**Quiz #1: PLSC 323: Congress in American Politics**

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[**Test Information**](https://mycourses.binghamton.edu/webapps/assessment/take/launch.jsp?course_assessment_id=_4640_1&course_id=_25504_1&content_id=_393893_1&step=null)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Description | This is the quiz covering the material for the first week.  |
| Instructions | Please choose the best answer.  |
| Timed Test | This test has a time limit of 2 hours.You will be notified when time expires, and you may continue or submit.Warnings appear when **half the time**, **5 minutes**, **1 minute**, and **30 seconds** remain. |
| Multiple Attempts | Not allowed. This test can only be taken once. |
| Force Completion | This test can be saved and resumed later. The timer will continue to run if you leave the test. |

**QUESTION 1**

1. What is the primary duty of the Dean of the House of Representatives?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | The member gets two votes on the floor |
|  | b. | The member gets an office in the Capitol Building overlooking the city |
|  | c. | The member is third in line to the Presidency |
|  | d. | The member swears in the Speaker of the House on the first day of the Congress |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 2**

1. What is an accurate statement about how members of the House of Representatives are elected?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | They are elected in a statewide list vote (proportional representation, but by state) |
|  | b. | They are elected through a combination of single member districts and proportional representation |
|  | c. | They are all elected from single member districts from each state |
|  | d. | They are elected in a national list vote (proportional representation) |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 3**

1. Who was the winner of the 2017 special election for the U.S. Senate in Alabama that was held on December 12?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Roy Moore |
|  | b. | Mo Brooks |
|  | c. | Doug Jones |
|  | d. | Luther Strange |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 4**

1. When is the Vice President allowed to cast a vote in the Senate?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Anytime he wants to |
|  | b. | Only on nominations for members of the Cabinet |
|  | c. | Only when 2/3 of members decide he can vote |
|  | d. | Only to break a tie vote |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 5**

1. What Supreme Court case opened the door to unlimited amounts of outside money to be spent in campaigns?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Karcher v. Daggett  |
|  | b. | Whitford v. Gill |
|  | c. | Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission |
|  | d. | Roe v. Wade |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 6**

1. What is a primary role of party whips in Congress?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Decide on the food in the House and Senate cafeterias and whether the fries shall be known as "Freedom Fries" or "French Fries" |
|  | b. | Schedule floor proceedings and decide which days the chamber will meet |
|  | c. | Enforce party discipline and count votes |
|  | d. | Recruit candidates and raise money for those candidates |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 7**

1. Which member of the US House was recently (this year) shot at a baseball game?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Trent Franks |
|  | b. | Steve Scalise |
|  | c. | Roy Moore |
|  | d. | Pete Sessions |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 8**

1. According to Mayhew, what does he attribute the loss of Sen. Frank Graham (D-North Carolina) to in the 1950 primary?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | He was found to have been taking bribes |
|  | b. | Failure to tailor his liberal issue positions to fit the electorate |
|  | c. | A major sex scandal |
|  | d. | Being caught on YouTube making a controversial statement |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 9**

1. What is the Franking Privilege?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | The ability to hire staff members |
|  | b. | A special privilege for members of Congress named Frank |
|  | c. | The ability of a member to send out large amounts of mail at taxpayer expense |
|  | d. | The ability for members to fly around the world on military planes for free |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 10**

1. What is the most common previous office held by members of the U.S. Senate?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Governor |
|  | b. | Member of the U.S. House of Representatives |
|  | c. | State Attorney General |
|  | d. | Mayor of a major city |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 11**

1. What did the Supreme Court rule in the decision of *Shelby County v. Holder*(2013)?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | There were no constitutional defects with any part of the Voting Rights Act |
|  | b. | The entire Voting Rights Act was unconstitutional |
|  | c. | That minority-majority districts were unconstitutional  |
|  | d. | The coverage formula of the Voting Rights Act was outdated, thus unconstitutional  |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 12**

1. Which person that held the office of Majority Leader of the Senate helped to make the office very powerful when he took the job in 1955?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Charles Schumer |
|  | b. | Mitch McConnell |
|  | c. | Robert J. Dole |
|  | d. | Lyndon Baines Johnson |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 13**

1. What religious group is vastly underrepresented in the Congress?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Those with no religious preference |
|  | b. | Roman Catholics |
|  | c. | Mormons |
|  | d. | Those of the Jewish faith |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 14**

1. According to Mayhew, what is the proximate goal of members of the Congress?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Getting an appointment to the executive or judicial branch |
|  | b. | Enriching themselves personally |
|  | c. | Getting reelected |
|  | d. | Good public policy |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 15**

1. What current member of the US Senate was defeated in their primary, but was able to win reelection by running and winning as a write-in candidate?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Mitch McConnell |
|  | b. | Richard Lugar |
|  | c. | Lisa Murkowski |
|  | d. | Claire McCaskill  |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 16**

