

HSA

Maryland High School
Assessment



GOVERNMENT

Public Release 2006

Acknowledgements:

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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 does the International Red Cross provide in time of war?
- A health care to prisoners of war
 - B trained personnel to assist in combat
 - C military protection to nations surrounding war zones
 - D ambassadors to help warring nations reach peaceful agreements

- 2** In 2001, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled to accept evidence in a trial that was obtained by recording a phone conversation without a warrant.

Which of these is most directly affected by this ruling?

- F consent of the governed
- G right to trial by a jury of one's peers
- H suspension of the writ of habeas corpus
- J protection against unreasonable search and seizure

- 3** Read the excerpt below.

"No [business] shall discriminate against a qualified individual with a disability. . . in regard to job application procedures, the hiring, advancement, or discharge [firing] of employees. . . ."

—Americans with Disabilities Act, 1990

The Americans with Disabilities Act is an example of a government action taken to

- A protect civil rights
- B maintain gender equality
- C promote cultural diversity
- D establish educational systems



4 Which of these is a way the government promotes economic equity and fairness?

- F redistributing income
- G increasing interest rates
- H monitoring tax rates on exports
- J decreasing the money supply

5 The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), a federal government agency, regulates consumer products by developing and enforcing safety standards, and educating consumers.

Based on this information, which of these would most likely be a responsibility of the CPSC?

- A to provide money to help businesses improve their products
- B to ensure that people are paying a fair price for a product
- C to help businesses identify products that will meet their needs
- D to order a recall of a product that may cause harm to people

6
BCR Use your knowledge about government to answer the BRIEF CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE.

- What is the difference between “preponderance of evidence” in a civil case and “reasonable doubt” in a criminal case?
- Should there be different standards of proof? Why or why not?
- Include details to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

7 Which of these is an economic goal of United States government policy?

- A to limit competition
- B to create a classless society
- C to promote full employment
- D to own the means of production

8 Read the headline below and use it to answer the **BRIEF CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE** that follows.

**POCOMOKE RIVER
POLLUTION AT HIGH LEVELS**

- Describe actions Maryland state and local governments could take in response to this headline.
- Which government action do you think would be most effective in solving this problem? Explain why.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

9 Read the information below.

In Utah, students from a Native American reservation had to travel 90 miles to the nearest high school. As a result, the United States Department of Justice sued the school district for failing to build a high school near the reservation.

Based on the information above, what is the role of the United States Department of Justice?

- A to establish school districts within states
- B to give states control over property rights
- C to decide the curriculum in schools
- D to ensure equal treatment under the law

10 Which of these cases guaranteed an individual's right to legal counsel?

- F *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- G *Gideon v. Wainwright*
- H *McCulloch v. Maryland*
- J *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*

11 Read the quotation below.

"Our citizens have wisely formed themselves into one nation as to others and several States as among themselves. . ."

—Thomas Jefferson, 1801

The quotation refers to the principle of

- A federalism
- B rule of law
- C majority rule
- D separation of powers

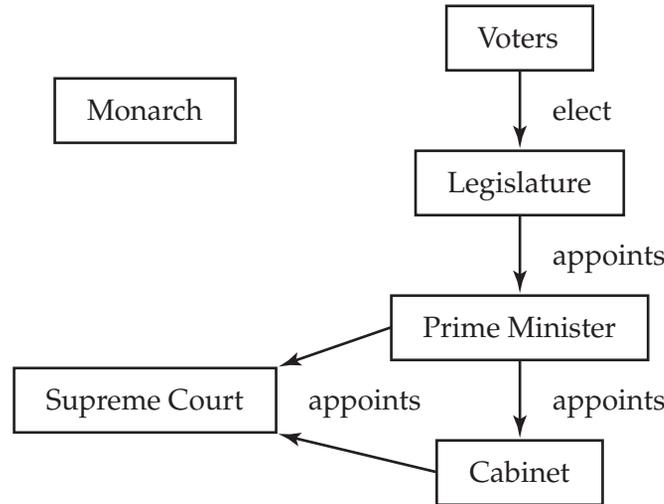
12 Congress passed a law that requires states to make voting aids or individual assistance available to the disabled and the elderly.

Which of these is most likely a result of this law?

- F Voters may request ballot instructions in large print.
- G Voters must vote in the precinct in which they live.
- H Election officials may ask a voter for identification.
- J Voting precincts must extend voting hours.

