

PRACTICE TEST

Civics
End-of-Course Test
Grade 8

Student Name

School Name

District Name

Grade 8 Civics End-of-Course Test PRACTICE TEST

This practice test contains 34 questions.

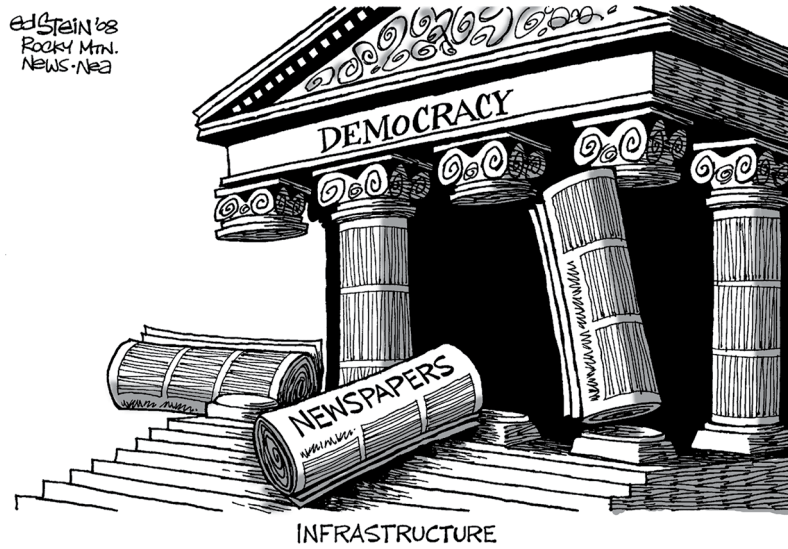
Directions

Read each question carefully and then answer it as well as you can. You must record all answers in this Practice Test Booklet.

For some questions, you will mark your answers by filling in the circles in your Practice Test Booklet. Make sure you darken the circles completely. Do not make any marks outside of the circles. If you need to change an answer, be sure to erase your first answer completely.

If you do not know the answer to a question, you may go on to the next question. When you are finished, you may review your answers and go back to any questions you did not answer in this session only.

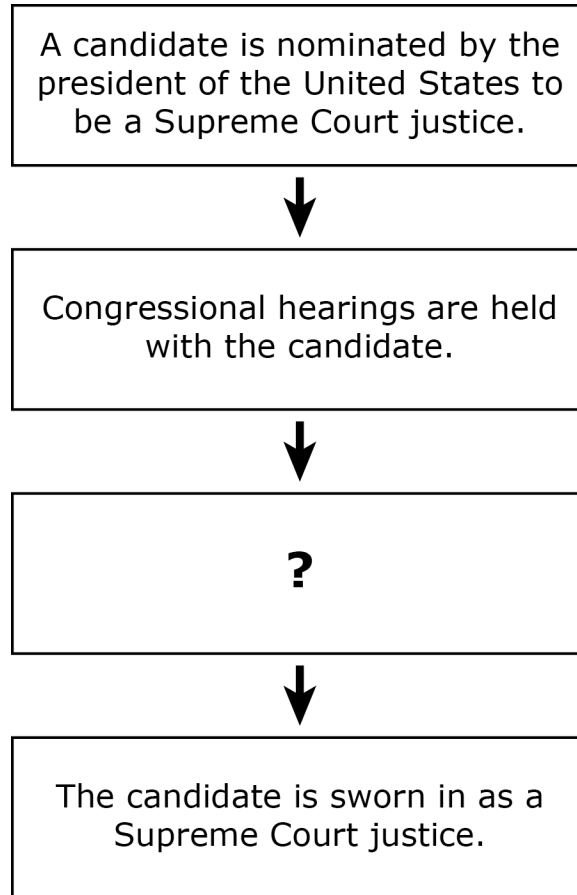
- 1 A political cartoon is shown.



Based on the political cartoon, which of the following best explains why freedom of the press is necessary in the United States?

- (A) It helps develop effective courts.
- (B) It helps support democratic ideals.
- (C) It helps establish local newspapers.
- (D) It helps construct government buildings.

- 2 A summary of how a qualified candidate becomes a Supreme Court justice is shown in the diagram. One step is missing.



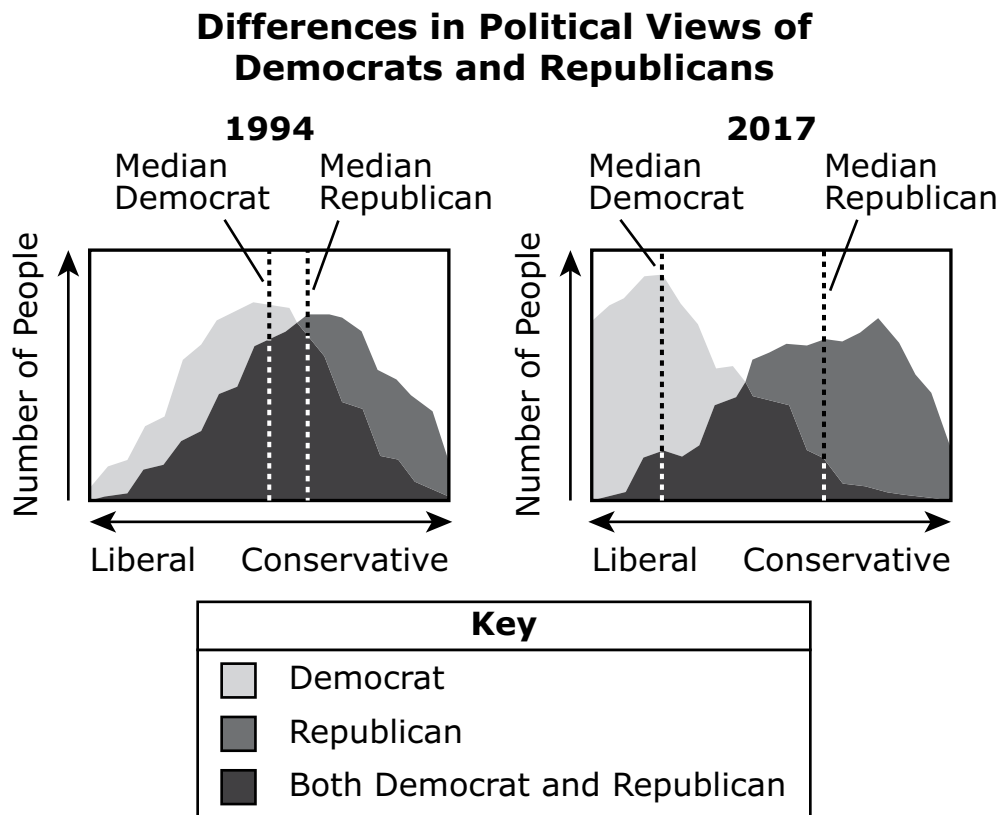
Which of the following steps best completes the diagram?

