

■ Achievement Exam

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

1. Harold Lasswell defines politics as:

____ a. relationships among people involving power and authority.

____ b. a process of who gets what, when, and how.

____ c. the distribution of a society's wealth.

____ d. the dispersion of power.

2. What does the author mean when he writes that authority is "an efficient form of power"?

____ a. Authority is distributed equally among political elites.

____ b. Authority is backed by legal norms.

____ c. Authority, once accepted, is less costly than force.

____ d. Authority reduces inefficiencies in government spending.

3. Anarchy is best defined as:

____ a. absence of government.

____ b. unlimited democracy.

____ c. elected representatives running the government.

____ d. rule by an elite.

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4. A primary characteristic of government is that it:
- ☐ a. makes decisions quickly.
 - ☐ b. is always democratic.
 - ☐ c. protects what is of value in society.
 - ☐ d. is rarely coercive.
5. Which of the following statements is INCORRECT?
- ☐ a. Democracies tolerate different opinions and interests.
 - ☐ b. Democracy is a favored "label" for many governments.
 - ☐ c. Elites continue to hold power in a democracy.
 - ☐ d. Citizen participation in voting must exceed 80 percent of eligible voters in order for a government to be considered democratic.
6. The study of "influence and the influential" most clearly falls under the social science of:
- ☐ a. history.
 - ☐ b. political science.
 - ☐ c. economics.
 - ☐ d. psychology.

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7. Welfare programs are an example of:
- ☐ a. the way government regulates the distribution of wealth.
 - ☐ b. unlimited government spending.
 - ☐ c. the system of checks and balances.
 - ☐ d. charity by the elites.
8. Which of the following is an important question asked by a political scientist about Microsoft?
- ☐ a. How does Bill Gates decide how to spend his wealth?
 - ☐ b. What production systems did Microsoft use to handle growth?
 - ☐ c. How did Microsoft become the preeminent company in the software industry?
 - ☐ d. What marketing tools did Microsoft use to get consumers to buy its products?

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9. The moral of Senator Earnest Hollings's story is that:
- _____ a. people are ungrateful for the financial assistance the government provides them.
 - _____ b. people expect government to take care of their needs, but do not want to shoulder the responsibility for their own actions.
 - _____ c. government has a hands-off approach to regulating the economy.
 - _____ d. most people are oblivious about the extent to which government helps them in the form of subsidized loans (e.g., FHA loans), social transfer payments (e.g., Social Security), and government projects (e.g., interstate highways).
10. Which of the following is an example of an act of government?
- _____ a. Unemployment rising 2 percent
 - _____ b. Creating Pell grants to enable more students to attend college
 - _____ c. The stock market going up 200 points
 - _____ d. Hurricane devastating central Florida
11. The opening dialogue of the book illustrates that:
- _____ a. students have no power.
 - _____ b. students are apathetic about national politics.
 - _____ c. teachers seldom exercise their authority.
 - _____ d. politics can happen anywhere.

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12. The top 1 percent of the American population possesses what percentage of the nation's wealth?
- ☐ a. 20
 - ☐ b. 27
 - ☐ c. 39
 - ☐ d. 33
13. The statement that the "United States is the most powerful nation in the world" actually means that America can:
- ☐ a. force other countries to assist in rebuilding Haiti after its earthquake.
 - ☐ b. require elections for new government leaders in Iraq, Iran, and India.
 - ☐ c. set up oil pipelines under the Pacific Ocean.
 - ☐ d. exercise authority and leadership beyond its territorial boundaries.
14. The author defines powers as the:
- ☐ a. victory of the strong over the weak.
 - ☐ b. ability to influence another's behavior.
 - ☐ c. strength and size of a nation's armed forces.
 - ☐ d. use of force and coercion to achieve one's goals.

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15. Authority is:
- ☐ a. legitimate power.
 - ☐ b. the use of force over a weak opponent.
 - ☐ c. coercive power.
 - ☐ d. personified in the commander-in-chief.
16. Political conflict avoids becoming armed conflict when:
- ☐ a. government is able to channel the conflict into resolution based on publicly accepted rules.
 - ☐ b. the military steps in and crushes the opposition.
 - ☐ c. competing factions purchase equal amounts of weapons.
 - ☐ d. government collapses and tribal leaders emerge.
17. The tolerance of different opinions and interests is:
- ☐ a. needed in any corporation.
 - ☐ b. essential to all ideologies.
 - ☐ c. the reason some people have great power over others.
 - ☐ d. an essential part of democracy.

