

California State and Local Government Exam

Answer each of the following questions on the accompanied answer sheet. Do not write on this exam. You may use one sheet of other paper to make notes. A passing score is 70 percent. No Credit will be awarded if this complete exam is not returned with your answer sheet.

1. The Populists and the Progressives historically were
 - a. the same, just different names.
 - b. distinguished by geographical origins.
 - c. distinguished by totally different political concerns.
 - d. both the result of the Gold Rush.
2. Direct democracy includes all but which of the following:
 - a. the referendum
 - b. the constitutional initiative.
 - c. the veto override.
 - d. the recall.
3. The initiative is more popular than the referendum because
 - a. the initiative is not as expensive to use.
 - b. the initiative is nearly always successful.
 - c. the initiative is open to policies not on the legislative agenda.
 - d. the referendum is not subject to the governor's veto.
4. The California Constitution
 - a. has not been subject to major amendments since 1849.
 - b. must be re-enacted in a constitutional convention every twenty years.
 - c. has been amended in both major and minor ways since 1849.
 - d. has been amended only in 1879 and 1911.
5. California's population, the foreign born population, and the approximate number of undocumented immigrants is
 - a. 50 million, 5 million, 2 million
 - b. 34 million, 8.8 million, 2.4 million
 - c. 25 million, 20 million, 18 million
 - d. 36 million, 10 million, 1.5 million
6. The State budget must be passed by
 - a. Simple majority in each legislative house
 - b. Three-fifth majority in each legislative house
 - c. Two thirds majority in each legislative house
 - d. Three fourths majority in each legislative house

7. The California Constitution
- Incorporates the Federal Bill of Rights
 - Has no separate Bill of Rights
 - Has a Bill of Rights much more limited than the Federal Bill of Rights
 - Has a Bill of Rights much more extensive than the Federal Bill of Rights
8. Among the lobbies in Sacramento are
- labor and business organizations
 - Single cause organizations
 - local governments
 - all of the above
 - only a and b of the above
9. Which of the following is an essential truth about California State politics:
- "Interests, not people, are represented in Sacramento."
 - "California lobbying is great, but not as much as in Albany (New York)."
 - "Most lobbying is affiliated with the two major parties."
 - "Money spent on lobbying increases about five percent a year."
10. Political action committees (PACs)
- have declined in popularity in recent years.
 - must disclose campaign contributions and expenditures in connection with state and local elections.
 - may make unlimited contributions to political candidates.
 - provide candidates with public funding for their campaign.
11. According to many analysts, all of the following factors are involved in the media's decisions not to cover more political and governmental news except
- Californians are not that interested in political and governmental news.
 - the ratings for political and governmental news are lower than other kinds of news, such as weather, consumer news, sports coverage, etc.
 - so many news programs cover California political and governmental news that there is little for each station to report.
 - political and governmental news, except during election campaigns, does not lend itself to sensational coverage.
12. Partisanship in the legislature
- has declined because of appointment
 - has declined because of the primary system now in effect
 - has led to greater ease in getting budgets improved
 - has increased in recent years
13. Which power does the governor have that the president does not have?
- Legislative veto

- b. Line-item veto
- c. Power to declare war
- d. Power to appoint judges

14. All of the following are true of the governor's appointments to the cabinet *except*:

- a. Most cabinet appointments are routine, given to the governor's political supporters and campaign contributors.
- b. The cabinet as a whole has no official policy function, unless the governor wants to give it a role.
- c. Some cabinet and subcabinet positions require an appointment of someone with qualifications that are spelled out of law.
- d. The superagency heads are usually considered part of the governor's cabinet.

