

Civic Knowledge Questions **(The % after each Question notes** **how many people had the answer correct)**

Political History

1. Which of the following are the inalienable rights referred to in the Declaration of Independence? 83%

- a. life, liberty, and property
- b. honor, liberty, and peace
- c. liberty, health, and community
- d. life, respect, and equal protection
- e. life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

2. In 1933 Franklin Delano Roosevelt proposed a series of government programs that became known as: 63%

- a. the Great Society
- b. the Square Deal
- c. the New Deal
- d. the New Frontier
- e. supply-side economics

3. What are the three branches of government? 49%

- a. executive, legislative, judicial
- b. congressional, executive, education
- c. judicial, executive, financial
- d. executive, education, judicial
- e. legislative, financial, congressional

4. What was the main issue in the debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas in 1858? 19%

- a. Is slavery morally wrong?
- b. Should slavery be allowed to expand to new territories?
- c. Do Southern states have the constitutional right to leave the union?
- d. Are free African Americans citizens of the United States?

5. The United States Electoral College: 66%

- a. trains those aspiring for higher political office
- b. was established to supervise the first televised presidential debates
- c. is otherwise known as the U.S. Congress
- d. is a constitutionally mandated assembly that elects the president
- e. was ruled undemocratic by the Supreme Court

6. The Bill of Rights explicitly prohibits: 26%

- a. prayer in public school
- b. discrimination based on race, sex, or-religion

- c. the ownership of guns by private individuals
- d. establishing an official religion for the United States
- e. the president from vetoing a line item in a spending bill

7. What was the source of the following phrase: “Government of the people, by the people, for the people”? 21%

- a. the speech “I Have a Dream”
- b. Declaration of Independence
- c. U.S. Constitution
- d. Gettysburg Address

8. In 1935 and 1936 the Supreme Court declared that important parts of the New Deal were unconstitutional. President Roosevelt responded by threatening to: 25%

- a. impeach several Supreme Court justices
- b. eliminate the Supreme Court
- c. appoint additional Supreme Court justices who shared his views
- d. override the Supreme Court’s decisions by gaining three-quarter majorities in both houses of Congress

9. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government? 75%

- a. make Treaties
- b. the Senate has the sole power of impeachment
- c. the Senators/Congressman can be electors
- d. Article VI gives Congress the right to ratify the Amendments of the Constitution

10. Name one right or freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment. 79%

- a. declare a war
- b. call for a free trial
- c. Religion
- d. abolish slavery

11. What impact did the Anti-Federalists have on the United States Constitution? 38%

- a. their arguments helped lead to the adoption of the Bill of Rights
- b. their arguments helped lead to the abolition of the slave trade
- c. their influence ensured that the federal government would maintain a standing army
- d. their influence ensured that the federal government would have the power to tax

12. Which of the following statements is true about abortion? 51%

- a. it was legal in most states in the 1960s
- b. the Supreme Court struck down most legal restrictions on it in *Roe v. Wade*
- c. the Supreme Court ruled in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that underage women must notify their parents of an impending abortion
- d. the National Organization for Women has lobbied for legal restrictions on it
- e. it is currently legal only in cases of rape or incest, or to protect the life of the mother

- 13. Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Aquinas would concur that: 29%**
- a. all moral and political truth is relative to one's time and place
 - b. moral ideas are best explained as material accidents or byproducts of evolution
 - c. values originating in one's conscience cannot be judged by others
 - d. Christianity is the only true religion and should rule the state
 - e. certain permanent moral and political truths are accessible to human reason

- 14. How many Amendments in the U.S. Constitution are devoted to voting and which ones are they? 19%**

- a. 2
- b. 6
- c. 3
- d. 5
- e. 7

Cultural Institutions

- 15. The Puritans: 19%**

- a. opposed all wars on moral grounds
- b. stressed the sinfulness of all humanity
- c. believed in complete religious freedom
- d. colonized Utah under the leadership of Brigham Young
- e. were Catholic missionaries escaping religious persecution 19%

- 16. The phrase that in America there should be "a wall of separation" between church and state appears in: 19%**

- a. George Washington's "Farewell Address"
- b. the *Mayflower Compact*
- c. the Constitution
- d. the Declaration of Independence
- e. Thomas Jefferson's letters

- 17. In his "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: 80%**

- a. argued for the abolition of slavery
- b. advocated black separatism
- c. morally defended affirmative action
- d. expressed his hopes for racial justice and brotherhood
- e. proposed that several of America's Founding ideas were discriminatory

- 18. Sputnik was the name given to the first: 74%**

- a. telecommunications system
- b. animal to travel to space
- c. hydrogen bomb
- d. manmade satellite

- 19. Susan B. Anthony was a leader of the movement to: 81%**

- a. guarantee women the right to vote in national elections
- b. guarantee former slaves the right to vote
- c. ensure that harsher laws against criminals were passed

d. reduce the authority of the Constitution of the United States

20. The Scopes “Monkey Trial” was about: 68%

- a. freedom of the press
- b. teaching evolution in the schools
- c. prayer in the schools
- d. education in private schools

Foreign Relations

21. Who is the commander in chief of the U.S. military? 79%

- a. Defense Minister
- b. the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- c. President
- d. Speaker of the House

22. Name two countries that were our enemies during World War II. 69%

- a. Russia and Germany
- b. Germany and Japan
- c. Russia and Viet Nam
- d. Germany and Viet Nam
- e. Russia and Japan