- Ⓐ The Senate votes to confirm the candidate's appointment.
- Ⓑ The attorney general votes on the candidate's appointment.
- Ⓒ The candidate files a petition in the House of Representatives.
- Ⓓ The name of the candidate appears on a public election ballot.

This question has two parts.

- 3 In 1994, Democrats and Republicans were surveyed about their views on several political topics. The survey was repeated in 2017. One example of a political topic is the role government plays in the economy.

The following graphs show how political views among Democrats and Republicans changed over time. The labels “Median Democrat” and “Median Republican” refer to the people whose views are in the middle of the range from liberal to conservative within their political parties.



Source: Pew Research Center

Part A

Which of the following is **best** supported by the information in the graphs?

- Ⓐ In 1994, each opposing political party had more members than in 2017.
- Ⓑ In 1994, each political party raised less money for its election campaign than in 2017.
- Ⓒ In 2017, it was more difficult for political parties to find candidates to run for elected office than it was in 1994.
- Ⓓ In 2017, it was harder for members of opposing political parties to work together to pass legislation than it was in 1994.

Part B

Which of the following questions could the graphs **best** help answer?

- Ⓐ How similar are the goals of political parties over time?
- Ⓑ Why do political parties campaign in states with small populations?
- Ⓒ Why does it cost so much money to operate political parties over time?
- Ⓓ How do political parties select which cities will host the national conventions?

- 4 The text describes an event known as Shays' Rebellion.

In 1786, more than one thousand Massachusetts citizens, many of them farmers, protested against unfair economic policies. The farmers could not pay the high taxes imposed on them by the state. Citizens marched to courthouses and demanded that the government stop taking farms away from farmers. Since there was no national military, the uprising was eventually stopped by a state militia that was privately funded.

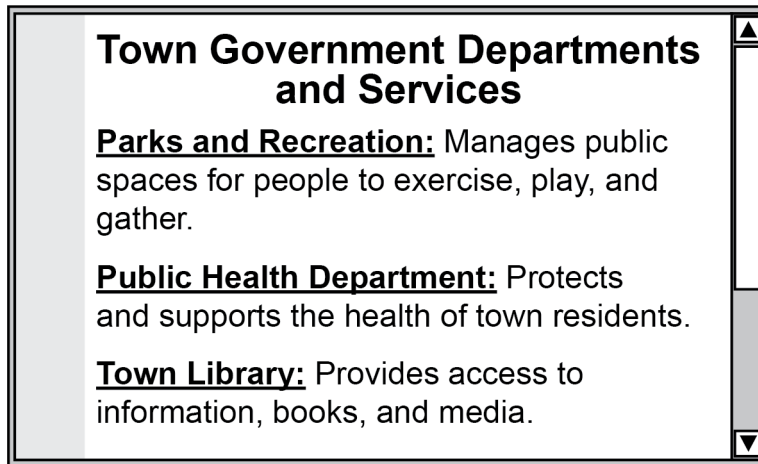
A student made the following claim: The Articles of Confederation created a weak government, and a new U.S. Constitution was needed.

Which of the following statements from the text **best** supports the claim?

- Ⓐ "In 1786, more than one thousand Massachusetts citizens, many of them farmers, protested against unfair economic policies."
- Ⓑ "The farmers could not pay the high taxes imposed on them by the state."
- Ⓒ "Citizens marched to courthouses and demanded that the government stop taking farms away from farmers."
- Ⓓ "Since there was no national military, the uprising was eventually stopped by a state militia that was privately funded."

This question has two parts.

- 5 Part of a town government’s website is shown.



Part A

Select **three** additional services the town (local) government should also provide.

- (A) educating students
- (B) passing federal laws
- (C) hiring military officers
- (D) providing fire protection
- (E) maintaining public safety

Part B

How do local governments **primarily** fund the various services that they provide?

- (A) by taxing residents
- (B) by receiving donations
- (C) by printing new currency
- (D) by selling private property

- 6** The three branches of government have many federal employees. Many of these employees hold important positions, including the chief justice of the Supreme Court, the Speaker of the House, and the secretary of education.

Which branch of government includes the chief justice of the Supreme Court?

- Ⓐ judicial
- Ⓑ executive
- Ⓒ legislative

Which branch of government includes the Speaker of the House?

