Practice Exam- Interest Groups and Congress

1. James Madison believed that the latent causes of faction were rooted in
   a. the nature of man
   b. capitalist society
   c. religious conflict
   d. an improperly designed constitution
   e. communist governments

2. The Office of Management and Budget has the primary responsibility for doing which of the following?
   a. Implementing federal unemployment policy
   b. Preparing the budget
   c. Auditing the budget
   d. Appropriating funds for the budget
   e. Approving the budget

3. An organization that seeks to influence public policy is most accurately referred to as a(n)
   a. interest group
   b. lobby
   c. institutional interest
   d. membership interest
   e. persuasive speaker

4. The reason Americans participate in civic associations more frequently than do citizens of other countries is
   a. their greater dissatisfaction with the government
   b. their sense of political efficacy and civic duty
   c. their European heritage
   d. the fact that they are less sensitive to the free-rider problem
   e. their lack of a political voice

5. Which of the following committees of the House of Representatives sets the conditions for debate and amendment of most legislation?
   a. Ways and Means
   b. Appropriations
   c. Judiciary
   d. Rules
   e. Governmental Operations

6. Lobbyists try to influence legislators mainly through
   a. “winning and dining” legislators
   b. orchestrating petition drives and letter-writing campaigns
   c. placing persuasive advisements in the media
   d. threatening to help the legislator’s opponent in the next election
   e. providing legislators with information on technical issues

7. A major cause in the decline of union membership in the United States was a(n)
   a. shift in the nation’s economic life toward industrial production
   b. decline in public support for unions
   c. shift in the nation’s economic life away from service delivery
   d. increase in the number of union members with purposive incentives
   e. union membership fizzling out

8. The details of legislation are usually worked out in which of the following settings?
   a. a party caucus
   b. the majority leader’s office
   c. the floor of the house
   d. legislative hearings
   e. a subcommittee
9. The Americans who are most likely to join interest groups are
   a. secular persons
   b. people in small communities
   c. people from the lower socioeconomic classes and members of minority
groups
   d. people with better-than-average incomes
   e. uneducated persons

10. Pork Barrel legislation helps the reelection chances of a member of Congress because such legislation
   a. gives the member of Congress national standing and coverage on national TV news
   b. helps earn the member of Congress a reputation for service in their district
   c. attracts campaign contributions from PACs
   d. prevents other candidates from claiming that that member of Congress is too liberal for their district
   e. requires the member of Congress to travel

11. Public monies are used to help finance which of the following campaigns?
   I. Presidential
   II. Congressional
   III. Gubernatorial
       a. I only
       b. II only
       c. I and II only
       d. II and III only
       e. I, II, and III

12. The powers that the president shares with the Senate include
   a. receiving ambassadors
   b. making treaties
   c. granting pardons for federal offenses
   d. wielding legislative power
   e. commissioning officers of the military

13. Probably the most effective commodity at the command of interest groups is
   a. money
   b. information
   c. party power
   d. media access
   e. speakers

14. Lobbyists are restrained from misrepresenting facts or misleading legislators by
   a. the 1984 Truth-in-Lobbying Law
   b. the open nature of the lobbying process
   c. governmental regulatory agencies such as the FTA
   d. the fear of losing legislators’ trust and confidence
   e. the threat of jail time

15. Sometimes money affects legislative behavior not so much by buying votes as by ensuring
   a. access
   b. veto power
   c. procedural fairness
   d. favorable implementation
   e. their dedication

16. Of the following, which has been used most to expand the power of the national government?
   a. Commerce clause of the Constitution
   b. The habeas corpus clause of the Constitution
   c. The bill of attainder clause of the Constitution
   d. first amendment
   e. The Fifth Amendment
17. More than 2500 presidential vetoes have been made since 1789. Congress has overridden about what percent of these?
   a. 4 percent
   b. 25 percent
   c. 38 percent
   d. 45 percent
   e. 86 percent

18. Interest-group activity is protected under the US Constitution by the
   a. First Amendment
   b. Fourth Amendment
   c. Fourteenth Amendment
   d. Twenty-second Amendment
   e. Twentieth Amendment

19. Each of the following was an objective of the Framers except
   a. to make Congress inferior to the executive
   b. to oppose concentration of power in a single institution
   c. to balance large and small states
   d. to have Congress be the dominant institution
   e. to have one branch check the power of the other

20. One important effect of bicameralism is that it
   a. ensures a separation of federal powers
   b. balances large and small states
   c. ensures the dominance of Congress over the executive and judicial branches of government
   d. makes Congress subject to the powers of the Supreme Court
   e. allows for one house to dominate the other house