23. What part of the government has the power to declare war? 53%

- a. Congress
- b. the President
- c. the Supreme Court
- d. the Joint Chiefs of Staff

24. In October 1962 the United States and the Soviet Union came close to war over the issue of Soviet: 70%

- a. control of East Berlin
- b. missiles in Cuba
- c. support of the Ho Chi Minh regime in Viet Nam
- d. military support of the Marxist regime in Afghanistan

25. In the area of United States foreign policy, Congress shares power with the: 55%

- a. President
- b. Supreme Court
- c. state governments
- d. United Nations

Market Economy

26. Free enterprise or capitalism exists insofar as: 41%

- a. experts managing the nation’s commerce are appointed by elected officials
- b. individual citizens create, exchange, and control goods and resources
- c. charity, philanthropy, and volunteering decreased. demand and supply are decided through majority vote

e. government implements policies that favor businesses over consumers

27. Business profit is: 49%

- a. cost minus revenue
- b. assets minus liabilities
- c. revenue minus expenses
- d. selling price of a stock minus its purchase price
- e. earnings minus assets

28. Free markets typically secure more economic prosperity than government's centralized planning because: 16%

- a. the price system utilizes more local knowledge of means and ends
- b. markets rely upon coercion, whereas government relies upon voluntary compliance with the law
- c. more tax revenue can be generated from free enterprise
- d. property rights and contracts are best enforced by the market system
- e. government planners are too cautious in spending taxpayers' money

29. A progressive tax: 51%

- a. encourages more investment from those with higher incomes
- b. is illustrated by a 6% sales tax
- c. requires those with higher incomes to pay a higher ratio of taxes to income
- d. requires every income class to pay the same ratio of taxes to income
- e. earmarks revenues for poverty reduction

30. A flood-control levee (or national defense) is considered a public good because: 27%

- a. citizens value it as much as bread and medicine
- b. a resident can benefit from it without directly paying for it
- c. government construction contracts increase employment
- d. insurance companies cannot afford to replace all houses after a flood
- e. government pays for its construction, not citizens

31. Which of the following fiscal policy combinations would a government most likely follow to stimulate economic activity when the economy is in a severe recession? 36%

- a. increasing both taxes and spending
- b. increasing taxes and decreasing spending
- c. decreasing taxes and increasing spending
- d. decreasing both taxes and spending

32. International trade and specialization most often lead to which of the following? 37%

- a. an increase in a nation's productivity
- b. a decrease in a nation's economic growth in the long term
- c. an increase in a nation's import tariffs
- d. a decrease in a nation's standard of living

33. Which of the following is a policy tool of the Federal Reserve? 43%

- a. raising or lowering income taxes
- b. increasing or decreasing unemployment benefits
- c. buying or selling government securities
- d. increasing or decreasing government spending

34. If taxes equal government spending, then: 28%

- a. government debt is zero
- b. printing money no longer causes inflation
- c. government is not helping anybody
- d. tax per person equals government spending per person
- e. tax loopholes and special-interest spending are absent

2023 CIVIC LITERACY TEST ANSWERS

- 1 **E.** life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
- 2 **C.** the New Deal
- 3 **A.** executive, legislative, judicial
- 4 **B.** Should slavery be allowed to expand to new territories?
- 5 **D.** is a constitutionally mandated assembly that elects the president
- 6 **D.** establishing an official religion for the United States
- 7 **D.** Gettysburg Address
- 8 **C.** appoint additional Supreme Court justices who shared his views
- 9 **A.** Make treaties
- 10 **C.** Religion
- 11 **A.** their arguments helped lead to the adoption of the Bill of Rights
- 12 **B.** the Supreme Court struck down most legal restrictions on it in *Roe v. Wade*
- 13 **E.** certain permanent moral and political truths are accessible to human reason
- 14 **B.** 6. They are :
 - A. XII - voting for Pres/Vice President, ratified June 15, 1804
 - B. XIV, Sec 2 - only 21 year old males can vote, ratified July 9, 1868
 - C. XV - no restrictions to voting because of race, color or servitude ratified February 3, 1870
 - D. XIX - women given the right to vote, ratified August 18, 1920
 - E. XXIV - lifting of poll tax/tax requirements, ratified JANUARY 23, 1964
 - F. XXVII - 18 years or older can vote, ratified May 7, 1901 (1789-1791, 1901 by Michigan)
- 15 **B.** stressed the sinfulness of all humanity
- 16 **E.** Thomas Jefferson's letters
- 17 **D.** expressed his hopes for racial justice and brotherhood
- 18 **D.** manmade satellite

- 19 **A.** guarantee women the right to vote in national elections
- 20 **B.** teaching evolution in the schools
- 21 **C.** President
- 22 **B.** Germany and Japan
- 23 **A.** Congress
- 24 **B.** missiles in Cuba
- 25 **A.** president
- 26 **B.** individual citizens create, exchange, and control goods and resources
- 27 **C.** revenue minus expenses
- 28 **A.** the price system utilizes more local knowledge of means and ends
- 29 **C.** requires those with higher incomes to pay a higher ratio of taxes to income
- 30 **B.** a resident can benefit from it without directly paying for it
- 31 **C.** decreasing taxes and increasing spending
- 32 **A.** an increase in a nation's productivity
- 33 **C.** buying or selling government securities
- 34 **D.** tax per person equals government spending per person