

HSA

Maryland High School
Assessment



GOVERNMENT

Public Release 2007

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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 In 1974, Congress passed a law that restricts financial institutions from considering factors such as race, religion, gender, or age when considering an applicant for credit.

This law was most likely passed to

- A reduce the number of businesses offering financial loans
- B protect groups of people from unfair business practices
- C increase the length of time it takes to process credit applications
- D prohibit businesses from verifying financial information

2 Which of these was the main purpose of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) of 1993?

- F to weaken Mexico's economy
- G to attract United States workers to Mexico
- H to encourage Mexican companies to move to Canada
- J to open markets between the United States and Mexico

3 Which of these best explains why local governments create zoning laws?

- A to require builders to pursue creative designs
- B to increase the number of jobs in a community
- C to encourage businesses and citizens to recycle more goods
- D to control the use of buildings and land within a community

4 Read the excerpt below.

"After [dividing] the several classes of power, as they may in their nature be legislative, executive, or judiciary, the next and most difficult task is to provide some practical security for each, against the invasion of the others."

—*The Federalist, No. 48*

Which of these principles of government is described in the excerpt?

- F due process
- G popular sovereignty
- H checks and balances
- J representative democracy



5 Which of these is an economic benefit of lower tax rates?

- A better public services
- B more consumer spending
- C expanded government programs
- D larger number of government employees

6
BCR Read the information below and use it to answer the **BRIEF CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE** that follows.

The World Health Organization, of which the United States is a member, is an agency of the United Nations formed to help people achieve “the highest possible levels of health.” It has contributed to the reduction of some diseases. Its services include training medical personnel and sponsoring medical research.

- Explain the advantages and disadvantages to the United States of being a member of the World Health Organization.
- Should the United States be concerned about health care in other countries? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



Read the excerpt below. Then answer Numbers 7 and 8.

**DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST
U.S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA**

Demonstrators in Washington yesterday protested the foreign policy of the United States regarding Cuba. The demonstrators want the United States to end economic sanctions against Cuba, and renew diplomatic relations. Demonstrators noted the improved

standard of living in Cuba since Fidel Castro took power. Cuba now offers free health care, education, and other benefits to its citizens.

Opponents of Castro point to the Cuban government's control of many aspects of daily life—from what news is televised to what labor unions citizens may join. Also, most land is owned by the Cuban government.

7 Which of these was most likely the United States policy toward Cuba at the time the article was written?

- A boycotting Cuban exports
- B funding the Cuban government
- C maintaining a military alliance with Cuba
- D encouraging other nations to trade with Cuba

8 Which of these is most likely a goal of the policy toward Cuba?

- F to increase tourism to Cuba
- G to eliminate migration from Cuba
- H to weaken the economy of Cuba
- J to obtain military intelligence about Cuba

9 Which of these is a characteristic of a market economy?

- A limited business rights
- B competition between businesses
- C government control and ownership of property
- D nationwide pricing rules for goods and services

10 A local government has a limited amount of money to spend. It decides to spend the money to support local businesses instead of to remove trash from unused buildings and vacant lots.

Which of these is the opportunity cost of this decision?

- F tax revenue
- G jobs for local residents
- H a clean environment
- J profits for business owners



11 Read the excerpt below.

“No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury . . . nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself. . . .”

—*Fifth Amendment, United States Constitution*

Which of these does the Fifth Amendment specifically prohibit?

- A forcing witnesses in a case to testify
- B allowing the media to announce an indictment
- C trying someone for the same crime a second time
- D selecting jurors who are prejudiced against the defendant

12 Read the news article excerpt below.

Officials announced today that parts of the Savage River State Forest will be incorporated into the Maryland Wildlands Preservation System. The forest provides a habitat for many wildlife species. The Maryland Wildlands Preservation System is the state's version of the Federal Wilderness System.

Which of these statements is supported by the excerpt?

- F Wildlife preservation is mainly a responsibility of private organizations.
- G The federal and state governments share responsibilities for preserving wildlife.
- H The state government relies mainly on private developers to enforce wildlife regulations.
- J Wildlife regulations issued by the state government take priority over federal regulations.



13
BCR Read the information below and use it to answer the **BRIEF CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE** that follows.

In 2002, the United States Supreme Court ruled that cities may set guidelines for demonstrations in public parks.