21. Under the original Constitution, members of the Senate, unlike members of the House, were selected by
   a. direct elections
   b. the president
   c. state legislatures
   d. primary runoffs
   e. presidential appointments

22. The congressional power that has been contested most frequently in the federal courts is the power to
   a. establish post offices
   b. coin money
   c. levy taxes
   d. regulate intrastate commerce
   e. regulate interstate commerce

23. Decentralization in the House has come to mean that
   a. the power of individual membership has increased
   b. the power of the leadership has increased
   c. presidential leadership of the House has increased
   d. the power of political parties has increased
   e. the power of the Speaker has remained the same

24. The purpose of a filibuster is to
   a. ensure that all sides of an issue are heard
   b. delay action in a legislative body
   c. protect majority rule
   d. shift legislative power to Senate committees
   e. to force a vote on a bill
25. The franking privilege refers to the
   a. Federal Reserve Board’s control over interest rates
   b. practice of permitting senators to preview lists of judicial nominees
   c. practice whereby legislators with the most seniority select the committees in which they would like to serve
   d. right of the chair to control the schedule of his or her congressional committee
   e. right of members of Congress to send mail to their constituents at the government’s expense

26. In terms of composition of its membership, the House since 1950 compared with the Senate has become:
   a. less male and less white
   b. less male and more white
   c. more male and less white
   d. more male and more white
   e. None of the above

27. The sharp rise in the proportion of House members serving only their first or second term in 1995 can be attributed to all of the following except
   a. redrawing of congressional district lines after the 1990 census to the disadvantage of incumbents
   b. voter disgust of a variety of Washington political scandals
   c. decreasing use of seniority as criteria for selection of committee chairs
   d. conversion of the South from being solidly Democratic to a Republican stronghold
   e. None of the above

28. A marginal district is one in which
   a. voters frequently change party affiliation
   b. the constituency is made up of largely minority groups
   c. the winner in an election gets less than 55 percent of the vote
   d. gerrymandering has produced a loose affiliation of interest groups
   e. winner is an election gains more than 55 percent of the vote

29. All of the following are commonly used by interest groups to influence the political process EXCEPT
   a. lobbying
   b. contributing money to candidates
   c. nominating candidates
   d. filing lawsuits
   e. appealing to public opinion

30. Gerrymandering is a process by which
   a. marginal districts elect the challenger candidate
   b. the local political machine is defeated by the challenger
   c. the winning candidate receives only 55 percent of the vote
   d. a new district boundary is created to favor one party
   e. federal congressmen draw new districts

31. In 1911, Congress decided to fix the size of the House at
   a. 100
   b. 435
   c. 465
   d. 513
   e. 538

32. Votes in Congress that evoked party splits during the 1990s were most likely to be reflective of
   a. parties interested in winning elections
   b. parties attempting to dispense patronage
   c. party polarization
   d. party efforts to keep power
   e. parties funded by PAC money
33. The term sophomore surge refers to the tendency of  
   a. reelected House members to gain key power positions  
   b. the popularity of newly elected House members to increase in their second year of office  
   c. freshman House members to be reelected  
   d. newly elected House members to make foolish (sophomoric) decisions on key votes  
   e. none of the above

34. Legislators who think of themselves as delegates are most likely to  
   a. follow their constituents’ wishes closely  
   b. do what they perceive is best  
   c. influence committees to vote the delegate’s position  
   d. gather support from interest-group representatives  
   e. support partisan votes

35. Recent changes in the composition of members in Congress has resulted in  
   a. a more moderate senate  
   b. a more moderate house  
   c. a more ideological and partisan house  
   d. a more non-partisan senate  
   e. a more non-partisan house

36. In the Senate, the greatest power is in the hands of the  
   a. Speaker  
   b. president pro tempore  
   c. minority whip  
   d. majority leader  
   e. individual members

37. One reason why members of Congress tend to support the policy positions of their party is that  
   a. those positions often coincide with their own ideology  
   b. congressional rules require party support on all partisan issues  
   c. support for the party position is essential in the eyes of most voters  
   d. the party pays most of their campaign expenses  
   e. the party disagrees with them

38. The Congressional Black Caucus is one of the best known  
   a. joint committees  
   b. interest groups  
   c. state delegations  
   d. specialized caucuses  
   e. nominating device

39. Most of the power and real work of Congress is found in  
   a. the committees  
   b. specialized caucuses  
   c. state delegations  
   d. party leaders  
   e. house