- Ⓐ judicial
- Ⓑ executive
- Ⓒ legislative

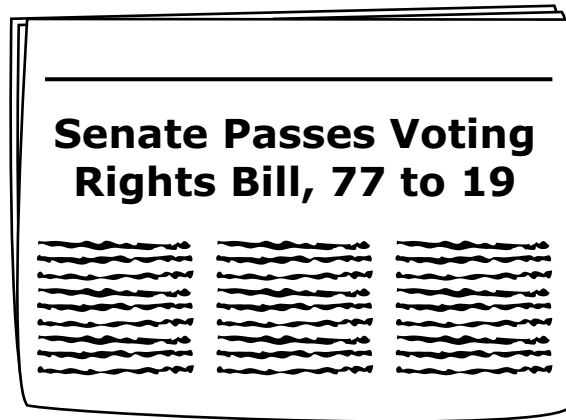
Which branch of government includes the secretary of education?

- Ⓐ judicial
- Ⓑ executive
- Ⓒ legislative

Read and examine the three sources. Then answer questions 7–9.

Source 1

A newspaper printed the following headline when the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed.



Source 2

A congressional leader received a letter from a citizen urging the leader to take action on civil rights legislation. The following is a response from the congressional leader to the citizen.

July 8, 1965

Dear Mr. Chagnon:

Thank you for your recent communication concerning the voting rights of Americans. Certainly this is a cherished privilege of every American and one that must be zealously¹ protected. . . . We in Congress are charged with the responsibility of insuring our citizens the privilege of voting. Please know that I will be restless until this responsibility is fully discharged². . . .

Sincerely yours,

John A. Blatnick, M.C.

¹zealously—actively

²discharged—accomplished

Source 3

The photograph shows students at a civil rights demonstration in the 1960s.



© Danny Lyon/Magnum Photos

One of the students in the photograph is John Lewis, a leader in the movement for voting rights, who later became a member of the U.S. Congress. The following is a quotation from Congressman Lewis.

The vote is precious. It's almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent instrument or tool that we have in a democratic society, and we must use it.

- 7 Based on the sources, select **two** actions that citizens took to **directly** influence the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- Ⓐ protesting injustices
 - Ⓑ vetoing public policies
 - Ⓒ joining the army reserves
 - Ⓓ refusing to serve as jurors
 - Ⓔ paying federal income taxes
 - Ⓕ appealing to elected officials
- 8 Based on the sources, what was an outcome of the Voting Rights Act of 1965?
- Ⓐ Fewer Americans were able to run for elected office.
 - Ⓑ Fewer Americans were able to campaign for a political party.
 - Ⓒ More Americans were able to participate in the political process.
 - Ⓓ More Americans were able to be elected to office at the federal level.
- 9 What was the **primary** purpose of the headline shown in Source 1?
- Ⓐ to persuade the president to sign a bill into law
 - Ⓑ to convince citizens to support a government policy
 - Ⓒ to report the facts of a government action to the public
 - Ⓓ to offer the public an opinion about a government action

- 10 A quotation from Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution is shown.

The Congress shall have power . . . to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested* by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

*vested—given

This quotation from the U.S. Constitution is best known as which of the following?

- Ⓐ the elastic clause
- Ⓑ the impeachment clause
- Ⓒ the interstate commerce clause

Based on the quotation, which of the following powers is granted to the federal government by Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution?

- Ⓐ the power to stretch its authority
- Ⓑ the power to ship goods across states
- Ⓒ the power to remove officials from office

- 11 In 1754, representatives from the colonies created the Albany Plan of Union. This plan proposed to unite the colonies but allowed each colony to have its own government.

A political cartoon encouraging colonies to join the Albany Plan of Union is shown. In the cartoon, each part of the snake represents a colony.



Courtesy of Library of Congress

Which of the following ideas about government is promoted in the political cartoon?

- Ⓐ federalism
- Ⓑ judicial review
- Ⓒ electoral college
- Ⓓ checks and balances

This question has two parts.

- 12 The president, the Cabinet, and federal agencies are part of the executive branch. As chief officer of the executive branch, the president chooses Cabinet members and the heads of federal agencies.

A picture of President Barack Obama holding a Cabinet meeting in 2009 is shown.



Courtesy of the White House

Part A

Select **two** responsibilities of the Cabinet and federal agencies in the executive branch.

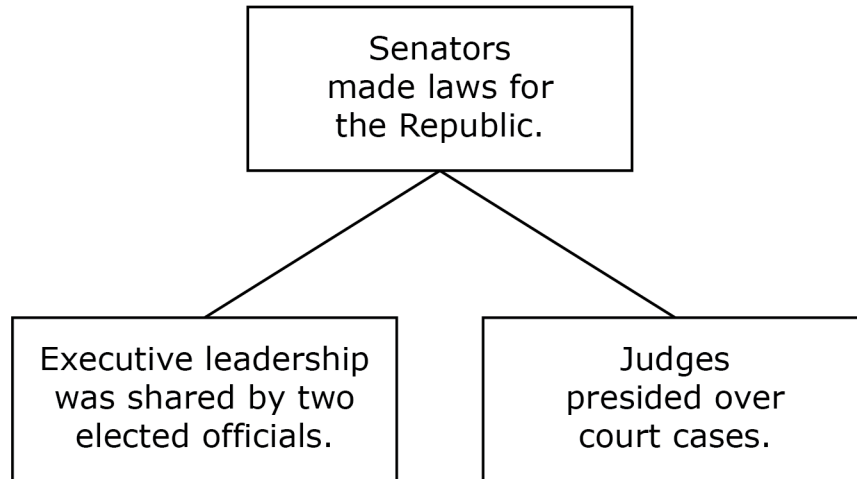
- Ⓐ ensuring federal laws are carried out
- Ⓑ advising the president on important issues
- Ⓒ confirming federal judges to the Supreme Court
- Ⓓ creating the daily agenda for debating legislation in the Senate
- Ⓔ determining whether bills signed by the president are constitutional

Part B

The legislative branch checks the powers of the executive branch. What is one check on the powers of the executive branch that affects the Cabinet?

