

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT REVIEW I

1. Explain the basic purpose of government. How do governments accomplish this purpose?
2. Explain the difference between freedom and democracy. Why do they seem to go together?
3. How are criminal law and civil law different? Compare them in terms of
Plaintiff
Purpose
Outcome
Standard of proof
4. What are the main differences between autocracies and democracies? Be sure to consider philosophical differences?
5. What are the most important contributions of the following to the development of American democracy?
Magna Carat
The Enlightenment
Federalists and Anti-Federalists
6. What are the philosophical contributions to the American political system of John Locke and Baron de Montesquieu?
7. What were the problems faced by the U.S. under the Articles of Confederation and how did the constitution solve those problems?
8. What powers are granted to the federal government (especially Congress) by the constitution?
9. What are the differences between authoritarian and democratic political systems?

10. What are the differences between the socialist and capitalist economic systems

11. What are the four possible combinations of economic and political systems?

12. Draw and label the political "conversion structure" for government decision making

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT REVIEW 2

1. Explain the purpose (uses) of public opinion polls.
2. Explain errors that pollsters make in measuring public opinion
3. Outline the steps that pollsters should follow in conducting a public opinion poll
4. Identify characteristics of individuals that may serve as predictors of political behavior
5. In what way can mass media manipulate public opinion
6. Describe the overt and covert structures of political parties
7. Describe the origins and goals of American political parties
8. Label and describe the various types of political party systems
9. What are 3rd parties and how are they important to American politics
10. Compare the Republican and Democratic Parties in terms of: groups supporting each; positions on major issues and military and social spending.

11. Explain what is meant by machine politics (political machines)
12. Describe the modern presidential nominating conventions of major political parties?
13. How are convention delegates chosen and what considerations are made in selecting a vice presidential candidate
14. What are planks and platforms
15. Explain how the Electoral College works. How does it influence presidential campaigns? How are the winners determined if the Electoral College fails to select a winner?
16. What impact has the growth of media had on presidential campaigns?
17. Explain the justification for interest groups
18. What makes a successful lobbyist?

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT REVIEW 3

1. Describe the structure of Congress and explain the reasons for this structure
2. Describe the membership of both houses of Congress in terms of:
 - Gender:
 - Race:
 - Professional background:
 - Age:
 - Political affiliation:
3. What are the qualifications and terms of office for members of both houses?
4. Outline the legislative process in both houses. Be sure to include all option.
5. What is the seniority system in Congress?
6. What implication does a seniority system have concerning a “one party” region of the country?”
7. What are the titles and responsibilities of party leadership in Congress? How are both houses’ officers chosen?
8. What roles in the law making process are played by the president?
9. What does the 27th Amendment require?
10. What are the exclusive duties of each house?

11. What are congressional districts?

12. How are congressional district boundaries determined?

13. What is gerrymandering and what limits have been placed on gerrymandering?

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT REVIEW 4

1. What are the various roles played by the president? Describe each.
2. What are the constitutional requirements and terms of office for the president?
3. Explain the system of checks and balances?
4. What happens to the president's powers during times of emergency?
5. What constitutional basis exist for the overt and covert cabinets?
6. What are the 15 executive departments and what is each responsible for?
7. How do cabinet members get positions?
8. What constitutional requirements are there for cabinet members and what other considerations are made in selecting them?
9. What influence does Congress have over overt and covert cabinet?
10. Describe the 3 parts of the covert cabinet.

11. List the four categories of bureaucratic agencies and give examples of each?

12. Explain why the bureaucracy has grown so much over two centuries?

13. Explain the quasi-functions of the independent regulatory commissions.

14. Explain the function of fixed terms on the behavior of regulatory commissions.

15. What is the difference between staff and line agencies?

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT EXAM Review 5

1. What kind of court cases are within the jurisdiction of the federal court system?
2. What is the difference between original and appellate jurisdiction?
3. What are the 3 levels of federal court system and what function is performed by each level?
4. Which amendment to the constitution provide us with procedural rights?
5. Which amendments to the constitution provide us with civil liberties?
6. What limits are there on our civil liberties? What is the basic "test" to determine those limits?
7. What are the categories of crimes based on seriousness?
8. Define the following crimes. Include the category labels above in question 7

Burglary

Robbery

Assault

Theft

Trespass