15. Chief Justice Rose Bird and Associate Justices Cruz Reynoso and Joseph Grodin were voted out by voters who were angry about the judges' decisions concerning

- a. Same-sex marriage
- b. The death penalty
- c. Proposition 13
- d. Term limits

16. Judges selected by the governor to serve on the supreme court and the courts of appeals in California must be approved by

- a. The state legislature
- b. The attorney general
- c. The Commission on Judicial Appointments
- d. None of the above

17. The credit rating assigned to the state of California by Moody's, Fitch Ratings, or Standard & Poor's is important because

- a. The credit rating influences the size of the deficit or surplus California may have in any given fiscal year
- b. When the credit rating goes down, the interest rate that the state pays to float its bonds goes up
- c. When the credit rating goes up, the amount of interest the state pays goes down
- d. All of the above
- e. None of the above
- f. a and b above, but not c

18. Which of the following counties operates under a single charter as a consolidated city and a county?

- a. Los Angeles
- b. Sacramento
- c. San Francisco

d. Orange

19. Reapportionment typically is driven by all of the following except:

- a. Lack of prohibition on gerrymandering.
- b. Desire for safe seats.
- c. Social science knowledge about voting habits.
- d. Constitutional decisions by the courts.
- e. Party control of the White House.

20. Blue States and Red States are States where

- a. Democrats and Republicans always win statewide elections.
- b. Democrats or Republicans control a majority of counties.
- c. Democrats or Republicans win most elections over years or decades.
- d. Democrats and Republicans compete for the Presidency.
- e. Presidential elections are decided.

21. Media campaigns are those elections in which

- a. The two or more candidates agree to debates.
- b. Candidate strategies focus on print and electronic messaging.
- c. The U.S. Supreme Court has allowed unlimited television ad spending.
- d. Newspapers endorse candidates and ballot propositions.
- e. Part of the money spent on media comes from public funds.

22. In-house lobbyists are individuals who

- a. Do all their lobbying by social media.
- b. Contract out their services to many organizations.
- c. Usually remain on the payroll even after the election is over.
- d. Agree to work on only one issue at a time.
- e. Are allowed to lobby both houses of the State Legislature.

23. Top two in primary advance to general election

- a. Was started by the Progressives to reduce party influence in government.
- b. Is a recent development in California.
- c. Was enacted by bipartisan majorities in the Legislature.
- d. Is working the way it was intended.
- e. Has reduced voter turnout.

24. "Gut and amend" is

- a. a practice in certain food industries under attack by opponents.
- b. a practice in local governments that can veto State taxes.
- c. a practice in legislatures to change proposed bills.
- d. a practice in the State bureaucracies not answerable to the Legislature.
- e. a practice of activist judges who override the people's intent.

25. The plural executive refers to

- a. the Governor's Cabinet.
 - b. Statewide elected officials
 - c. the number of elected officials is more than the appointed officials.
 - d. the number of Gubernatorial appointees is more than the number of elected officials.
 - e. none of the above.
26. Super agencies are State
- a. departments most highly rated by the public as doing a good job.
 - b. bureaucracies that have eliminated departments and bureaus.
 - c. divisions developed to make the Governor's job easier.
 - d. departments that are required by the 1911 Constitution.
 - e. departments that have at least one office in every County.
27. Judicial review seems to show that in recent years
- a. the California courts are more liberal than the Federal courts.
 - b. the California courts are more conservative than the Federal courts.
 - c. the California courts have only a minor role in death penalty appeals.
 - d. the California courts overturn more criminal convictions than other State courts.
 - e. the California courts usually decide appeals by votes of two to one.
28. Special districts typically
- a. link costs to benefits
 - b. tailor services to citizen demands and desires
 - c. fail to coordinate and plan in collaboration with each other
 - d. All three of the above
 - e. Only a and b of the above
29. The Brown Act is
- a. named for Jerry Brown's father, Governor "Pat" Brown
 - b. named for "brown-outs," utility shortages that shut down government services
 - c. not very useful in exposing corruption and graft
 - d. often the subject of the city attorney's advice to the City Council
 - e. a law that prohibits appointment of relatives to city and county jobs
30. Charter cities and counties
- a. are typically smaller than general law cities and counties
 - b. are able to pay their employees more than general law cities and counties
 - c. are concentrated in Los Angeles County and the Bay Area
 - d. usually have a City manager or County Administrator
 - e. are too recent a development for experts to evaluate.