- Ⓐ The Senate vetoes legislation proposed by the Cabinet.
- Ⓑ The Senate confirms individuals nominated to serve on the Cabinet.
- Ⓒ The House of Representatives declares decisions made by the Cabinet unconstitutional.
- Ⓓ The House of Representatives approves the priorities of the Cabinet set by the president.

- 13 The diagram shows the structure of government of the ancient Roman Republic.



Which characteristic of the U.S. government was **most** influenced by the ancient Roman Republic as it is shown in the diagram?

- Ⓐ federalism
- Ⓑ judicial review
- Ⓒ habeas corpus
- Ⓓ separation of powers

- 14 An advertisement to encourage public service is shown.



Which of the following positions is **best** categorized as public service?

- Ⓐ city councilor
- Ⓑ business manager
- Ⓒ professional athlete

Which of the following **best** describes the funding source for public service positions?

- Ⓐ stocks and bonds
- Ⓑ corporate donations
- Ⓒ state and local taxes

Read the source. Then answer questions 15–17.

A student was studying the Enlightenment ideas of Montesquieu and Locke in a civics class. The student wrote the following notes during class.

Enlightenment Ideas about Government

- Citizens should have the ability to change their government if it fails to protect them.
- Government powers should be split among groups.
- The function of government is to protect the natural rights of citizens.
- Citizens should be able to elect their political leaders.

- 15 Which of the following was **most** influenced by the ideas described in the student's notes?
- Ⓐ the appointment of British governors in the American colonies
 - Ⓑ the rebellion of the American colonies against the rule of Great Britain
 - Ⓒ the creation of new taxes on paper and sugar sold in the American colonies
 - Ⓓ the signing of political treaties between American colonies and European countries
- 16 Which of the following was also influenced by the ideas described in the student's notes?
- Ⓐ the establishment of religious practices in New England
 - Ⓑ the growth of wheat and fishing industries in the colonies
 - Ⓒ the development of representative government in the colonies
 - Ⓓ the signing of treaties between the Iroquois Confederacy and Great Britain
- 17 Which of the following claims is supported by the ideas of Montesquieu and Locke described in the student's notes?
- Ⓐ Voting in elections gives citizens a voice in how they are governed.
 - Ⓑ Donating to political campaigns allows people to control elected officials.
 - Ⓒ Participating in elections should give citizens the right to avoid jury service.
 - Ⓓ Serving in the military should be a requirement for running for political office.

- 18 An order from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to appear for jury duty is shown.



Who is eligible to receive a summons like the one shown?

- Ⓐ all adults living in Massachusetts
- Ⓑ U.S. citizens living outside of Massachusetts
- Ⓒ all residents of Massachusetts age 16 and older
- Ⓓ U.S. citizens age 18 and older living in Massachusetts

19 A list of responsibilities in a job description is shown.

- encourage candidates to run for government offices
- distribute information about candidates
- create a set of views about government policies
- fundraise for state and national elections

For which of the following positions was this job description most likely written?

- Ⓐ newspaper editor
- Ⓑ political party leader
- Ⓒ Supreme Court justice
- Ⓓ Electoral College member

This question has two parts.

- 20 Several weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and the results of those weaknesses are shown in the table. One result is not shown.

Articles of Confederation

Weakness	Result
Congress had no power to tax.	The government did not have enough money to pay back debts.
There was no national court system.	The government had no way to settle disagreements among the states.
There was no military.	The government could not respond to issues of national defense.
There was no executive branch.	?

Part A

Which of the following results would **best** complete this table?

- (A) The government could not create new legislation.
- (B) The government could not rule on local legal cases.
- (C) The government could not appoint legislators to Congress.
- (D) The government could not enforce laws passed by Congress.

Part B

Which of the following was a result of the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?

- (A) A civil war was started.
- (B) A peace treaty was signed.
- (C) A federal petition was created.
- (D) A constitutional convention was held.