13 Study the flow chart below and use it to answer the BRIEF CONSTRUCTED
BCR RESPONSE that follows.

SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN SWEDEN



* Judges are appointed by the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

- Compare the system of government shown in the diagram to the system of government in the United States.
- Which system of government is more efficient? Explain your answer.
- Use details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



14 Which of these is a power of the United States Supreme Court?

- F to interpret laws
- G to veto laws
- H to pass laws
- J to enforce laws

15 The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) are similar in that they both

- A regulate labor
- B enforce tax laws
- C protect consumers
- D oversee transportation

16 The federal government passed a law reducing the amount of lumber that can be cut from national forests.

Which of these could be a result of this law?

- F increased production of wood products
- G higher prices for consumers of wood products
- H decreased profits for manufacturers of non-wood products
- J decreased taxes for the non-wood manufacturing industry



17 Look at the excerpt below.

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.

—*Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

The Declaration of Independence and the articles above are similar because both

- F describe the powers of government
- G are enforced in every country in the world
- H describe personal freedoms to which every person is entitled
- J are used by the World Court to resolve international disputes

18 Which of these would not take place in an authoritarian system of government?

- A Government leaders decide what jobs people may have.
- B Government leaders dictate what will be taught in schools.
- C Political parties compete in elections for control of the government.
- D Local political officials take orders from national officials.

19 Which of these is a characteristic of a traditional economy?

- F People rely heavily on hunting and farming.
- G Large corporations compete for business.
- H The government generally owns all means of production.
- J Technological advancements encourage growth.



20 Which of these is an economic cost of an airport being built near a small town?

- A lower tax revenue
- B fewer business opportunities
- C more unemployment
- D increased demand on public services

21 According to the Supreme Court's decision in *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, a school administrator can legally

- F search the locker of a student who brags about stealing a wallet
- G prevent a student from peacefully expressing an opinion
- H suspend a student without an explanation of the offense
- J prevent a student from performing in a controversial, privately sponsored play

22 Which of these is an example of plea bargaining?

- A A defense lawyer asks the judge to consider special circumstances.
- B A defendant admits guilt to a lesser charge to avoid a harsher sentence.
- C A judge instructs the jury to consider a wide range of sentencing options.
- D A grand jury fails to find enough evidence to support a charge.

23 The Susquehanna River flows through New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

Which of these is the most effective way to resolve disputes over the use and protection of the river?

- F turn over control of the river to one state
- G hire a private company to manage actions related to the river
- H encourage each state to develop and enforce its own policies
- J create a regional organization to develop policies regarding the river

- 24** Which of these economic indicators would be most useful for determining the rate of inflation?
- A the prime interest rate
 - B the unemployment rate
 - C Consumer Price Index (CPI)
 - D Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

- 25** Which of these government responsibilities is most related to the United States Census?
- F maintaining national defense
 - G protecting the environment
 - H ensuring fair political representation
 - J establishing criminal justice procedures

- 26** Which of these is the main goal of both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund?
- A to improve the economies of member nations
 - B to promote democratic reforms in member nations
 - C to increase reliance on agriculture in member nations
 - D to support the educational institutions of member nations



27 Read the news article excerpt below.

**JUDGE ORDERS CITY TO REMOVE
POSTERS OF RELIGIOUS LAWS**

Today, a federal court judge ruled that the city had violated the Constitution when it allowed copies of religious laws to be posted in city buildings and schools.

The city's actions were unconstitutional because posting the religious laws in public places violated the principle of

- F right of assembly
- G freedom of the press
- H separation of church and state
- J protection against unreasonable searches

28 In the 1980s, the United States, some European countries, and the United Nations banned the trade of certain goods and services to South Africa. The policy was in response to South African laws which enforced racial segregation.

Which of these best describes this action toward South Africa?

- A the use of diplomacy to gain military strength
- B the use of free trade to build military alliances
- C the use of humanitarian aid to win political support
- D the use of economic sanctions to bring about social change

29 Which of these is an example of lobbying by a special interest group?

- F A hotel association develops a plan to attract more tourists.
- G An animal rights organization presents its views to a legislator.
- H A group of citizens asks city officials for a schedule of public hearings.
- J A neighborhood association backs a group of candidates for an election.

30 In 2001 the Supreme Court ruled that a public school in New York violated the constitutional right to free speech when it prevented a Christian children's club from meeting on school grounds.

What was most likely an effect of this ruling?