—*Thomas et al. v. Chicago Park District*

- Explain how the Supreme Court's decision in this case affects the protection of individual freedoms.
- Do you agree with the Supreme Court's decision? Explain why or why not.
- Use details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

14 In *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963), the Supreme Court ruled that the accused person's right to due process of law had been violated because he was

- F convicted with illegally obtained evidence
- G arrested without being informed of his legal rights
- H denied a court-appointed attorney to represent him
- J jailed for several weeks before being charged with a crime

15 Which of these legal documents orders a witness to appear in court?

- A a contract
- B a subpoena
- C an indictment
- D a search warrant



16 Which of these is a power reserved for state governments by the United States Constitution?

- F the power to coin money
- G the power to maintain an army and a navy
- H the power to establish public schools
- J the power to make treaties with foreign countries

17 Which of these statements is usually true about the people who pass laws in a representative democracy?

- A They inherit their power.
- B They seize power by force.
- C They are elected by citizens.
- D They are appointed by government leaders.

18 Read the excerpt below and use it to answer the BRIEF CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE that follows.

BCR

Children’s Television Programming

“[An educational program] must be a regularly scheduled, weekly program of at least 30 minutes, and aired between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. The program must also be identified as educational and informational for children when it is aired. . . . Broadcasters will . . . air three hours per week of [educational] programming.”

—from an order issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 1996

- Describe benefits of the FCC regulations outlined above.
- Do you consider the regulations outlined above to be a form of censorship? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your response.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



19 Read the quotation below.

“Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. . . . It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the Government itself, treating the task as we would treat the emergency of a war. . . .”

—*Franklin D. Roosevelt,*
March 4, 1933

Based on the quotation above, Franklin D. Roosevelt most likely worked to

- A increase profits of corporate monopolies
- B promote the general welfare of the nation
- C limit the power of the federal government
- D decrease government restrictions on land use

20 Which of these acts is least likely to take place in a totalitarian system?

- F The government makes rules about what jobs people may have.
- G Leaders dictate what will be taught in schools.
- H Political parties compete for control of the government.
- J Local officials take orders from national officials.

21 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 constitutional protections is described in the excerpt?

- A government leaders are chosen by the people
- B citizens will receive a fair price for land taken for public use
- C citizens accused of crimes will be heard by an impartial jury
- D power is divided between the three branches of government

22 Which of these best describes the United States’ economic system?

- F mixed
- G market
- H command
- J traditional

23 Read the headline and the excerpt below and use them to answer the EXTENDED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE that follows.

ECR

LAWSUIT FORCES
GOVERNMENT TO
RELEASE INFORMATION

In *New York Times v. the United States* (1971), Justice Hugo Black ruled, “The Press is to serve the governed and not the governors . . . the Press is free so it can inform the people.”

- Identify how a society benefits from freedom of the press.
- Describe possible situations when government censorship might be justified.
- Compare the importance of individual rights to the government’s need to control information.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



24 Study the political cartoon below.



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EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

To which problem in Maryland does the political cartoon most directly apply?

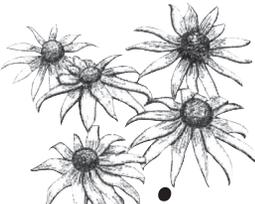
- F determining traffic patterns in Annapolis
- G informing Baltimore residents of crime rates
- H improving the water quality in the Chesapeake Bay
- J limiting the growing population around Washington, D.C.



25 Which of these is an example of government fiscal policy?

- A creating budgets
- B adjusting the discount rate
- C conducting open-market operations
- D changing the reserve requirement





Session **2**

26 In *McCulloch v. Maryland*, the Supreme Court interpreted the Constitution to mean that

- F laws passed by Congress must be approved by all states
- G laws signed by the President cannot be ruled unconstitutional
- H states have power only if all states agree
- J states cannot tax the federal government

27 Which of these was the main goal of the federal government when it began affirmative action programs?

- A to increase tax breaks for companies
- B to give job training for minorities and women
- C to give workers the right to join unions
- D to increase the numbers of minorities and women hired

28 The United States legal system requires that people accused of crimes be

- F held in prison until trial
- G informed of the charges against them
- H responsible for proving their innocence
- J given money if they are found to be innocent



29 The United Nations was organized to

- A decrease trade barriers
- B prevent further world wars
- C establish a military alliance
- D create a single world currency

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

BCR

The governor of Maryland is empowered to maintain order during state emergencies such as natural disasters or public rioting.

