

HSA

Maryland High School
Assessment



GOVERNMENT

Public Release 2005

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Sample A

The mass media is sometimes referred to as "the fourth branch of the government" because it

- A endorses all governmental policies
- B influences public opinion
- C is a powerful federal agency
- D is paid for with federal taxes

Sample B

On January 1, 1999, the euro became the common currency for eleven European countries.

The adoption of the euro created a region based on a common

- F political ideology
- G defense strategy
- H economic interest
- J cultural characteristic



1 Which of these is a responsibility of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)?

- A to manage the use of public airwaves
- B to evaluate the contents of medications
- C to review the safety of household appliances
- D to investigate the practices of financial firms

2 Which of these statements about the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is true?

- F Members are required to open their borders to immigrants from other nations.
- G Members are prevented from conducting trade with non-member nations.
- H An armed attack against one member is considered an attack against all members.
- J An executive panel controls legislation passed in member nations.

3 Read the news headline below.

**UNITED STATES SETS
HIGH TAXES ON
IMPORTED LUMBER**

Which of these is a purpose of this action by the United States?

- A to decrease the cost of lumber
- B to protect the United States lumber industry
- C to decrease United States lumber exports
- D to allow for the free trade of lumber



4 Which of these actions by the federal government would most likely reduce inflation?

- F increasing both spending and the money supply
- G decreasing both spending and the money supply
- H increasing loans to consumers
- J decreasing the interest rate

5 The federal minimum wage in 2001 was \$5.15 an hour.

Which of these best describes why the federal government would raise the minimum wage?

- A to help workers find employment
- B to help workers' wages keep up with inflation
- C to increase the taxes on workers' wages
- D to make sure all workers receive the same pay

6
BCR

In some eastern Arizona counties, the largest segment of the population is under 18 years of age. By contrast, in some western counties of Arizona, a large segment of the population is 65 years or older.

- Based on the information above, describe likely government goals in both eastern and western Arizona.
- Why do larger population groups tend to have more influence on government policy?
- Include details and examples to support your response.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



- 7** Which of these best describes why the government often requires the construction of wheelchair ramps in certain types of buildings?
- A to protect the safety of citizens
 - B to improve the education system
 - C to provide equal access for all citizens
 - D to provide training for all people wanting to learn new skills

- 8** Which of these has the most control over the United States' defense spending?
- F the Supreme Court
 - G the Secretary of the Treasury
 - H the Congress
 - J the Secretary of State

- 9** Which of these best describes a goal of affirmative action legislation?
- A to encourage young people to go into politics
 - B to promote educational opportunities for minorities
 - C to require employers to provide health benefits to all workers
 - D to establish job training courses for the economically disadvantaged



10 While working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), some counties in Maryland have begun a program to encourage residents to recycle electronic equipment such as computers, televisions, and telephones.

Which of these is most likely a purpose of this program?

- F to reduce the amount of waste in landfills
- G to persuade consumers to buy new electronics equipment
- H to raise money from the resale of the electronics equipment
- J to stop people from using older electrical equipment that may be unsafe

11 Read the excerpt below.

“No freeman [person] shall be taken or imprisoned, . . . or outlawed, or banished, or in any way destroyed, unless by the lawful judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land. . . .”

—*Magna Carta*, 1215

Which of these principles found in the Bill of Rights is based on the Magna Carta?

- A guarantee of free speech
- B protection of the right of the state to organize a militia
- C provision for due process
- D prohibition against excessive bail and fines

12 The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers home loans at low interest rates to low-income borrowers who live in rural communities.

What is most likely the purpose of this government program?

- F to increase ownership of property
- G to regulate the lending industry
- H to encourage people to move
- J to raise tax revenues

13 Read the news headline below.
BCR

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSES
NEW LAWS FOR TEENAGE
DRIVERS**

- Describe ways that the state limits the privileges of people who own, drive, or ride in cars.
- Should the state government have this power? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



14 Which of these incidents led to the United States Supreme Court case *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District*?

- F A school principal censored articles from the school newspaper.
- G A school district used public transportation to segregate students by race.
- H School authorities searched a student's handbag without a search warrant.
- J School authorities suspended students for wearing black armbands as a protest.

15 Which of these is a similarity between the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence?

- A They list the rights of those accused of a crime.
- B They divide powers of government among three branches.
- C They list the grievances of American colonists against Great Britain.
- D They state that government gains authority from the people.



16
BCR

News organizations predict the winners of elections before all the votes are counted. On election day 2000, supporters of George W. Bush complained that news organizations predicted Al Gore to be the winner in California hours before the polls closed on the West Coast.

- Explain reasons why Bush supporters may have been displeased with the early predictions.
- Should news organizations predict the winners of elections? Explain why or why not.
- Use details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

17

Great Britain and Japan are examples of democratic countries with a strong, central government that makes laws for the entire nation and limits the power of local governments.