40. The boundary lines of congressional districts are drawn by  
   a. the United States House of Representatives  
   b. the United States Senate  
   c. United States district courts  
   d. state governors  
   e. state legislatures
41. The type of committee most likely to deal with a bill near the end of its legislative process is the
   a. standing committee
   b. select committee
   c. conference committee
   d. joint committee
   e. ways and means

42. According to the text, some scholars argue that incumbents in Congress are hard to defeat because of
   a. their many years of experience
   b. their superior campaigning skills
   c. the way their party supports them
   d. the constituency services of their staffs
   e. they consistently run for reelection

44. An electoral system based on single-member districts is usually characterized by
   a. strong, centralized political parties and a weak executive
   b. higher rates of voter turnout than are common in other systems
   c. legislative representation of each party in proportion to the number of votes it receives
   d. domination of the legislature by two political parties
   e. ideological rather than mass-based parties

45. A bill can be introduced into Congress by
   a. any member of the majority party
   b. any member of Congress
   c. any member of Congress or the president
   d. members of the relevant committees only
   e. by any person

46. The complexity of the procedure for enacting a law gives the advantage to the bill’s
   a. party supporters
   b. opponents
   c. congressional sponsors
   d. supporters in the executive branch

47. Which of the following statements about revenue bills is correct?
   a. they must originate in the House
   b. they must originate in the Senate
   c. they must originate with the president
   d. they can originate in either the House or the Senate
   e. they can be introduced by the president

48. A bill to raise taxes would first be referred to the
   a. House Ways and Means Committee
   b. Senate Appropriations Committee
   c. House Appropriations Committee
   d. Congressional Budget Office
   e. Congressional Money Management Office

49. A markup session is one in which
   a. a committee or subcommittee makes changes in the original version of a bill
   b. the party leadership assigns priority ratings to numerous bills
   c. the Rules Committee determines the conditions under which floor debate will be conducted
   d. a conference committee makes key compromises before reporting back to both houses
   e. in which the president seeks to use the line item veto
50. A discharge petition is used by the House to
a. make revisions and additions to a bill before it is voted on
b. get a bill stalled in committee onto the floor
c. amend a bill that has already passed one house but not the other
d. override a presidential veto
e. request the Senate bring a bill to the floor

51. In the Senate, a filibuster can be ended by invoking
a. a rider
b. a quorum
c. mark-up
d. cloture
e. pigeonhole

52. Which of the following statements about the current cloture rule is correct?
a. It requires 3/5’s of the entire Senate membership to pass
b. It sets a time limit on debate of five minutes per speaker
c. It requires half of the entire Senate membership to sign a petition to move cloture
d. It is used more frequently by the House than by the Senate
e. It is used only in the House

53. In recent years, the political beliefs of members of Congress have become
a. more polarized than voters
b. close to the center of the political spectrum
c. moderately liberal
d. moderately conservative
e. more unified

54. A member of the Senate has just been elected to a position that requires him to keep the majority leader informed about the opinions of other party members. He has just been elected
a. majority party whip
b. president pro tempore
c. chairman of the steering committee
d. chairman of policy committee
e. chairman of judiciary committee

55. The largest portion of “uncontrollable spending” in the federal budget is designated for which of the following
a. interest of the national debt
b. entitlement spending
c. defense spending
d. environmental programs
e. salaries for federal bureaucrats

56. Most reformers agree that trimming the pork from Congressional spending is necessary because
a. pork barrel projects are the main cause of the budget deficit
b. some wasteful projects are designed to solely to win votes at home
c. of the great increase in pork spending in the last decade
d. bureaucratic abuses increase in a pork-orientated Congress
e. It is dangerous for democracy

57. Senate confirmation is required for which of the following presidential appointments?
I. Sec. of State
II. White House Chief of Staff
III. Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
IV. Attorney General
a. I only
b. II and III only
c. II and IV only
d. I, III, and IV only
e. I, II, III and IV
58. Among the many powers of the House Speaker is that he or she
   a. determines the committee assignment of bills
   b. assigns party members to the various committees
   c. keeps party leaders informed about the opinions of their party members
   d. schedules legislation
   e. takes the minutes

59. A major difference between the House and Senate is that
   a. filibusters are possible only in the House
   b. revenue bills must originate in the Senate
   c. judicial nominees originate in a house committee
   d. each state has equal representation in the house but not senate
   e. there is unlimited debate in the Senate but not the House

60. Federal benefits that must be funded by Congress and must be paid to all citizens who meet eligibility criteria are called
   a. discretionary appropriations
   b. individual entitlements
   c. tax expenditures
   d. distributive benefits
   e. continuing appropriations