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18. According to the author, the best way to describe the "political game" in America is as:
- ☐ a. simple and complex at the same time.
 - ☐ b. stable and boring.
 - ☐ c. complex and serious.
 - ☐ d. complex and peripheral to our everyday lives.
19. In the FAA-McDonnell Douglas DC-10 case, the author implies or asserts which of the following?
- ☐ a. The FAA immediately fixed the cargo door.
 - ☐ b. McDonnell Douglas eventually complied with the FAA's order to strengthen cargo doors and cabin floors.
 - ☐ c. The FAA was guilty of political favoritism and weak supervision toward McDonnell Douglas.
 - ☐ d. The Canadian government was at fault for the cargo door problem.

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20. In the scenario "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," what is demonstrated by the number of meals given to each person?
- ☐ a. Having a democratic system of governance does not guarantee equitable distribution of wealth.
 - ☐ b. Hunger is a problem caused by poor farming techniques.
 - ☐ c. Children get more food than adults in the U.S.
 - ☐ d. Resource distribution occurs in a just and fair manner in the U.S.

Lesson 2

■ Achievement Exam

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 men did NOT attend the Constitutional Convention?
 - _____ a. Benjamin Franklin
 - _____ b. George Washington
 - _____ c. John Adams
 - _____ d. Thomas Jefferson

2. The Great Compromise:
 - _____ a. established representation based on population in the Senate.
 - _____ b. allowed state legislatures to choose House members.
 - _____ c. solved the problem of representation by big and small states through proportional representation in the House and equal state representation in the Senate.
 - _____ d. created the mechanism to end slavery.

Lesson 2

3. Which of the following is a true statement about the Federalists and Anti-Federalists?
- ☐ a. Both factions distrusted the power of state governments.
 - ☐ b. The Anti-Federalists preferred a nonelected judiciary and indirectly elected president.
 - ☐ c. Both factions did not fear foreign threats.
 - ☐ d. Federalists were pessimistic about human nature, and Anti-Federalists were more optimistic about human nature.
4. *The Federalist Papers:*
- ☐ a. were written to persuade the public to support ratification of the Constitution.
 - ☐ b. Both A and C are correct.
 - ☐ c. were an attack against the Framers and supported continuation of the Articles of Confederation.
 - ☐ d. were written by three of the Framers under the pseudonym Publius and published in the New York newspapers.
5. Which of the following was NOT an author of the Federalist Papers?
- ☐ a. John Jay
 - ☐ b. John Adams
 - ☐ c. James Madison
 - ☐ d. George Washington

6. Which of the following issues was NOT a major concern of the Anti-Federalists concerning the Constitution?
- ☐ a. ensuring that state criminal law would continue to be enforced by state courts
 - ☐ b. the new powers granted to the national government
 - ☐ c. ensuring that individual rights and liberties would be protected
 - ☐ d. preserving the powers of the states
7. Despite the principle of separation of powers, which of the following is an example of the president's (the executive) legislative powers?
- ☐ a. The power to set tariffs on imported goods
 - ☐ b. Executive review of Supreme Court decisions
 - ☐ c. The power to remove cabinet secretaries
 - ☐ d. The power to recommend measures to Congress
8. The U.S. Constitution is approximately:
- ☐ a. 30,000 words.
 - ☐ b. 1,000 words.
 - ☐ c. 7,000 words.
 - ☐ d. 17,000 words.

Lesson 2

9. Why was the division of power among the three branches of government an insufficient means to balance their powers?
- ☐ a. Congress has more members than the other two branches.
 - ☐ b. The legislature, as the only initiator of laws, could dominate the other two branches.
 - ☐ c. Supreme Court judges are impeachable.
 - ☐ d. The president could become a dictator.
10. Judicial review is the practice of:
- ☐ a. periodic review of presidential foreign policy by individual justices.
 - ☐ b. review of Supreme Court decisions by Congress.
 - ☐ c. systematic evaluation of lower court decisions by the Supreme Court.
 - ☐ d. determination by the federal courts of the constitutionality of state and federal law and of actions by Congress and the president.

