

Beechwood High School Civics Test

1. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived? *

- a. Chinese
- b. Russians
- c. Pacific Islanders
- d. American Indians

2. Who was the first President of the United States? *

- a. John Hancock
- b. James Madison
- c. Benjamin Franklin
- d. George Washington

3. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did? *

- a. led the U.S. during the Civil War
- b. led the U.S. during the War of 1812
- c. led the U.S. during the American Revolution
- d. led the U.S. during the Mexican-American War

4. When is Independence Day celebrated? *

- a. April 19th
- b. July 4th
- c. September 17th
- d. November 11th

5. Who is the "Father of Our Country"? *

- a. Abraham Lincoln
- b. Thomas Jefferson
- c. Benjamin Franklin
- d. George Washington

6. What Ocean is on the East Coast of the United States? *

- a. Arctic
- b. Indian
- c. Pacific
- d. Atlantic

7. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do? *

- a. fought for civil rights
- b. became the first black U.S. Senator
- c. established the Harvard Law School
- d. ran for President of the United States

8. Which of the following is one of the two longest rivers in the United States? *

- a. Ohio River
- b. Potomac River
- c. Colorado River
- d. Mississippi River

9. What do Americans show loyalty to when saying the Pledge of Allegiance? *

- a. the state where you live
- b. the United States of America
- c. the Declaration of Independence
- d. the President of the United States of America

10. Why did the colonists fight the British? *

- a. because of high taxes
- b. because the British invaded France
- c. because the colonists wanted a new king
- d. because the colonists wanted religious freedom

11. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? *

- a. James Madison
- b. Abraham Lincoln
- c. Thomas Jefferson
- d. George Washington

12. Which of the following is an American Indian tribe? *

- a. Huli
- b. Kikuyu
- c. Maori
- d. Navajo

13. Why does the American flag have 13 stripes? *

- a. They represent the 13 original colonies.
- b. They represent the 13 signatures on the U.S. Constitution.
- c. They represent the 13 military heroes of the Revolutionary War.
- d. They represent the 13 members of the Second Continental Congress.

14. Why does the American flag have 50 stars? *

- a. One star for each state.
- b. One star for each president.
- c. One star for each original colony.
- d. One star for each constitutional amendment.

15. What is the name of the national anthem? *

- a. God Bless the USA
- b. America the Beautiful
- c. My Country Tis of Thee
- d. The Star Spangled Banner

16. Which of the following are national U.S. holidays? *

- a. Columbus Day and Flag Day
- b. Labor Day and Veterans Day
- c. Memorial Day and Mother's Day
- d. Valentines Day and Thanksgiving Day

17. What is one reason colonists came to America? *

- a. education
- b. better health
- c. elect a new king
- d. religious freedom

18. What was the name of the U.S. war between the North and the South? *

- a. Civil War
- b. WW II
- c. War of 1812
- d. Revolutionary War

19. Which of the following reasons led to the Civil War? *

- a. taxes
- b. the institution of slavery
- c. oil rights
- d. religious freedom

20. What did Susan B. Anthony do? *

- a. founded the Red Cross
- b. fought for women's rights
- c. made the first American flag
- d. established a college for women

21. Where is the Statue of Liberty located? *

- a. Boston, MA
- b. New York, NY
- c. Washington D.C.
- d. San Francisco, CA

22. What is the deadline for filing federal income tax forms? *

- a. April 15th
- b. June 30th
- c. September 15th
- d. December 31st

23. Who did the United States fight in World War II? *

- a. Japan, Germany, and Italy
- b. Japan, Germany, and France
- c. Russia, China, and Japan
- d. Russia, France, and Great Britain

24. Which of the following wars was fought by the United States in the 1800s? *

- a. Korean War
- b. World War I
- c. Spanish-American War
- d. French and Indian War

25. Who is in charge of the executive branch? *

- a. the President
- b. the Chief Justice
- c. the Majority Leader
- d. the Speaker of the House

26. What does the judicial branch do? *

- a. amends the Constitution and overturns laws
- b. decides if a law goes against the Constitution
- c. stipulates the number of Supreme Court Justices
- d. provides legal advice to the President and his staff

27. Which of the following includes two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy? *

- a. vote and run for office
- b. read a newspaper and volunteer at a local food bank
- c. get a driver's license and purchase real estate property
- d. go to college and start a career