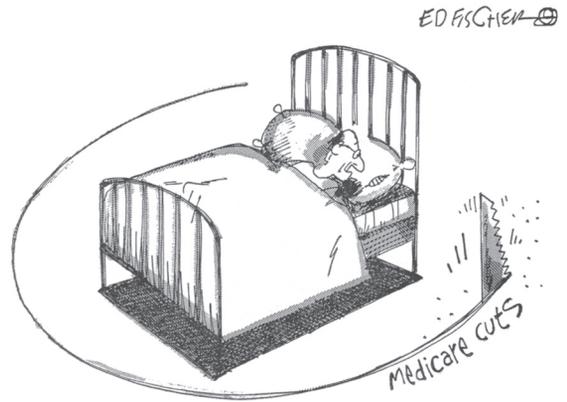
- A Parents receive state money toward private school tuition.
- B Schools must provide transportation to extracurricular activities if they are school sponsored.
- C Religious clubs must receive funding from public schools.
- D Public schools must give the same access to religious groups as they do to other organizations.

31 The Maryland State Highway Administration is considering a plan to widen three miles of a major route from two lanes to six lanes.

Which of these most likely caused this planned action?

- F a decrease in trucking
- G an increase in population
- H an increase in unemployment rates
- J a decrease in construction work

32 The cartoon below was drawn in 1997. Look at the cartoon.



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According to the cartoon, in 1997

- A fewer people applied for Medicare
- B the cost of providing Medicare decreased
- C the government reduced Medicare funding
- D fewer people needed the assistance of Medicare

33
BCR

Read the information below and use it to answer the **BRIEF CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE** that follows.

In Maryland, people under age 18 are prohibited from driving between midnight and 5 A.M. Exceptions are made if the driver is driving to or from work, an official school activity, or an organized volunteer program or athletic event.

- Explain why Maryland would place restrictions on younger drivers.
- Do you agree with these restrictions? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

34

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides help to landowners who want to restore wetlands located on their property.

What is most likely the purpose of this program?

- A to protect the environment
- B to purchase private property
- C to encourage development
- D to increase tax revenues

35

One of the main purposes of the Bill of Rights is to

- F limit individual rights
- G strengthen criminal laws
- H limit the power of government
- J improve the court system

36

Which of these is a function of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)?

- A to issue airline tickets
- B to finance new airlines
- C to hire airline pilots
- D to regulate airline traffic





37 Which of these is most likely a reason Presidents issue executive orders?

- F to remove legislators from Congress
- G to create laws that contradict existing federal law
- H to force the Supreme Court to reverse legal decisions
- J to make policy without congressional approval

38 If tax revenues decrease, what would be the effect on the state of Maryland?

- A Maryland would reduce tax rates.
- B Retail businesses would lower prices.
- C Maryland would reduce funding for some programs.
- D The federal government would replace lost income from taxes.

39 Why did the United States government most likely sign the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)?

- F to expand the economy
- G to establish a military alliance
- H to provide direct funding to foreign countries
- J to improve the transportation system between member countries

40 A man on trial for committing a crime was not allowed to have witnesses testify on his behalf.

Which of these principles was violated?

- A due process
- B judicial review
- C checks and balances
- D separation of powers



41 Study the table below and use it to answer the EXTENDED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE that follows.

SELECTED MAJOR CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION

Year	Legislation	Description
1963	Equal Pay Act	Forbids wage discrimination based on race, sex, color, religion, or national origin
1967	Age Discrimination in Employment Act	Prohibits discrimination against employees forty years of age and older
1972	Higher Education Act	Forbids discrimination on the basis of gender in universities and colleges that receive federal aid
1990	Americans with Disabilities Act	Forbids discrimination in employment, transportation, and public accommodations against people with physical or mental disabilities

- Explain how these government actions protect the rights of citizens.
- Explain how these actions have expanded the role of government.
- Do you believe these government actions were effective? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



- 42** Which of these is usually true in nations with a market economy?
- A Businesses that are inefficient risk going out of business.
 - B Most farms are owned and operated by the government.
 - C Workers are restricted by the government from changing jobs.
 - D Consumers have little choice in the types of goods they may buy.

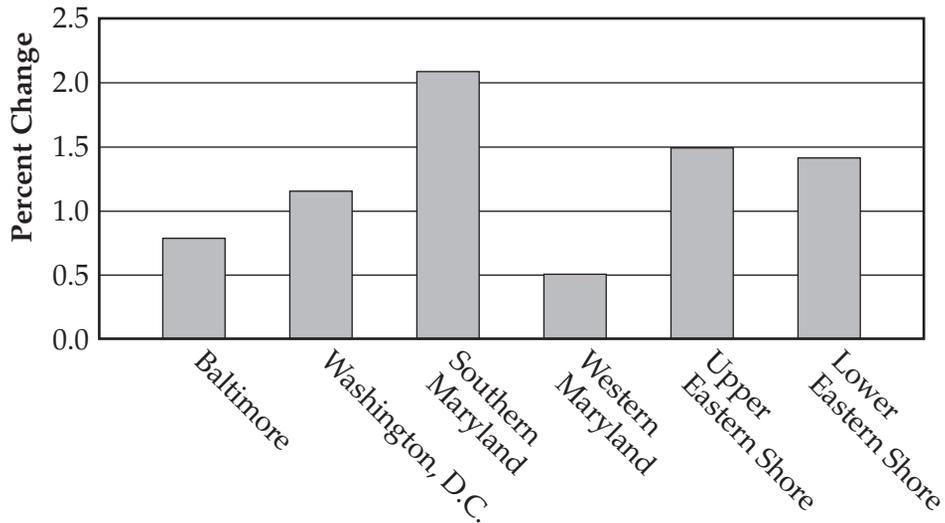
- 43** In the United States, the central government and the state governments share power.
- Which of these terms best describes this type of government?
- F representative democracy
 - G federal system
 - H confederate system
 - J direct democracy