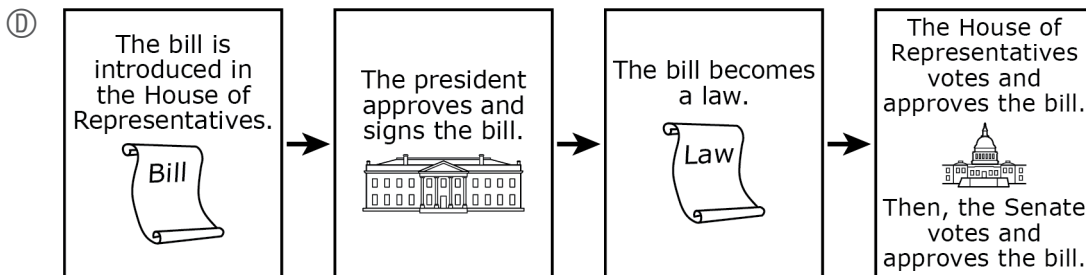
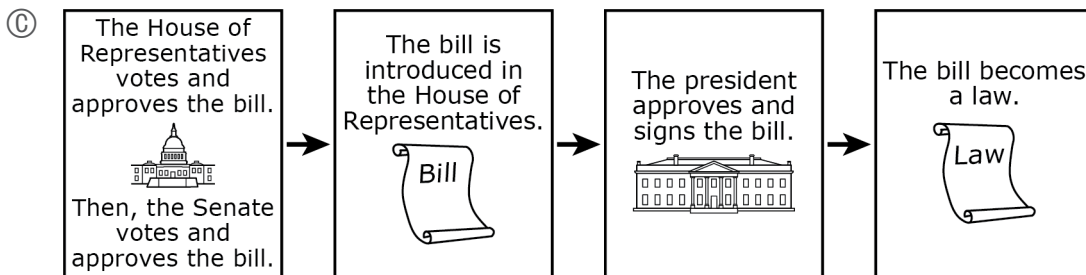
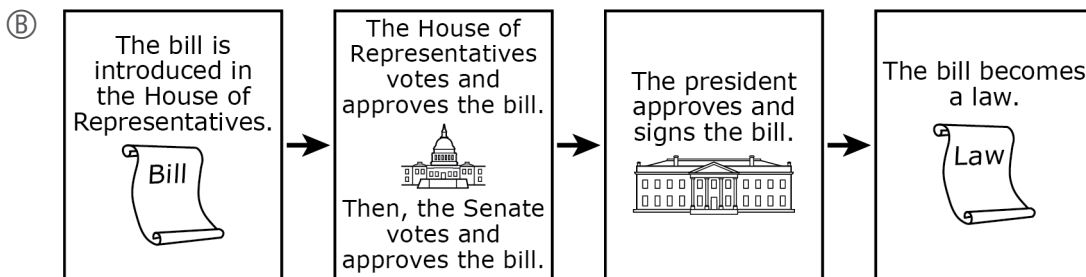
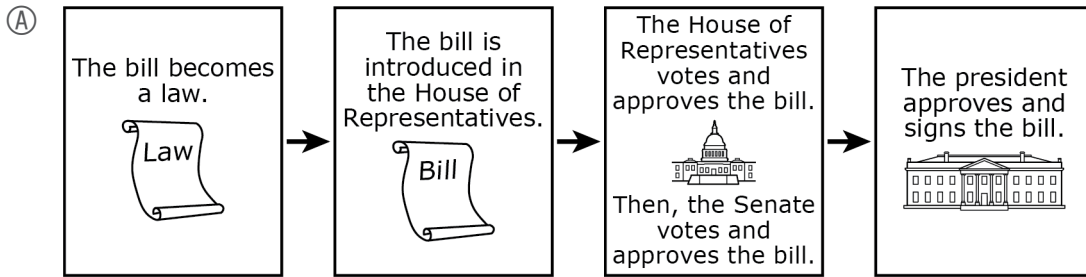
- 21 State and local governments use taxes to provide services to people living in their communities.

Select the **two** actions that are government services mainly supported by state and local taxes.

- Ⓐ building a restaurant
- Ⓑ repairing town roads
- Ⓒ managing accounts at banks
- Ⓓ paying public school teachers
- Ⓔ buying supplies for the U.S. Marine Corps

22 Legislation goes through several steps in the legislative and executive branches.

Which of the following shows the correct order for how a bill may move through the branches of government?



Read and examine the two sources. Then answer questions 23–25.

Source 1

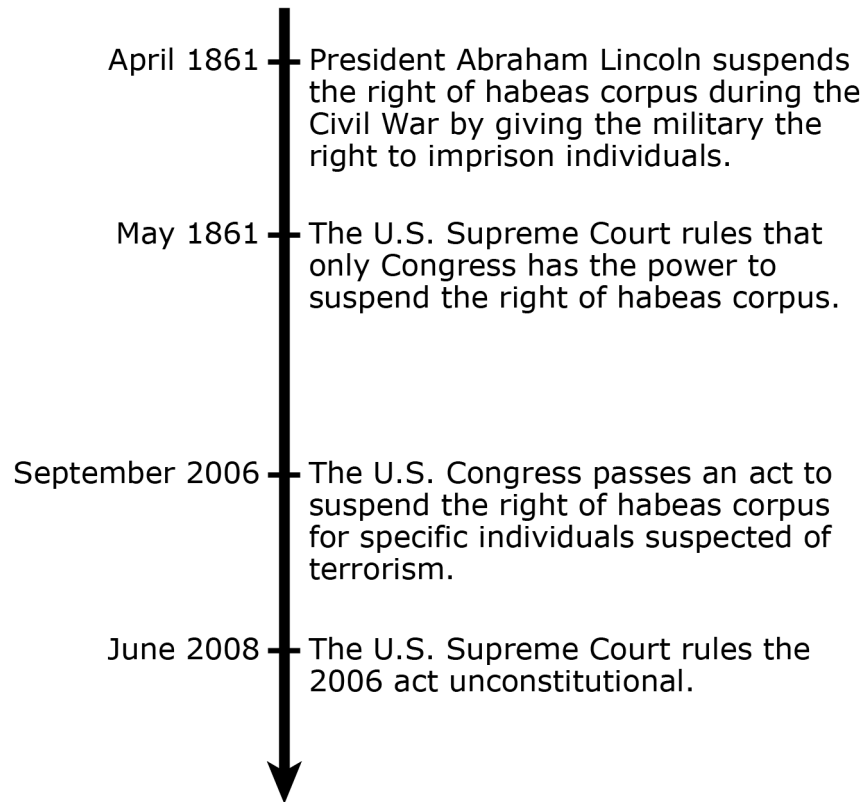
Habeas corpus is a legal procedure. It means that the government cannot detain or imprison a person indefinitely without taking the person before a judge to prove there is a reason for the person's imprisonment. Defendants can challenge their imprisonment by filing what is known as a writ of habeas corpus.

Habeas corpus was first introduced in the Magna Carta, which was signed in 1215. Habeas corpus was considered so important by the Founders that it was included in Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

Source 2

A timeline is shown.

