

Lesson 5

■ Achievement Exam

This Achievement Exam covers Lessons 4 and 5.

Select the single best answer for each question or statement, then go online to <https://students.ashworthcollege.edu> and enter your answers.

1. Which of the following statements is INACCURATE?
 - _____ a. Public opinion about presidents rarely, if ever, fluctuates.
 - _____ b. Although the president represents the entire citizenry, the office remains partisan.
 - _____ c. Presidents are bound to disappoint some people, as they have conflicting roles and limited executive power.
 - _____ d. Americans demand strong presidential leadership in times of crisis, which sometimes leads to concerns about the consequences of that very strength.

2. Which of the following is NOT true about the electoral college?
 - _____ a. Except for Maine and Nebraska, the states appoint their members of the electoral college on a "winner-take-all" basis.
 - _____ b. A presidential candidate needs 270 electoral votes to win office outright.
 - _____ c. If no candidate receives a majority in the electoral college, the election is decided by a majority vote in the House of Representatives, with each state delegation casting one vote.
 - _____ d. All electors must vote for the candidate that they pledged to support.

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3. The Executive Office of the President includes which of the following?
- ☐ a. Office of the Vice President
 - ☐ b. White House Counsel
 - ☐ c. Department of Homeland Security
 - ☐ d. Office of Management and Budget
4. Images such as "captain of the ship," "finding common ground," and "want to be president when there are big problems" come from:
- ☐ a. Barack Obama.
 - ☐ b. George H.W. Bush.
 - ☐ c. James Buchanan.
 - ☐ d. Dwight D. Eisenhower.
5. Franklin D. Roosevelt is called the first "modern" president because he:
- ☐ a. ran for three terms.
 - ☐ b. established strong leadership patterns in both domestic and foreign policy, and in creating the executive bureaucracy.
 - ☐ c. attempted to pack the Supreme Court.
 - ☐ d. was the first president to involve the United States in a world war.

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6. The role of chief of state is most like:
- _____ a. the British prime minister.
 - _____ b. the Queen of England.
 - _____ c. the Secretary of State.
 - _____ d. the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
7. In which case did the U.S. Congress declare war?
- _____ a. The Vietnam War
 - _____ b. The Kosovo conflict
 - _____ c. The Persian Gulf War
 - _____ d. World War II
8. Which of the following limits the president to two terms of office under most circumstances?
- _____ a. The custom of presidents only running for two terms
 - _____ b. The Presidential Succession Act of 1949
 - _____ c. Article II of the Constitution
 - _____ d. The Twenty-second Amendment

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9. Which of the following had the most influence on Republican losses in the 2006 midterm congressional elections?
- ☐ a. Rapidly rising unemployment
 - ☐ b. The 1,000 point drop in the Dow Industrial Average
 - ☐ c. Public doubts about the course of the war in Iraq
 - ☐ d. Debates concerning banning gay marriage
10. The Executive Office of the President:
- ☐ a. was established in Article II of the Constitution.
 - ☐ b. was established in the mid-20th century to assist the president in managing the bureaucracy.
 - ☐ c. was an agency that Ronald Reagan tried to abolish when he assumed the presidency.
 - ☐ d. has direct supervision over cabinet departments.
11. Cabinet secretaries:
- ☐ a. serve two-year terms that correspond to the House of Representatives.
 - ☐ b. serve at the pleasure of the president.
 - ☐ c. are confirmed by the Senate for up to six years.
 - ☐ d. participate in all facets of the government.

12. A government corporation:

- ☐ a. is intended to oversee private corporations.
- ☐ b. is intended to support its operations with its self-generated revenues.
- ☐ c. is the preferred method of Republicans for organizing government services.
- ☐ d. was a common form of government organization during the Gilded Age.

13. Vice President Joe Biden seeks to:

- ☐ a. expand the office to include oversight of homeland security.
- ☐ b. prosecute former Vice President Cheney for support for torture.
- ☐ c. spend his time presiding over the Senate.
- ☐ d. shrink the office of vice president to an advisory role to the president.