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11. Which of the following relationships is NOT an example of the system of checks and balances built into the Constitution?
- ☐ a. A Supreme Court decision can be overturned by an amendment to the Constitution.
 - ☐ b. House committee decisions can be overturned on the floor of the House by a majority vote.
 - ☐ c. A presidential veto can be overridden by a supermajority of Congress.
 - ☐ d. Presidential use of the military is limited by the appropriations power of Congress.
12. Under the system of federalism,:
- ☐ a. power is unlikely to be concentrated in one level of government.
 - ☐ b. only the federal government has exclusive powers.
 - ☐ c. only state governments have exclusive powers.
 - ☐ d. only state governments act directly upon the people.

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13. The Constitution can be amended by:
- ☐ a. a national referendum.
 - ☐ b. a two-thirds vote of each house of Congress and three-fourths of the state legislatures.
 - ☐ c. a majority of the Supreme Court and Congress, with the president's signature.
 - ☐ d. a three-fourths vote of state legislatures and the president's signature.
14. Public education involves the federal government in which of the following ways?
- ☐ a. Overseeing local school boards
 - ☐ b. Ensuring equal funding for all schools
 - ☐ c. Providing funding for school construction
 - ☐ d. Forbidding racial discrimination

Lesson 2

15. Backers of a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution might consider the following strategy:
- _____ a. mounting a federal court case and seeking appeals to the Supreme Court.
 - _____ b. pursuing approval of an amendment in the House and Senate, to then be sent to state legislatures.
 - _____ c. collecting signatures to mount the proposal as a national referendum.
 - _____ d. seeking support for such an amendment through approval by at least 34 state conventions, as almost occurred in the 1980s.
16. The primary motivation of the Framers, according to Charles Beard, was to:
- _____ a. provide opportunities for political advancement for the Framers.
 - _____ b. protect their property rights through creation of a strong national government.
 - _____ c. strengthen states' rights in order to allow more effective resolution of property disputes.
 - _____ d. create an egalitarian system of property distribution.

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17. Which of the following presidents is credited with creation of the New Federalism?
- ☐ a. Bill Clinton
 - ☐ b. Ronald Reagan
 - ☐ c. George W. Bush
 - ☐ d. Jimmy Carter
18. The Twenty-seventh Amendment:
- ☐ a. lowered the voting age to 18.
 - ☐ b. reinforced the due-process clause.
 - ☐ c. specifies parameters for congressional pay raises.
 - ☐ d. liberalizes illegal searches and seizures.
19. Realistic application of constitutional principles depends on:
- ☐ a. the hypocrisy of politicians.
 - ☐ b. current political relationships.
 - ☐ c. the absolutist language of the document.
 - ☐ d. an understanding of the motives of the Framers.

20. Some might suggest that the Constitution favored placing power in the hands of economic elites. Which of the following does NOT fit this argument?

- _____ a. The Electoral College
- _____ b. The Tenth Amendment
- _____ c. The election of senators
- _____ d. The presidential veto

Lesson 3

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1. Complete incorporation under the Fourteenth Amendment means that:
 - ☐ a. individuals are only protected against federal violations of civil rights.
 - ☐ b. individuals are only protected against state violations of civil rights.
 - ☐ c. individuals can sue foreign nationals for civil rights violations.
 - ☐ d. individuals are protected against federal, state, and private violations of civil rights.

2. The equal-protection clause:
 - ☐ a. allows state officials to discriminate based on race and sex.
 - ☐ b. allows certain instances of equal discrimination against all races.
 - ☐ c. prevents selective deployment of police forces in certain neighborhoods.
 - ☐ d. prevents discrimination by individuals when it involves a fundamental state interest, such as education.

Lesson 3

3. The controversy over discussion and display of Danish cartoon depictions of the Prophet Muhammad is an example of which of the following civil liberties issues?
- _____ a. The right to bear arms
 - _____ b. The right to legal representation
 - _____ c. The right to free expression in speech and print
 - _____ d. The right to trial by a jury of peers
4. The notion that a democratic society needs competition among ideas, as much as an economic marketplace needs competition, was stated by:
- _____ a. John Marshall.
 - _____ b. Oliver Wendell Holmes.
 - _____ c. Learned Hand.
 - _____ d. William Brennan.
5. An African American student victimized by a racial epithet scrawled on his or her dorm wall should turn to which of the following groups for legal advice and assistance?
- _____ a. Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
 - _____ b. American Civil Liberties Union
 - _____ c. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
 - _____ d. Both B and C are correct.