What form of government do these countries have?

- A authoritarian
- B confederation
- C federal
- D unitary

18

The purpose of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is to promote health and safety by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.

Which of these is most likely a responsibility of this government agency?

- F to help healthcare workers find jobs
- G to fund and operate medical schools
- H to establish immunization programs for children
- J to enforce laws that protect people from discrimination

19

Which of these statements best describes a responsibility of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)?

- A Flight attendants at a major airline receive pay raises.
- B Major airlines announce price reductions on flights.
- C Pilots are given new regulations regarding rest periods.
- D The government reviews airline television advertisements.



20 Which of these is an example of plea-bargaining?

- F A jury determines the sentence for a person convicted of a crime.
- G A police officer collects evidence to obtain a search warrant.
- H A judge reviews evidence to determine whether a police officer violated a citizen's rights.
- J A defendant admits guilt to a less serious charge instead of being tried for a more serious one.



21

Look at the chart below.

ECR

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT DECISIONS
REGARDING SEGREGATION IN SCHOOLS

Year	Case	Ruling
1954	<i>Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka</i>	Segregation in public schools based on race is illegal.
1969	<i>Alexander v. Holmes County Board of Education</i>	Schools in Mississippi that have yet to integrate students must do so immediately.
1971	<i>Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Board of Education</i>	Federal courts have the authority to oversee integration and recommend ways to integrate in state public schools.

- Describe how the Fourteenth Amendment was the basis for these Supreme Court rulings.
- Was additional Supreme Court action necessary after the *Brown* decision? Explain why or why not.
- Explain how these decisions affect public education today.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



22 Which of these would most likely take place in a command economy?

- F Industrial leaders agree to control prices.
- G Stock traders create wealth through buying and selling.
- H Government leaders decide how goods will be produced.
- J Consumers decide the sales policies of business owners.

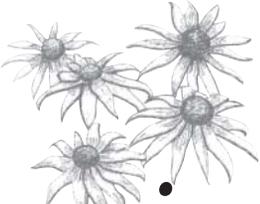
23 In *Goss v. Lopez* (1971), a group of children was suspended from school. The parents sued the Board of Education because the children were not given hearings before the suspension.

Which of these was most at issue in this case?

- A due process
- B probable cause
- C separation of powers
- D rule of law



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Session **2**

Directions

Read the news article excerpt below. Then answer Numbers 24 and 25.

**NEW SYSTEM FOR
COLLECTING TOLLS**

The Maryland Transportation Authority has announced that commuters can now use an electronic device at toll plazas in most Northeastern states. This device is placed in cars and deducts toll fees electronically. This will allow commuters to pass through toll plazas without stopping.

24 Which of these is most likely a result of the action described in the news article?

- F Travelers will save time on the road.
- G Maryland will use more employees to take tolls.
- H The number of people using highways will decrease.
- J Other states will charge less for out-of-state travelers.

25 Which of these does the news article describe?

- A rising costs in the travel industry
- B regional cooperation among states
- C involvement of the federal government in state concerns
- D private industry taking over government responsibilities



26
BCR

The United States has a mixed economy and is able to regulate many business activities.

- What are the benefits of government control over business activities?
- Should the United States government have more control or less control over business activities? Explain your answer.
- Use details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

27

Read the information below.

“... to place qualified individuals with mental disabilities in community settings ... The Federal Government must ... help ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to live close to their families and friends ... and to participate in community life.”

—Executive Order 13217

What was the purpose of the executive order above?

- A to maintain public order
- B to reduce unemployment
- C to protect the rights of individuals
- D to guarantee the safety of all citizens



- 28** Recently, the State of Maryland chose to make more decisions regarding land use state-wide.

Which of these actions is least likely to be part of this new role?

- F encouraging preservation of open space
- G limiting the growth of development
- H taking money away from conservation projects
- J helping counties preserve farmland

- 29** Which of these Supreme Court cases established supremacy of the federal government over the states?

- A *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- B *New Jersey v. T.L.O*
- C *Marbury v. Madison*
- D *McCulloch v. Maryland*



30 Read the news article excerpt below.

**LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE
ASSISTANCE TO FIRST TIME
HOMEBUYERS**

In response to rising housing costs, the state legislature has voted to provide financial assistance to low-income families to help purchase their first house.

The action described in the article above is intended to

- F support local businesses
- G generate revenue for the city
- H promote economic equity in the area
- J limit support for local businesses

31 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires that all schools receiving federal funds give male and female students equal opportunities in instruction and extracurricular activities.

Which situation is in violation of this legislation?