**Major Events Involving Habeas Corpus
in the United States**



- 23 Based on the sources, which of the following is protected under habeas corpus?
- Ⓐ the right to due process
 - Ⓑ the right to serve as a juror
 - Ⓒ the right to practice religion
 - Ⓓ the right to peacefully assemble
- 24 Which of the following conclusions is **best** supported by the information in Source 2?
- Ⓐ Democratic governments need to balance individual liberties with national interests.
 - Ⓑ Citizens voluntarily give up individual liberties in exchange for government protections.
 - Ⓒ Citizens demand compensation from the government when individual liberties are denied.
 - Ⓓ Democratic governments have unlimited power to deny individual liberties during times of war.
- 25 Select the **two** people who would **most likely** receive a writ of habeas corpus, based on the information in the sources.
- Ⓐ a person who demanded a new trial a year after being sentenced
 - Ⓑ a person who was placed in jail without a trial for more than two years
 - Ⓒ a person who immediately pleaded guilty in exchange for a lighter punishment
 - Ⓓ a person who received a speeding ticket and had to immediately pay a large fine
 - Ⓔ a person who was arrested two weeks ago and still has not been charged with a crime

- 26 A quotation from a speech Benjamin Franklin gave at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 is shown.

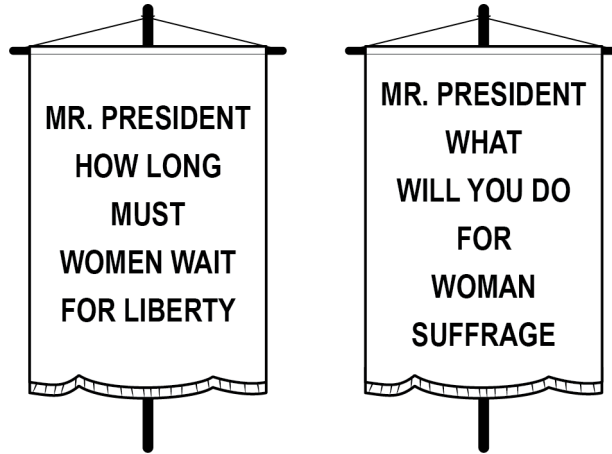
If a proportional representation takes place, the small states contend* that their liberties will be in danger. If an equality of votes is to be put in its place, the large states say their money will be in danger.

*contend—claim

How did the Founders address the problem described in the quotation when they wrote the U.S. Constitution?

- Ⓐ They created a national bank.
- Ⓑ They established state legislatures and state courts.
- Ⓒ They wrote the Bill of Rights, consisting of ten amendments.
- Ⓓ They created Congress, consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

- 27 Two signs women used while protesting outside the White House in 1917 are shown.



Based on the information, what were the protesters most likely demanding?

- Ⓐ a new law that would allow women to serve in the military
- Ⓑ a constitutional amendment that would allow women to vote
- Ⓒ a change in education policies that would allow women to attend college
- Ⓓ a shift in employment practices that would allow women to work outside the home

Read and examine the two sources. Then answer the question.

Source 1

In 1787 delegates at the Constitutional Convention disagreed about how states should be represented in a national government. The table shows two plans presented at the convention: the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan.

The Virginia Plan	The New Jersey Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 branches of government• bicameral legislature (2 houses)• representation based on state population	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 branches of government• unicameral legislature (1 house)• equal representation for all states

Source 2

The table shows the total population for each of the original thirteen states based on data from the 1790 U.S. Census.

State	Population
Connecticut	237,946
Delaware	59,094
Georgia	82,548
Maryland	319,728
Massachusetts	378,787
New Hampshire	141,885
New Jersey	184,139
New York	340,120
North Carolina	393,751
Pennsylvania	434,373
Rhode Island	68,825
South Carolina	249,073
Virginia	747,610

This question has two parts.

28 Part A

At the Constitutional Convention, some states supported the Virginia Plan and others supported the New Jersey Plan.

Based on the sources, which of the following pairs of states most likely supported the Virginia Plan at the Constitutional Convention?

- Ⓐ Delaware and Rhode Island
- Ⓑ Delaware and Massachusetts
- Ⓒ Massachusetts and Pennsylvania
- Ⓓ Pennsylvania and Rhode Island

Based on the sources, which of the following pairs of states most likely supported the New Jersey Plan at the Constitutional Convention?

- Ⓐ Delaware and Rhode Island
- Ⓑ Delaware and Massachusetts
- Ⓒ Massachusetts and Pennsylvania
- Ⓓ Pennsylvania and Rhode Island

Part B




The delegates at the Constitutional Convention compromised on how states should be represented in the national government. This compromise became known as the Great Compromise.

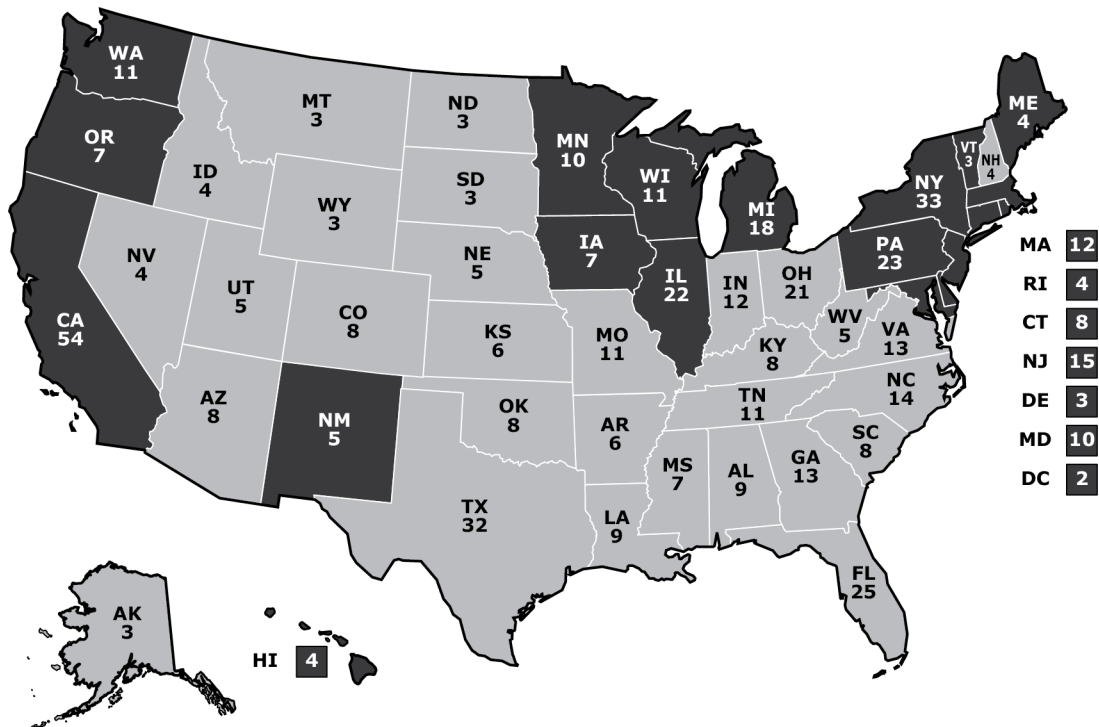
Select **two** ideas that were adopted at the Constitutional Convention and that resulted in the Great Compromise.

