

Congress and the President

1. In 2001, George W. Bush came into office with
 - a. no mandate.
 - b. a nation that was politically divided.
 - c. (both a and b are correct)
 - d. (neither a nor b is correct)
2. The U.S. Senator that President Bush clashed with over campaign finance reform was
 - a. John McCain.
 - b. Orin Hatch.
 - c. John Kerry.
 - d. (none of the above)
3. The success or failure of presidential-congressional relationships depends upon the
 - a. skills/popularity of the president.
 - b. partisan/ideological composition of Congress.
 - c. strength of political parties and the nature of political events.
 - d. (all of the above)
4. Tensions between Congress and Presidents are
 - a. fairly recent, going back only a few decades.
 - b. very rare, occurring in the 19th century, but not since then.
 - c. Rooted and pervasive in U.S. history.
 - d. so brutal, that little legislation is ever passed by Congress and signed into law.
5. The framers of the Constitution saw which branch as central, if not dominant?
 - a. The executive branch
 - b. The legislative branch
 - c. The judicial branch
 - d. All three branches as being equally dominant
6. Major legislative proposals made by presidents have about what chance of becoming law?
 - a. twenty percent
 - b. forty percent
 - c. fifty percent
 - d. eighty percent
7. Powers of Congress include
 - a. the power of the purse.
 - b. declaring war.
 - c. supervising interstate commerce.
 - d. (all of the above)

8. Members of Congress most often would have a
 - a. national view of political choices.
 - b. local or parochial views regarding political choices.
 - c. political view identical to that of a President.
 - d. view of political choices that would change according to public opinion polls.

9. A single term in office for a U.S. Senator is typically
 - a. six years.
 - b. four years.
 - c. two years.
 - d. eight years.

10. The most important predictor of how members of Congress vote is
 - a. personal background.
 - b. the number of years served in Congress.
 - c. partisan affiliation.
 - d. region of the nation that they represent.

11. Which of the following presidents enjoyed majority control by their party in Congress?
 - a. John Kennedy
 - b. Lyndon Johnson
 - c. Jimmy Carter
 - d. (all of the above)

12. Which Article of the Constitution grants Congress its legislative powers?
 - a. Article I
 - b. Article II
 - c. Article III
 - d. Article IV

13. Congress "jealously" guards its right to modify presidential policies in the areas of
 - a. Defense.
 - b. Agriculture.
 - c. (both a and b)
 - d. (neither a nor b)

14. Which of the following "conspires" against presidential policy leadership?
 - a. congressional decentralization
 - b. independence of legislators
 - c. institutional responsibilities/pride of Congress
 - d. (all of the above)

15. If a U.S. president served two full terms, then he or she would be in the White House for
 - a. six years.
 - b. four years.
 - c. ten years.
 - d. eight years.

16. Assuming all 100 senators are present, what is the minimum number of senators needed to end a filibuster?
 - a. 51
 - b. 60
 - c. 67
 - d. 75

17. The last U.S. president to sign a formal declaration of war was
 - a. Woodrow Wilson.
 - b. Franklin D. Roosevelt.
 - c. Abraham Lincoln.
 - d. Richard M. Nixon.

18. Which of the following men was the subject of a bitter Senate confirmation debate for Bush's choice of attorney general in 2001?
 - a. John Ashcroft
 - b. John Tower
 - c. Robert Bork
 - d. Clarence Thomas

19. The tool of "executive privilege" probably first gained a bad name during the presidency of
 - a. Dwight D. Eisenhower.
 - b. John F. Kennedy.
 - c. Richard M. Nixon.
 - d. Lyndon B. Johnson.

20. All of the following are true about "executive orders" EXCEPT
 - a. they have the force of law.
 - b. they can be overturned by later presidents.
 - c. they cannot be challenged in the courts.
 - d. they can be used to shape public policy.

21. The president who employed the greatest number of vetoes was
 - a. Franklin D. Roosevelt.
 - b. Dwight D. Eisenhower.
 - c. Bill Clinton.
 - d. Harry S. Truman.

22. If a president does not sign or veto a bill within _____ weekdays after receiving it, the bill becomes law.
- a. thirty
 - b. twenty
 - c. ten
 - d. five
23. The item veto was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court on the grounds that it violated the principle of
- a. separation of powers.
 - b. executive privilege.
 - c. continuing resolutions.
 - d. budget deficits.
24. The number of senators necessary to convict Bill Clinton in the Senate's impeachment trial was
- a. 51.
 - b. 67.
 - c. 70.
 - d. 55.
25. A President can favorably "influence" Congress by
- a. holding bill-signing ceremonies.
 - b. having important social events.
 - c. helping legislators with fund-raising.
 - d. (all of the above)