- Describe actions the governor might take in these situations.
- Do you think the governor should have these powers in emergencies? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

31 Read the news headline below.

**THE UNITED STATES WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL
CHARGES A MILITARY GENERAL WITH FORCING
THE RELOCATION OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE**

The headline is most associated with which of these goals?

- A to increase migration
- B to form military forces
- C to overthrow governments
- D to stop human rights abuses

32 Read the news article excerpt below.

**CITY PLANNING
COMMISSION TO MEET**

The population of the city has greatly increased since 1990. Current proposals for development include expansion of the airport and the construction of a large industrial center. The city planning commission will meet this month to discuss these expansion issues.

Which of these government responsibilities is most closely related to the activity described in the excerpt?

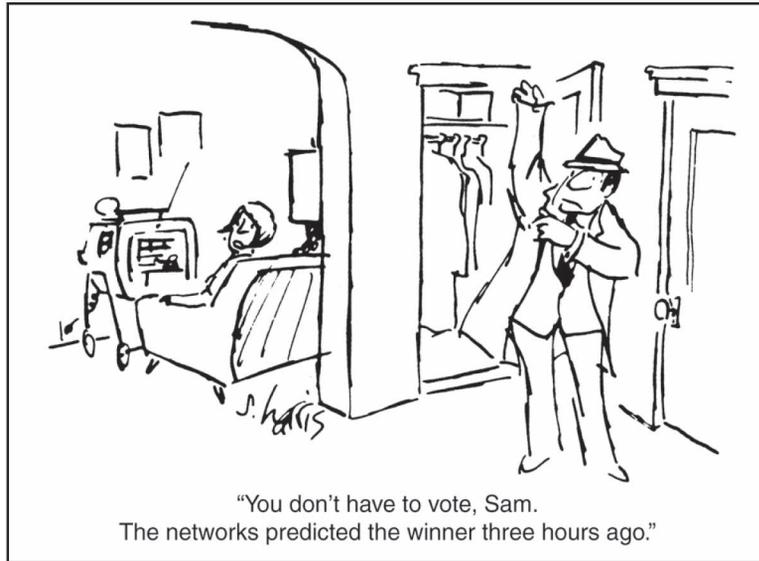
- F protecting public safety
- G promoting economic growth
- H protecting individual liberties
- J promoting regional cooperation

33 Which of these is a role of regulatory agencies such as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)?

- A to set up worker training programs
- B to establish the prime interest rate
- C to protect the safety of citizens
- D to make rules about campaigns for public office

Directions

Look at the cartoon below. Then answer Numbers 34 and 35.



Sidney Harris

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34 Which of these does the cartoon suggest occurs as a result of media predictions of election results?

- F Polling places close before their scheduled time.
- G Candidates withdraw from elections.
- H Networks give different information about candidates.
- J Citizens are discouraged from going to the polls.

35 With which of these statements would the cartoonist most likely agree?

- A The media should stop covering elections.
- B Voters should be aware of voting trends on election day.
- C The media should wait until all polls close before projecting winners.
- D Voters should stop voting for candidates who advertise on television.

36 Read the excerpt below.

The United States Supreme Court ruled in 2001 that it was constitutional for Texas police to arrest and jail a driver for not wearing a seat belt.

In Maryland, state law prevents public arrests for traffic crimes unless other circumstances exist, such as drunk driving, failure to produce identification, or attempting to leave a crime scene.

Which of these actions could the federal government take to influence Maryland to repeal the law described in the excerpt?

- F rejection of the Maryland Governor's appointments of state officials
- G withholding of transportation funds from Maryland
- H replacement of the Maryland state police chief
- J reduction of Maryland congressional representation

37 Reapportionment is based on changes in the

- A wealth of an area
- B boundaries of an area
- C population of an area
- D number of voters in an area

38 Read the quotation below.

“Americans are free . . . to disagree with the law but not to disobey it. For in a government of laws and not of men, no man, however prominent or powerful, and no mob however unruly or boisterous, is entitled to defy a court of law.”

—*President John F. Kennedy*

The quotation above most directly supports presidential actions that

- F improve international relations
- G improve the economy
- H ensure public order and safety
- J ensure individual rights

39 Which of these describes an authoritarian government?

- A The people grant the government its power.
- B The lives of citizens are controlled by the government.
- C Government leaders are limited by established laws.
- D Government leaders are elected directly by the people.



