B. Congress may use suitable means to carry out constitutional powers, within the limits of the Constitution.
C. Congress may use a tool only when at least one state has already adopted it.
D. Congress may use a tool absent from the text only after the states amend the Constitution to name it.

13. In a fictional town, 125 of 500 citizens ages 18–24 report voting. In the group age 65 and older, 80 of 100 report voting. Which conclusion follows from the figures?

A. The two groups together reported a voting rate of 80%.
B. The younger group reported voting at a higher rate because more of its members reported voting.
C. The two groups reported voting at the same rate after accounting for group size.
D. The older group reported voting at a higher rate, even though it had fewer reported voters.

14. In fictional records, outside groups pay for two public ads, each expressly urging election of a named federal candidate. The candidate’s campaign helped plan ad A. Ad B was prepared and paid for without any coordination with a campaign or party committee. Which ad meets the stated criteria for an independent expenditure?

A. Ad B only
B. Ad A only
C. Both ads
D. Neither ad

15. A fictional constitutional amendment received the required vote in both houses of Congress. Congress chose ratification by state legislatures, and 37 of the 50 states have ratified. A student says the president can now make the amendment effective by signing it. Which answer corrects the claim?

A. Congress can replace the remaining state ratification with another vote in each house.
B. The state threshold has been met, so the president’s signature is the only step left.
C. Ratification by at least one more state legislature is the remaining step.
D. All 50 state legislatures must ratify, and the president must then sign.