- Ⓐ The Senate would consist of two senators from each state.
- Ⓑ The Supreme Court would consist of one judge from each state.
- Ⓒ The presidential Cabinet would consist of one advisor from each state.
- Ⓓ In both houses of Congress, each state's representation would be based on its population.
- Ⓔ In the House of Representatives, each state's representation would be based on its population.

- 29 In the 2000 U.S. presidential election, George W. Bush was the Republican Party candidate, Albert Gore Jr. was the Democratic Party candidate, and Ralph Nader was the Green Party candidate. The table shows a summary of the election results, and the map shows the number of electoral votes that each candidate received by state.

2000 Election Results

Candidate	Party	Electoral Votes	Popular Votes
 George W. Bush	Republican	271	50,456,002
 Albert Gore Jr.	Democratic	266	50,999,897
 Ralph Nader	Green	0	2,882,955

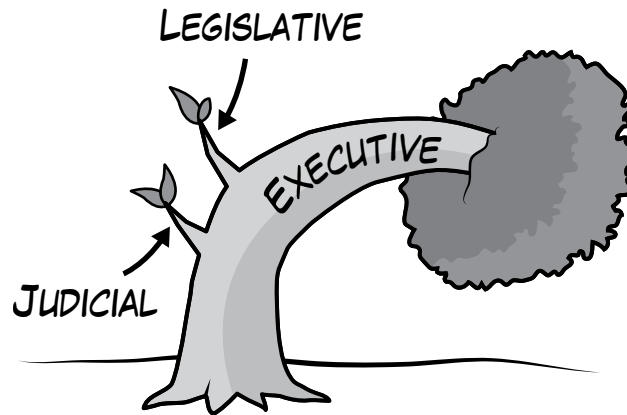


Based on the information, which of the following **best** describes the results of the 2000 presidential election?

- Ⓐ The candidate with the most popular votes won the election, even though he won fewer states.
- Ⓑ The candidate with the most electoral votes won the election, even though he won fewer states.
- Ⓒ The candidate with the most electoral votes won the election, even though he received fewer popular votes.
- Ⓓ The candidate with the most popular votes won the election, even though he received fewer electoral votes.

This question has two parts.

- 30 The political cartoon shows how some people view the separation of powers in the U.S. government.



Part A

The cartoon shows an opinion about

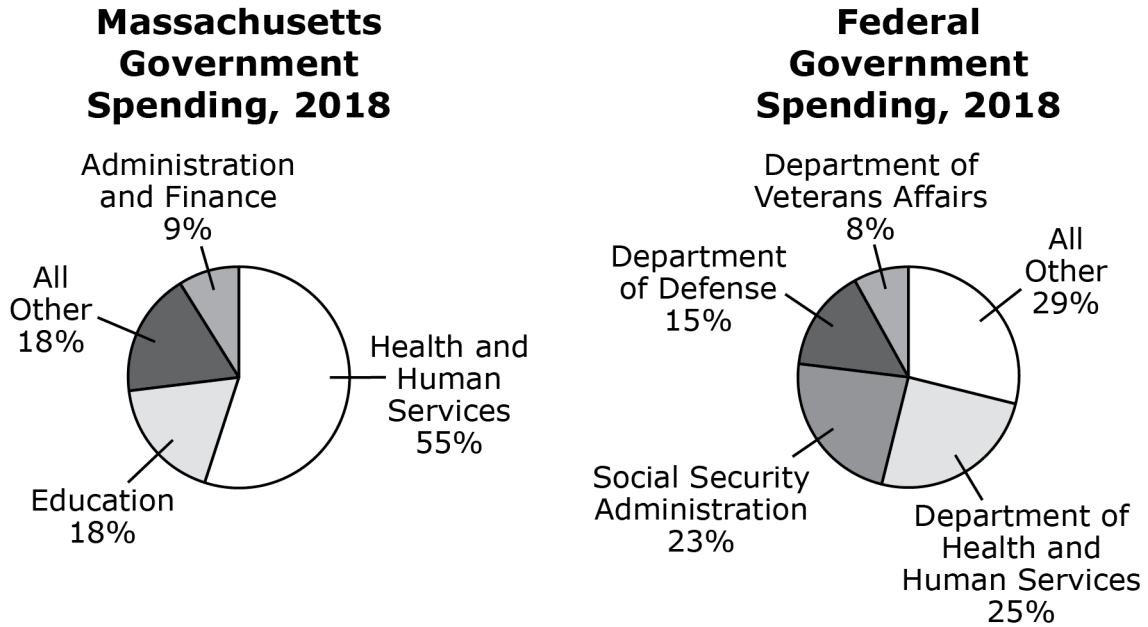
- Ⓐ the process of judicial review.
- Ⓑ the principle of checks and balances.
- Ⓒ the development of state and local governments.
- Ⓓ the establishment of international trade agreements.