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

- Explain the role of political parties in the United States.
- Do political parties have too much or too little influence on government officials? Explain your answer.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

41 For which of these does a lobbyist most likely work?

- A an appeals court
- B a special interest group
- C the Senate
- D the Electoral College

42 Read the news article excerpt below.

RUNOFF THREAT TO CHESAPEAKE BAY

Rainwater runoff has become a threat to the Chesapeake Bay. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the runoff brings sand, mud, and pollutants into the watershed. Government officials in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Pennsylvania have developed a plan to address the problem.

The government action in the news article is an example of

- F state government cooperation in regional issues
- G federal intervention in states' rights issues
- H the government's role in a free market economy
- J the improved condition of polluted waterways



Directions

Read the passage below. Then answer Numbers 43 and 44.

For over 150 years, the state of Virginia operated an all-male college called the Virginia Military Institute (VMI). In 1990, the United States government sued the state of Virginia at the request of a female high school student seeking admission to VMI. The Supreme Court ruled that VMI had to admit women who could meet the physical and other requirements.

43 Which of these statements best explains the reason for the decision in this case?

- A Public colleges cannot discriminate on the basis of gender.
- B Public colleges must have minimum standards for admission.
- C A military institution cannot discriminate based on physical ability.
- D State schools must admit a majority of the people who apply for admission.

44 Which of these principles of law most likely influenced the Supreme Court's decision?

- F common law
- G equal protection
- H implied contract
- J presumption of innocence



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

The Baltimore Metropolitan Council represents the governments of five neighboring counties. The Council oversees air and water quality programs and helps operate a regional rideshare program.

- Describe the advantages and disadvantages of this type of regional cooperation.
- Do the advantages 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 Federal Trade Commission (FTC) requires that all products labeled “Made in the USA” be “all or virtually all” made in the United States.

Which of these is the main reason for the above requirement?

- F to increase the advertising industry’s profits
- G to encourage more foreign imports
- H to enforce truth-in-advertising standards
- J to lower the cost of manufactured goods

47 Which of these is required by a judge before police can obtain a search warrant?

- A probable cause linking the person to the crime
- B reasonable doubt no other person is responsible
- C plea bargaining to reduce charges
- D a preponderance of evidence against the accused person

48 Which of these clauses from the United States Constitution gave Congress the authority to approve the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)?

- F "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations . . ."
- G "To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting . . ."
- H "To borrow Money on the credit of the United States . . ."
- J "To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin . . ."

49 Which of these is a responsibility of the Federal Reserve System?

- A collecting taxes
- B lending money to individuals
- C controlling the money supply
- D approving government budgets



50 Which of these is a characteristic of an economic downturn?

- F increased employment levels
- G increased consumer spending
- H decreased government regulation
- J decreased production of goods and services

51 Which of these environmental issues would be the least likely topic for joint action by the United States and Canada?

- A air pollution
- B wildlife migration
- C water quality
- D residential development

52 The federal government allows individuals to take income tax deductions for contributions they make to charities. This practice results in a loss of tax revenue for the government.

Which of these best explains why the government allows this type of tax deduction?

- F to encourage charities to hire more workers
- G to encourage people to pay their taxes on time
- H to increase the benefits provided by charities
- J to increase the amount of government regulations

53 Which of these actions best describes regional cooperation?

- A A state park expands its tree-planting program.
- B Maryland increases pay for state employees.
- C The state capitol and other public buildings are opened to visitors.
- D State governors meet to plan interstate highways.



54 Read the news article excerpt.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that federal disaster funds would be available for eastern states hit by record snowfall. FEMA provides funds to states for sanding and salting roads, search and rescue operations, and other emergency services provided during the recent snowstorm.

Based on the article, which of these is a function of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)?

- F operating public hospitals
- G constructing state highways
- H ensuring the welfare of citizens
- J developing technology to predict weather

55 Which of these government regulatory agencies enforces legislation to limit or reduce water pollution?

- A the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
- B the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- C the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- D the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

56 Look at the chart below.

**PERCENT CHANGE IN POPULATION FROM 1990 TO 2000
IN THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN REGION**

Region	Percent Increase
Anne Arundel County	14.6%
Calvert County	45.1%
Frederick County	30.0%
Howard County	32.3%
Prince George's County	10.9%
Saint Mary's County	13.5%

Source: United States Census Bureau

Which of these is an effect of the population changes shown on the chart?

- F** The amount of rural land will increase.
- G** Local government services will increase.
- H** The tax revenue from personal property will decrease.
- J** Real estate development in the region will decrease.





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