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6. The phrase "equal protection of the laws" is found in which amendment?
- _____ a. First Amendment
 - _____ b. Fifth Amendment
 - _____ c. Fourteenth Amendment
 - _____ d. Twenty-first Amendment
7. The Supreme Court struck down the Communications Decency Act of 1996 because:
- _____ a. the technology creating the Internet was too new.
 - _____ b. the law was too vague.
 - _____ c. it did not protect children from viewing offensive material.
 - _____ d. a majority of the Court watches pornography.
8. The Bill of Rights is fundamentally designed to protect:
- _____ a. state governments from the federal government.
 - _____ b. state governments from individual lawsuits.
 - _____ c. local governments from federal interference.
 - _____ d. individuals from government interference.

9. The Supreme Court found a "zone of privacy" that shields individuals from government intrusion through an interpretation of:
- _____ a. the constitutional provision against illegal searches.
 - _____ b. the legal arguments in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896).
 - _____ c. the First and Ninth Amendments.
 - _____ d. the *Miranda v. Arizona* decision.
10. In *ACLU v. Ashcroft* (2002), the Supreme Court ruled:
- _____ a. that the Child Online Protection Act went too far in restricting speech.
 - _____ b. that the Child Online Protection Act was constitutional.
 - _____ c. that the Communications Decency Act protected free-speech rights.
 - _____ d. that neither Act went far enough to protect children.
11. According to the Supreme Court, affirmative action programs must now:
- _____ a. have a compelling interest behind them.
 - _____ b. be narrowly tailored.
 - _____ c. protect minorities regardless of individual merit.
 - _____ d. Both A and B are correct.

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12. In *Grutter v. Bollinger* (2003), the Supreme Court ruled in favor of:
- _____ a. the equal-protection clause.
 - _____ b. the use of race as a diversity factor in law school admissions criteria procedures.
 - _____ c. all forms of affirmative action.
 - _____ d. the exclusionary rule.
13. Which of the following cases dealt with the issue of sexual harassment?
- _____ a. *University of California Regents v. Bakke* (1978)
 - _____ b. *City of Richmond v. Corson* (1989)
 - _____ c. *Oncale v. Sundowner* (1998)
 - _____ d. *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* (2004)
14. Which of the following was ruled to be a violation of the separation-of-church-and-state principle of the First Amendment?
- _____ a. allowing publicly funded school vouchers to be used to pay for parochial school
 - _____ b. decorating city streets with stars and trees during the Christmas season
 - _____ c. exemption of religious property from taxation
 - _____ d. placement of a Ten Commandments monument in a state courthouse

15. The exclusionary rule refers to:

- ☐ a. those cases that the Supreme Court will not hear.
- ☐ b. a principle upheld in Brown v. Board of Education (1954).
- ☐ c. throwing out evidence obtained by unconstitutional means.
- ☐ d. an intent to withhold information from the courts.

16. Which of the following is a right of due process?

- ☐ a. Freedom of religious expression
- ☐ b. Legal representation in a criminal trial
- ☐ c. Freedom from the death penalty
- ☐ d. The right to bear arms

17. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU):

- ☐ a. defended individuals' rights during the "red scares."
- ☐ b. opposed speech codes on college campuses.
- ☐ c. concentrates on school desegregation suits.
- ☐ d. Both A and B are correct.

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18. A landmark case is one that:
- _____ a. is heard by the Supreme Court.
 - _____ b. creates a new general standard for judicial decisions.
 - _____ c. becomes an amendment to the Constitution.
 - _____ d. Congress refers to the Supreme Court.
19. Thurgood Marshall:
- _____ a. helped defend O. J. Simpson in his civil liability case.
 - _____ b. was the only male employee in the National Organization for Women Legal Defense and Education Fund.
 - _____ c. was the first African American appointed to the Supreme Court.
 - _____ d. wrote the landmark Brown v. Board of Education (1954) opinion.
20. When President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent federal troops to protect black students at Little Rock's Central High School, he was:
- _____ a. enforcing a court order.
 - _____ b. protecting the rights of the accused.
 - _____ c. adhering to provisions in the Equal Rights Amendment.
 - _____ d. stopping the governor of Arkansas from filing an injunction.