Part B

Which claim is **best** supported by the political cartoon?

- Ⓐ Senators should have term limits.
- Ⓑ The president has too much power.
- Ⓒ Supreme Court justices should be elected by the people.
- Ⓓ The House of Representatives should be allowed to veto presidential orders.

- 31 The circle graphs show the spending by both the state government of Massachusetts and the federal government in 2018.



Which of the following conclusions about government responsibilities is **best** supported by the information in the graphs?

- Ⓐ Neither government is responsible for providing Social Security to the people.
- Ⓑ State governments are responsible for maintaining the Department of Defense.
- Ⓒ Both governments are responsible for providing health services to communities.
- Ⓓ The federal government is primarily responsible for providing education for communities.

- 32 The following table compares aspects of the Iroquois Confederacy Constitution, known as the Great Law of Peace, with the U.S. Constitution.

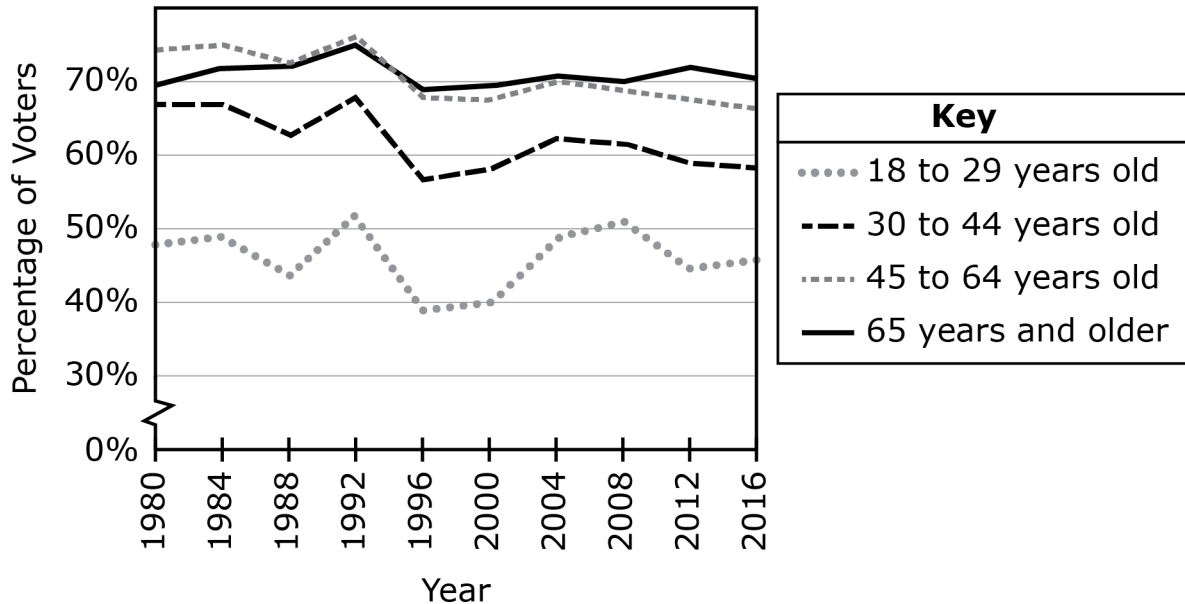
Iroquois Confederacy Great Law of Peace	U.S. Constitution
It stated that leaders were to be selected by the clan mother of each tribe to serve in the legislature and make laws.	Article I, Section 1: All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.
It specified who had the power to declare war against enemies.	Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have power . . . to declare war.
It provided a way to remove leaders if they abused the power they were given.	Article II, Section 4: The president, vice president and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

Based on the information in the table, select the **three** principles the Iroquois Confederacy Constitution and the U.S. Constitution have in common.

- Ⓐ judicial review
- Ⓑ individual rights
- Ⓒ limited government
- Ⓓ separation of powers
- Ⓔ representative democracy

- 33 The graph shows the percentage of eligible voters, by age group, who voted in presidential elections over time.

**Percentage of Voters,
by Age Group, Who Voted in
Presidential Elections Over Time**



Which of the following statements is supported by the graph?

- (A) From 1980 to 1984, there was a decrease in the percentage of people aged 30 to 44 who voted.
- (B) From 1992 to 2004, there was an increase in the percentage of people aged 65 and older who voted.
- (C) From 1996 to 2004, there was a decrease in the percentage of people aged 45 to 64 who voted.
- (D) From 2000 to 2016, there was an increase in the percentage of people aged 18 to 29 who voted.

This question has two parts.

- 34** The information below describes protections provided by Article 1 of the Massachusetts Constitution and Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Article 1 of the Massachusetts Constitution

All people are born free and equal. Citizens of Massachusetts are guaranteed the ability to do the following:

- enjoy and defend their lives and freedoms
- own personal property
- seek happiness and safety

Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

All people born in the United States, or who go through the naturalization process, are U.S. citizens. U.S. citizens are guaranteed that states cannot do the following:

- make laws that go against their rights
- take away their life, freedom, or property without due process
- deny them equal protection of the law

Part A

How do the protections described in the information **most** benefit citizens?

- Ⓐ by allowing citizens to run for office
- Ⓑ by creating rules for citizens to vote
- Ⓒ by defining the individual rights of citizens
- Ⓓ by granting the government power over its citizens

Part B

Which of the following best describes how the legislative branches of the state and federal governments help to preserve the protections described in the information?

- Ⓐ The legislatures debate about the guarantees listed.
- Ⓑ The legislatures pass laws to support the guarantees listed.
- Ⓒ The legislatures use the military to enforce the guarantees listed.
- Ⓓ The legislatures determine how to mandate the guarantees listed.