14. Which of the following pairs of first ladies are most similar in the way that they have interpreted their roles as public figures?

- ☐ a. Eleanor Roosevelt and Laura Bush
- ☐ b. Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama
- ☐ c. Dolly Madison and Laura Bush
- ☐ d. Laura Bush and Michelle Obama

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15. The civil-service system arose in the late 19th century as a response to:
- ☐ a. the problems created by a small bureaucracy.
 - ☐ b. the problem of states having too much public responsibility.
 - ☐ c. the challenge of managing a growing rural economy.
 - ☐ d. the corruption and abuses of the spoils system.
16. The Seventeenth Amendment provides that:
- ☐ a. senators shall be elected indirectly by state legislators.
 - ☐ b. House terms are fixed at two years.
 - ☐ c. Senate terms are fixed at six years.
 - ☐ d. senators shall be elected directly by voters.
17. In recent years, party loyalty in votes in both houses has:
- ☐ a. increased among both Democrats and Republicans.
 - ☐ b. decreased among both Democrats and Republicans.
 - ☐ c. increased among Republicans and decreased among Democrats.
 - ☐ d. remained static.

18. A party caucus is:

- _____ a. a method used to stall debate on the Senate floor.
- _____ b. a meeting of all members of the same party serving in the House or Senate.
- _____ c. needed to override a president's veto.
- _____ d. conducted by every newly elected member of Congress.

19. The president pro tempore of the Senate:

- _____ a. is the longest-serving member from the majority party.
- _____ b. also serves as the chamber's majority leader.
- _____ c. is the most powerful party leader.
- _____ d. appoints members of the Rules Committee.

20. The basic working units of Congress are:

- _____ a. conference committees.
- _____ b. special committees.
- _____ c. caucus committees.
- _____ d. standing committees.

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21. Which federal court was established by the Constitution?
- ☐ a. The U.S. Courts of Appeals
 - ☐ b. The U.S. District Courts
 - ☐ c. The U.S. Supreme Court
 - ☐ d. The U.S. Court of Claims
22. Which of the following statements about U.S. district courts is accurate?
- ☐ a. District Court decisions are binding on the circuit region.
 - ☐ b. District Courts are the intermediate level between courts of appeal and the Supreme Court.
 - ☐ c. District Courts handle cases involving people's claims against government seizure of property.
 - ☐ d. Almost all cases involving federal law are first tried in District Courts.
23. Judicial review includes which of the following principles?
- ☐ a. Senate confirmation of judicial appointees
 - ☐ b. Overturning segregation
 - ☐ c. The practice of hearing cases on appeal
 - ☐ d. Determining the constitutionality of federal and state law and the actions of Congress and the president

24. Which case established the principle of judicial review?
- ☐ a. Roe v. Wade (1973)
 - ☐ b. McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
 - ☐ c. Marbury v. Madison (1803)
 - ☐ d. Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
25. Which of the following can create political pressure on federal judges?
- ☐ a. Judges can be impeached by Congress.
 - ☐ b. They are appointed for life.
 - ☐ c. The budget for the judiciary is controlled by Congress.
 - ☐ d. Both A and C are correct.
26. An example of the more conservative direction of the Rehnquist Court was:
- ☐ a. upholding a federal law to keep guns out of public schools.
 - ☐ b. overturning a state court's decision in Bush v. Gore.
 - ☐ c. limiting presidential power by ruling against the line item veto.
 - ☐ d. narrowing the use of race in hiring for government programs.

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27. Baker v. Carr (1962) dealt with:
- ☐ a. apportionment.
 - ☐ b. abortion rights.
 - ☐ c. segregation.
 - ☐ d. affirmative action.
28. Which of the following were appointed to the Supreme Court by President George W. Bush?
- ☐ a. Samuel Alito and Ruth Bader Ginsberg
 - ☐ b. John Roberts and Samuel Alito
 - ☐ c. John Roberts and David Souter
 - ☐ d. David Souter and John Paul Stevens
29. Which of the following is a restriction on congressional power over the federal courts?
- ☐ a. The power to create or expand federal courts
 - ☐ b. Judges being constitutionally appointed for life terms
 - ☐ c. The authority of Congress to enact spending and revenue laws
 - ☐ d. The ability to impeach federal judges

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30. Senatorial courtesy:

- _____ a. gives a senator a role in appointing judges.
- _____ b. means that questioning judicial nominees follows committee seniority.
- _____ c. played a role in confirming judges in the nineteenth century but is no longer practiced.
- _____ d. refers to senators not criticizing one another during floor proceedings.