- 44** A city council is considering a measure to ban skateboarding on city streets.
- Which of these would be the most effective way for citizens to express their opposition to the ban?
- A share their views at the next city council meeting
 - B boycott businesses located in the city
 - C refuse to vote at the next city council election
 - D write a letter to the governor about the situation

- 45** If the President and Congress disagree over a tax bill, the President can veto the bill.
- Which of these applies to a presidential veto?
- F checks and balances
 - G judicial review
 - H representative democracy
 - J federalism

46 Study the graph below and use it to answer the BRIEF CONSTRUCTED
BCR RESPONSE that follows.

**AVERAGE ANNUAL POPULATION GROWTH RATE
 IN MARYLAND BY REGION, 1990–2000**



- Using the information in the bar graph, identify funding decisions the Maryland General Assembly would make regarding money for local governments.
- Describe the effects these decisions would have on local government decisions.
- Include details from the graph to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



47 The Clean Alternative program was developed by the Maryland state government to encourage businesses, such as taxicab companies, to switch to cars that use new technologies that are less harmful to the environment.

Which of these government actions would support the goal of this program?

- F reducing the costs of gasoline
- G improving the condition of state highways
- H building more parking areas in crowded communities
- J providing tax credits for the purchase of low-pollution cars

48 The states of Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware joined together during the 1980s and 1990s in an effort to reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. This is an example of a government policy being shaped by

- A regional interests
- B national interests
- C community interests
- D international interests

49 After purchasing a new car, the owner had the steering wheel repaired at least four times within one year. Under Maryland law, the person is entitled to a new car or a refund.

The purpose of this law is to protect the

- F consumer
- G government
- H automobile salesperson
- J automobile manufacturer

50 Read the headline below.

CONTINUED RISE IN
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE LEADS
FEDERAL RESERVE TO
INCREASE MONEY SUPPLY

Which of these best explains the reason for the Federal Reserve's action?

- A to encourage consumers to stop spending money
- B to make it easier for businesses to borrow money to expand
- C to give businesses incentives to decrease their production of goods and services
- D to provide more funds for the federal government to use for entitlement programs

51 Use your knowledge about government to answer the BRIEF CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE.

- Describe ways the government can limit freedom of the press in newspapers and magazines.
- Do you agree or disagree with these limits? Explain why.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

52 Read the news article excerpt below.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decided yesterday to cut crude oil production. A similar action earlier this year has led to a decrease in the United States' fuel supply.

Which of these would least likely be a response of the United States government to the OPEC decision?

- A fund research of alternative energy sources
- B support increased domestic mining of fossil fuels
- C encourage domestic energy conservation programs
- D file lawsuits against foreign oil-exporting countries

53 The Fourteenth Amendment limits the state government's ability to

- F raise the federal income tax
- G use military forces in peacetime
- H regulate interstate trade and commerce
- J place restrictions on qualified voters

54 Which of these is a violation of civil law?

- A taking a souvenir shirt without paying for it
- B driving through a red light on the highway
- C breaking a legal contract
- D refusing to report for jury duty

55 Maryland lost approximately 10,000 acres of forest land each year between 1985 and 1990. Which of these government actions would have done the most to reduce the loss?

- F eliminating zoning laws
- G limiting the development of real estate
- H reducing funds for environmental studies
- J decreasing the number of wildlife preservation areas



56 Which of these statements is true of a representative democracy?

- A Citizens have unlimited individual rights.
- B Citizens vote directly on all laws and government actions.
- C Government leaders rule by force.
- D The people elect government leaders.

57 Which of these best explains why candidates for public office often spend more money on advertising during the last week of a campaign?

- F Advertising costs are lower at the end of a campaign.
- G Advertising may persuade undecided voters to make a choice.
- H Campaign laws require that all money raised by candidates be spent.
- J Campaign laws require that advertising be restricted to the end of a campaign.





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