- A prohibiting girls from playing varsity football
- B eliminating boys' and girls' soccer programs due to a lack of funding
- C requiring the same academic standards for athletes and non-athletes
- D discontinuing extracurricular activities in order to purchase textbooks

32 Study the graph below.



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

The information in the graph is mostly about

- F the economic growth of the country
- G the tax revenues of the country
- H the prices of consumer goods
- J the tariffs placed on imports



33 The government of China tells factory managers to increase their use of computers in manufacturing.

What economic question is most affected by the government's actions?

- A what to produce
- B how to produce
- C for whom to produce
- D when to produce

34 Environmentalists have most often opposed government policies that

- F lease public lands to mining companies
- G set aside lands for preservation in national forests
- H protect natural resources through recycling programs
- J regulate economic development to stop deforestation

35
BCR

Medicaid is a government program which helps pay medical expenses for persons with low incomes. Medicare, a similar program, provides healthcare benefits to the elderly.

- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of government sponsored healthcare.
- Should the government decrease or increase its spending on healthcare? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

36

Which of these activities is most likely a part of the United States Census?

- F polling experts to establish foreign policy
- G inspecting businesses to enforce safety laws
- H surveying homes to determine population figures
- J training workers to increase industrial productivity

37

A case that must be tried in a federal court is one involving

- A child custody
- B medical malpractice
- C product liability
- D copyright violation



38 In 1972, the United States and 143 other nations signed a treaty that banned the development, production, and storage of biological weapons.

What is most likely the goal of this treaty?

- F to give nations the right to defend themselves
- G to stop nations from acquiring military secrets
- H to conduct research on the effects of biological weapons
- J to prevent the use of biological weapons by nations at war

39 Many states require people who receive public assistance to work in exchange for payments.

Which of these statements is most likely a goal of this requirement?

- A The amount of tax revenue and spending will increase.
- B The number of people receiving state benefits will increase.
- C Individuals will have an opportunity to apply for other state benefits.
- D Individuals will have an opportunity to learn new skills and get jobs.

40 Read the information below.

BCR

A major goal of United States foreign policy is to have free and open trade with other countries. However, some of these other countries do not have democratic governments.

- Explain why the United States would maintain trade with these countries.
- Do you believe the United States should continue to trade with countries that do not have democratic governments? Explain why or why not.
- Use details and examples to support your answer.

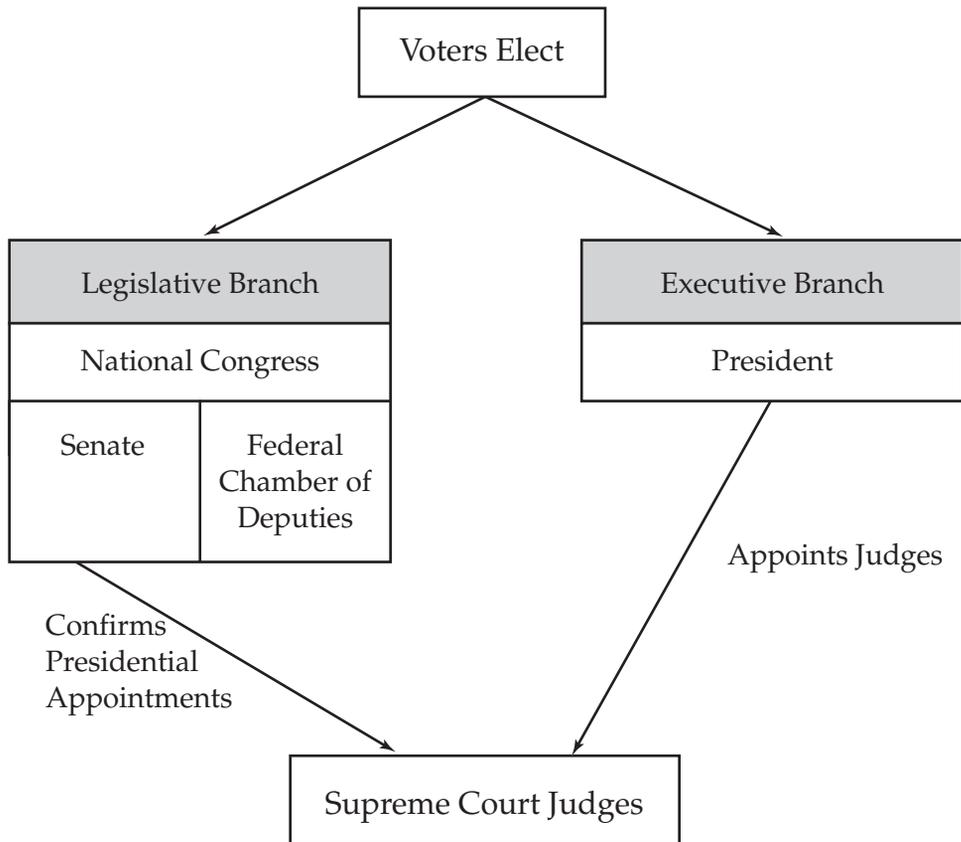
Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



Directions

Look at the flowchart below. Then answer Numbers 41 and 42.

SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN MEXICO



- 41** Based on the information in the diagram, which of these controls does Mexico's National Congress have over the President?
- A vetoing laws
 - B rejecting judicial appointments
 - C electing the President
 - D selecting presidential candidates

- 42** Based on the information in the diagram, which of these best describes the system of government of Mexico?
- F monarchy
 - G democracy
 - H dictatorship
 - J confederation



- 43** Which of these examples best reflects the principle of representative democracy?
- A Citizens of a town vote on all government issues.
 - B The leader of a country makes all government decisions.
 - C A judge finds a defendant guilty of a crime.
 - D An elected official proposes a bill in the state legislature.

44 In 2000, the population of Frederick County, Maryland, was 195,277, which was an increase of 30 percent from 1990.

Which of these contributed to the change in population?

- F approval of development plans by local county officials
- G implementation of strict environmental regulations
- H adoption of higher property tax rates
- J establishment of farmland preservation plans

45
BCR The exclusionary rule states that prosecutors may not use illegally obtained evidence in court.

- Explain the privacy protections in the Bill of Rights that support this rule.
- Do the advantages of the rule outweigh the disadvantages? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



46 The state legislature passed a bill allowing a tax increase to improve roads. The proposed law was then placed on the ballot for voters to decide on the tax increase.

Which of these terms describes this action?

- F amendment
- G nomination
- H petition
- J referendum

47 Read the paragraph below.

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution thereof, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people thereof.”

—Article 3, Declaration of Rights, Constitution of Maryland

What principle of government is best reflected in the article above?

- A federalism
- B majority rule
- C judicial review
- D checks and balances

48 When a famous actress was accused of wrong-doing, the newspapers covered the event extensively. The actress was convicted of the crime, but appealed the verdict on the grounds that the pre-trial publicity prejudiced the jury.

Which of these rights is in conflict with the freedom of the press?

- F the right to a speedy trial
- G the right to present witnesses
- H the right to legal counsel
- J the right to a fair trial



49 An interest group is most likely to

- A nominate party candidates
- B veto proposed legislation
- C set government policy
- D lobby elected officials

50 In a criminal case, the prosecutor is responsible for

- F handing down a sentence
- G representing the government
- H providing testimony under oath
- J making sure the law is passed

51 The United States signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in order to

- A decrease trade with European and Asian countries
- B decrease American investment in overseas markets
- C increase tariffs placed on products made in Mexico
- D increase trade opportunities for domestic businesses



52 Look at the cartoon below.



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The cartoonist is making a statement about

- F rising costs of medical care
- G funding for candidates
- H high salaries of members of Congress
- J increasing costs of government programs



53 A bill was introduced in Congress to stop aid to countries that oppose United States policy in the United Nations General Assembly.

Which of these issues most directly relates to this bill?

- A influencing policies in world organizations
- B encouraging peaceful solutions to military conflicts
- C providing industrial assistance to developing nations
- D developing world solutions to environmental problems

54 The Clean Air Act of 1970 set broad national goals for the reduction of air pollution.

Which of these was a direct result of this act?

- F Prices of automobiles declined.
- G Fewer automobiles traveled on highways.
- H Automobile makers redesigned automobile engines.
- J Automobile smog problems were eliminated.

55 Read the news article excerpt below.

Representatives from Western states introduced a bill in Congress that would reduce demands for electricity and increase the power supply. The bill would allow clean air and endangered species protection rules to be waived during an energy crisis. Western states say the legislation is necessary to prevent an energy crisis. Opponents of the bill believe that the environment will suffer if the bill is passed.

The bill described in the excerpt above is an example of

- A federal needs overriding state laws
- B government ownership of power companies
- C national legislation addressing a regional concern
- D environmental groups supporting national legislation

- 56** Which of these is most closely associated with an economic recession?
- F an increase in stock prices
 - G a decrease in demand for labor
 - H a decrease in the minimum wage
 - J an increase in consumer spending

- 57** Which of these is a violation of due process?
- A A state eliminates representation for defendants.
 - B A state requires that cars be inspected once a year.
 - C A state requires the vaccination of all school children.
 - D A state forbids a doctor from practicing without a license.

- 58** Which of these best describes the result of the Supreme Court's ruling in *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* (1985)?
- F Students have fewer privacy rights in school than in other public settings.
 - G School officials must have search warrants in order to search student property.
 - H School officials may plan religious assemblies for students.
 - J Restrictions placed on student speech in schools are justified.





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