31. Judicial activism:

- _____ a. is closely identified with the Warren Court.
- _____ b. involves judges with a strong background in elective office.
- _____ c. may result in conservative as well as liberal positions.
- _____ d. Both A and C are correct.

32. The case of Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) upheld:

- _____ a. racial segregation.
- _____ b. affirmative action.
- _____ c. habeas corpus.
- _____ d. legal representation.

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33. _____ is considered to be the most influential Chief Justice in history.
- _____ a. William Rehnquist
 - _____ b. Warren Burger
 - _____ c. Earl Warren
 - _____ d. John Marshall
34. Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857):
- _____ a. invalidated the Missouri Compromise.
 - _____ b. upheld the Wilmot Proviso.
 - _____ c. declared the "one man, one vote" rule.
 - _____ d. challenged the right to own slaves.
35. Miranda v. Arizona (1966):
- _____ a. is an example of a voting rights case.
 - _____ b. is an example of a racial-discrimination case.
 - _____ c. is an example of a criminal defendant case.
 - _____ d. is an example of a states' rights case.

36. Which president appointed the first female Supreme Court justice?

- ☐ a. Jimmy Carter
- ☐ b. Ronald Reagan
- ☐ c. George H. W. Bush
- ☐ d. Bill Clinton

37. The Supreme Court relies on support from:

- ☐ a. its enormous prestige.
- ☐ b. Democratic majorities in Congress.
- ☐ c. the obedience of state courts.
- ☐ d. Republican majorities in Congress.

38. Between 1900 and the mid-1930s, the Supreme Court exercised judicial review primarily in:

- ☐ a. economic-regulatory cases.
- ☐ b. civil-liberties cases.
- ☐ c. separation-of-powers cases.
- ☐ d. racial-discrimination cases.

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39. Which of the following statements is accurate?
- ☐ a. The Warren Court resisted Roosevelt's court-packing plan.
 - ☐ b. The Burger Court expanded the liberal activism of its predecessors.
 - ☐ c. The Roberts Court represents a turn toward liberal activism.
 - ☐ d. The Rehnquist Court's limiting federal authority over states is an example of conservative activists reversing liberal policies.
40. The appointment of Justice Sonia Sotomayor by President Obama is an example of:
- ☐ a. a Democratic president appointing a liberal justice.
 - ☐ b. a Democratic president appointing a moderate justice.
 - ☐ c. the desire of President Obama to move the Supreme Court in a more conservative direction.
 - ☐ d. the value placed on justices with a strict constructionist philosophy.

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Select the single best answer for each question or statement, then go online to <https://students.ashworthcollege.edu> and enter your answers.

1. According to pluralistic theory, people get power through:

- _____ a. voting.
- _____ b. joining the military-industrial complex.
- _____ c. becoming a member of a group(s).
- _____ d. joining a revolutionary party.

2. Pluralism is a(n) _____ theory of democracy.

- _____ a. conspiratorial
- _____ b. vague
- _____ c. group
- _____ d. outsider

3. In pluralist theory, the government acts as a(n):

- _____ a. referee.
- _____ b. protector of the wealthy.
- _____ c. interest group.
- _____ d. barrier.

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4. The Council on Foreign Relations is an example of:
- _____ a. a grassroots organization.
 - _____ b. a bureaucratic agency.
 - _____ c. an elitist organization with strong political influence.
 - _____ d. an office in the White House.
5. The Council on Foreign Relations publishes which "must read" journal?
- _____ a. *The Economist*
 - _____ b. *National Journal*
 - _____ c. *Foreign Affairs*
 - _____ d. *Washington Quarterly*
6. The power elite theory is:
- _____ a. a theory of the political left.
 - _____ b. held by both the left and right.
 - _____ c. a theory of the political right.
 - _____ d. held only by political scientists in colleges.