1. What is one of the prime reasons that Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Virginia) lost his bid for reelection in 2014?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | He actually won reelection in 2014 and still represents Virginia in the House of Representatives  |
|  | b. | He was involved in a major sex scandal  |
|  | c. | He ignored his district to focus more on his role in the House Leadership in Washington, DC |
|  | d. | Virginia voters opposed him because he was the only Jewish Republican member of Congress at the time |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 17**

1. Who would preside in the Senate over the impeachment trial of the President?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States |
|  | b. | The Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives  |
|  | c. | The Vice-President of the United States |
|  | d. | The President Pro Tempore of the Senate |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 18**

1. What is an important aspect of credit claiming according to Mayhew?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Members of Congress will try to hide getting money for federal projects so constituents do not think they are big spenders |
|  | b. | Members of Congress will be very careful not to try to take credit for projects or benefits he/she had little part of getting done |
|  | c. | Members of Congress will insist on getting a percentage (for themselves personally) for any federal dollars he/she brings back to the district |
|  | d. | It is to show the independent achievements of that particular member of Congress, rather than groups or parties getting the credit |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 19**

1. Which type of election features the highest levels of voter turnout?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Special House Elections |
|  | b. | Presidential Elections |
|  | c. | Mid-Term Elections |
|  | d. | Off-year elections for Governor |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 20**

1. What is the current size of the U.S. House of Representatives?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | 435 |
|  | b. | 100 |
|  | c. | 650 |
|  | d. | 203 |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 21**

1. Who is the current Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Claudia Tenney |
|  | b. | Mitch McConnell |
|  | c. | Paul Ryan |
|  | d. | Nancy Pelosi |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 22**

1. What has been a consequence of the creation of more minority-majority districts in the US House, in the South?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | It has increased the number of Republicans representing the South since 1982 |
|  | b. | Less minority members of Congress have been elected since 1982 |
|  | c. | Districts in the South have became more compact (splitting less counties with more reasonable shapes) since 1982 |
|  | d. | It has increased the number of Democrats representing the South since 1982 |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 23**

1. Bad relations with which group in Congress was a prime factor in John Boehner's resignation as Speaker?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Boehner is still the Speaker of the House |
|  | b. | The Sportsman's Caucus |
|  | c. | The Progressive Caucus |
|  | d. | The Freedom Caucus |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 24**

1. What share of the Senate (of duly elected members) is required to vote in an impeachment proceeding to remove an executive or judicial officer from office?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | 3/4 |
|  | b. | 2/3 |
|  | c. | 50%+1 |
|  | d. | Unanimity (100%) |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 25**

1. In *Evenwel v. Abbott* (2016), what did the plaintiffs (those suing Texas) want district populations to be based on?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | The voter eligible population |
|  | b. | The total population of the state (including children and non-citizens) |
|  | c. | Only voters who are currently registered to vote |
|  | d. | Weighting each county equally even if they are of vastly different populations  |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 26**

1. According to Mayhew, what is an example of how election results helped to change members of Congress' positions on an issue?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | When Republicans failed to back President Obama's health care law in 2010 and faced public pressure for doing so |
|  | b. | When some Democrats in 1960 refused to endorse John F. Kennedy and lost primaries the next election |
|  | c. | When Kentucky legislators failed to support subsidies for the Kentucky Derby and lost their seats in 1961 |
|  | d. | When two North Carolina Democrats failed to sign the Southern Manifesto, they lost primaries in 1956 |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 27**

1. According to Mayhew, there are three reasons that British members of Parliament (MPs) submit to party discipline. Which if the following is NOT one of these reasons?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | British MPs lack the resources to have a base independent of their party |
|  | b. | Parties control the nomination process in Britain |
|  | c. | The only positions worth having are doled out by party leaders |
|  | d. | There are no fixed elections, other than the requirement that an election be held every five years |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 28**

1. If a member of the U.S. House of Representatives dies or resigns their seat in the middle of their term, what is the method for filling that vacancy?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | A special election is called |
|  | b. | The losing candidate from the last election assumes the seat |
|  | c. | The Governor appoints a replacement |
|  | d. | The Speaker of the House appoints a replacement |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 29**

1. According to Mayhew, what is something that a member in a marginal district likely to do than members in non-marginal districts?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | a. | Miss lots of roll call votes so they can campaign and raise money |
|  | b. | Introduce more floor amendments |
|  | c. | Hide from constituents in their district |
|  | d. | Vote the party line position |

**5 points**

**QUESTION 30**

1. What was the primary hold of *Reynolds v.* *Sims*(1964)?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | US House districts should be roughly equal in size as to not violate the Equal Protection Clause |
|  |  | The Court declined to look at the issue of malapportioned districts because they found it to be a political question |
|  |  | That the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was constitutional  |
|  |  | That majority minority districts could violate the Equal Protection Clause if they were bizarrely shaped |

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