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7. Which of the following is an important element of the power elite theory?

- ☐ a. Mass public opinion influences the power elite.
- ☐ b. Both C and D are correct.
- ☐ c. Politics is a conflict between those with and without power.
- ☐ d. Power is held by a ruling class.

8. Consensus is best described as:

- ☐ a. the result of political compromises.
- ☐ b. common sense.
- ☐ c. the people of a country voting frequently.
- ☐ d. a broad public agreement on basic political questions.

9. Which of the following is considered a power elite theorist?

- ☐ a. Robert Dahl
- ☐ b. C. Wright Mills
- ☐ c. William Greider
- ☐ d. Both B and C are correct.

10. The political and policy dynamics documented in Robert Dahl's *Who Governs?* might be found in which of the following situations?
- ☐ a. A small town with a history of certain families holding political office
 - ☐ b. A county run by one political party with an extensive local network of loyalists
 - ☐ c. A term-limited state legislature dominated by powerful utility, banking, and insurance lobbyists
 - ☐ d. A heterogeneous city with many grassroots ethnic and policy groups lobbying City Hall
11. In the pluralist model, "bargaining results in a series of compromises that become:
- ☐ a. public policy or other political decisions."
 - ☐ b. another series of compromises."
 - ☐ c. the basis of a new political consensus."
 - ☐ d. the basis for incumbent reelection."
12. The idea that politics is divided into separate policy arenas dominated by narrow elites is found in:
- ☐ a. pluralism.
 - ☐ b. plural elitism.
 - ☐ c. elitism.
 - ☐ d. consensus politics.

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13. "In the United States the political stratum does not constitute a homogeneous class with well-defined class interests." This assertion is associated with the _____ approach.
- _____ a. power elite
 - _____ b. pluralist
 - _____ c. plural elitism
 - _____ d. hyperpluralism
14. In the power elite approach, power comes mainly from:
- _____ a. individuals.
 - _____ b. the mass public.
 - _____ c. Congress.
 - _____ d. institutions.
15. Which of the following is provided through the mechanics of pluralism, according to Robert Dahl?
- _____ a. Elites can manipulate mass opinion.
 - _____ b. Aspiring leaders can distribute resources to gain influence.
 - _____ c. Aspiring leaders are limited in the ability to control the political system.
 - _____ d. Elites have no voice at all in a pluralist system.

16. The idea that the unresponsiveness of the federal government to Hurricane Katrina was due to the large black population affected could be called:

- ☐ a. hyperpluralist thinking.
- ☐ b. a belief in an elite conspiracy.
- ☐ c. a critique of the incompetence of FEMA.
- ☐ d. a pluralist interpretation of government inactivity.

17. David Rothkopf's book *Superclass: The Global Power Elite and the World They Are Making* suggests that approximately how many people have the ability to influence the lives of millions?

- ☐ a. 6,000
- ☐ b. 1 million
- ☐ c. 500
- ☐ d. 250,000

18. The central disagreement in the debate between pluralist and elitist theories concerns:

- ☐ a. whether elites exist.
- ☐ b. whether the elites are representative and competitive.
- ☐ c. whether people directly participate in the political game.
- ☐ d. whether elites seek to depress voter turnout.

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19. In both pluralism and elitism, government actions are produced by:
- ☐ a. the result of irrational, corrupt forces.
 - ☐ b. the consensus of society.
 - ☐ c. the manipulation of a unified elite.
 - ☐ d. forces generally external to the government.
20. Politics is compared to the "original primitive game of football" because:
- ☐ a. there are few rules of behavior and conduct attached to politics, so participants can do anything to achieve political results.
 - ☐ b. the football audience (the public) is free to join in the game.
 - ☐ c. increasingly, the "game" of politics is scarred by violence directed at elected officials.
 - ☐ d. it pits small towns against one another.