28. What group of people were forced to migrate to America and sold as enslaved people? *

- a. Africans
- b. Canadians
- c. Spaniards
- d. Italians

29. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted? *

- a. July 4, 1770
- b. July 4, 1776
- c. July 4, 1870
- d. July 4, 1876

30. Which of the following includes three of the 13 original states? *

- a. Georgia, Indiana, New York
- b. Maine, Ohio, West Virginia
- c. Vermont, Florida, Pennsylvania
- d. Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina

31. What happened at the Constitutional Convention? *

- a. the Constitution was written
- b. the Constitution was ratified
- c. the Magna Carta was signed
- d. the Declaration of Independence was written

32. When was the U.S. Constitution written? *

- a. 1776
- b. 1787
- c. 1812
- d. 1865

33. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for? *

- a. decorated war general
- b. inventor of the telegraph
- c. fourth president of the United States
- d. oldest member of the Constitutional Convention

34. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803? *

- a. Alaska
- b. Florida
- c. Hawaii
- d. Louisiana

35. What is one promise made when becoming a citizen of the United States of America? *

- a. to register to vote
- b. to get an education
- c. to join a political party
- d. to defend the US Constitution

36. When must all men register for the Selective Service? *

- a. at birth
- b. at age 16
- c. at age 18
- d. men no longer have to register

37. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do? *

- a. called for an end to the Civil War
- b. called for the creation of state borders
- c. called for an end to Southern Secession
- d. called for the freeing of enslaved people in the Confederate States

38. Who was the President during World War I? *

- a. Warren Harding
- b. Woodrow Wilson
- c. Franklin Roosevelt
- d. Theodore Roosevelt

39. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful? *

- a. the military
- b. the Bill of Rights
- c. checks and balances
- d. the Federal Reserve

40. What is one responsibility that only applies to United States citizens? *

- a. pay taxes
- b. obey the laws
- c. serve on a jury
- d. attend private school

41. Which of the following includes two rights of everyone living in the United States?

- a. freedom to work and freedom of speech
- b. freedom to work and freedom to make laws
- c. freedom of speech and freedom of assembly
- d. freedom to make laws and freedom of assembly

42. Which war was fought by the United States in the 1900s? *

- a. Civil War
- b. World War 1
- c. Revolutionary War
- d. Mexican-American War

43. What is the supreme law of the land? *

- a. the US Constitution
- b. the Articles of Confederation
- c. the Emancipation Proclamation
- d. the Declaration of Independence

44. What does the Constitution do? *

- a. sets up and defines the government
- b. draws boundaries of congressional districts
- c. sets codes of conduct for obeying local and federal laws
- d. determines whether citizens are prosecuted to the full extent of the law

45. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words? *

- a. We the United
- b. We the People
- c. We the Citizens
- d. We the Americans

46. What is an amendment? *

- a. a change to the Constitution
- b. a preamble to the Constitution
- c. an explanation of the Bill of Rights
- d. an introduction to the Bill of Rights

47. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution? *

- a. the Preamble
- b. the Bill of Rights
- c. the Articles of Confederation
- d. the Declaration of Independence

48. What did the Declaration of Independence do? *

- a. declared freedom for the enslaved
- b. declared equal rights for women
- c. declared freedom from Great Britain
- d. declared an end to the war with Great Britain

49. Which of the following includes two rights stated in the Declaration of Independence? *

- a. life and liberty
- b. free speech and justice
- c. bear arms and pay taxes
- d. vote and pursuit of happiness

50. How many amendments does the Constitution have? *

- a. 10
- b. 27
- c. 36
- d. 50

51. Who vetoes bills? *

- a. the President
- b. the Majority Leader
- c. the President Pro Tempore
- d. the Speaker of the House of Representatives

52. What is the "rule of law"? *

- a. Everyone must follow the law
- b. Laws remain the same in every state
- c. Government leaders are above the laws
- d. Laws only apply to United States citizens

53. What is one branch of the federal government? *

- a. governor
- b. judicial
- c. military
- d. treasury

54. Who makes federal laws? *

- a. the Congress
- b. the Supreme Court
- c. the Attorney General
- d. the Justice Department

55. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President? *

- a. the Vice President
- b. the Secretary of State
- c. the president Pro Tempore
- d. the Speaker of the House of Representatives

56. Who signs bills to become laws? *

- a. the President
- b. the Vice President
- c. the Secretary of State
- d. the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

57. What is the highest court in the United States? *

- a. the District Court
- b. the Superior Court
- c. the Supreme Court
- d. the Municipal Court

58. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President? *

- a. the Secretary of State
- b. the US Attorney General
- c. the President Pro Tempore
- d. the Speaker of the House of Representatives

59. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government? *

- a. to make treaties
- b. to issue driver's licenses
- c. to provide public education
- d. to establish police departments

60. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military? *

- a. the President
- b. the Secretary of Defense
- c. the US Attorney General
- d. the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

61. What is the capital of Kentucky?*

- a. Louisville
- b. Bowling Green
- c. Lexington
- d. Frankfort

62. What is one right that only applies to United States citizens? *

- a. speak freely
- b. own a weapon
- c. practice a religion
- d. run for federal office

63. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President? *

- a. starting at 16 years of age and older
- b. starting at 18 years of age and older
- c. starting at 21 years of age and older
- d. starting at 35 years of age and older

64. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states? *

- a. print money
- b. create an army
- c. issue passports
- d. provide public education

65. Who is one of the authors of the Federalist Papers? *

- a. John Adams
- b. James Madison
- c. Thomas Jefferson
- d. George Washington

66. Who was President during both the Great Depression and World War II? *

- a. Harry Truman
- b. Calvin Coolidge
- c. Woodrow Wilson
- d. Franklin Roosevelt

67. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in? *

- a. Civil War
- b. Korean War
- c. World War II
- d. Spanish-American War

68. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States? *

- a. colonialism
- b. communism
- c. imperialism
- d. sectionalism

69. What movement tried to end racial discrimination? *

- a. civil rights movement
- b. progressive movement
- c. temperance movement
- d. women's suffrage movement

70. What historical event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States? *

- a. the stock market crashed
- b. Columbia space shuttle exploded
- c. terrorists attacked the United States
- d. Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans

71. What Ocean is on the West Coast of the United States? *

- a. Arctic Ocean
- b. Indian Ocean
- c. Pacific Ocean
- d. Atlantic Ocean

72. Which of the following is a U.S. territory? *

- a. Cuba
- b. Guam
- c. Hawaii
- d. Panama

73. Which U.S. state borders Canada? *

- a. Alaska
- b. Connecticut
- c. Oregon
- d. Wisconsin

74. Which U.S. state borders Mexico? *

- a. Texas
- b. Arkansas
- c. Louisiana
- d. Alabama

75. What is the capital of the United States? *

- a. Boston, MA
- b. New York, NY
- c. Philadelphia, PA
- d. Washington, DC

76. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment? *

- a. to vote
- b. jury trial
- c. free speech
- d. to bear arms

77. What is freedom of religion? *

- a. religious leaders are exempt from the law
- b. states may choose a religion for the people
- c. religious institutions do not have to pay taxes
- d. people may or may not choose to practice a religion

78. What is the economic system in the United States? *

- a. barter or trade economy
- b. socialist or mutual economy
- c. capitalist or market economy
- d. communist or collective economy

79. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress? *

- a. the President and the Cabinet
- b. the Supreme Court and the Superior Court
- c. the U.S. Treasury and the State Department
- d. the Senate and the House of Representatives

80. How many U.S. Senators are there? *

- a. 25
- b. 50
- c. 100
- d. 435

81. How many years are there in one term of office for a U.S. Senator? *

- a. 2
- b. 4
- c. 6
- d. 8

82. The U.S. House of Representatives has how many voting members? *

- a. 265
- b. 380
- c. 435
- d. 519

83. How many years are there in one term of office for a U.S. Representative? *

- a. 2
- b. 4
- c. 6
- d. 8

84. Who does a U.S. Senator represent? *

- a. all people in the US
- b. all people in the Senator's state
- c. only the people in the state who voted for the senator
- d. only people who belong to the political party of the senator

85. How is the number of U.S. Representatives chosen for each state? *

- a. by state location
- b. by state population
- c. by state geographical size
- d. by state political affiliation

86. How many years are there in one term of office for a U.S. President? *

- a. 2
- b. 4
- c. 6
- d. 8

87. In what month is the Election Day for President? *

- a. January
- b. June
- c. August
- d. November

88. What is the main duty of the President's Cabinet? *

- a. set policy
- b. make laws
- c. advise the president
- d. command the military

89. Which of the following includes two Cabinet-level positions? *

- a. Secretary of Education and Secretary of History
- b. Secretary of Energy and Secretary of Motor Vehicles
- c. Secretary of Human Affairs and Secretary of the Navy
- d. Secretary of Homeland Security and Secretary of the Treasury

90. How many justices are on the U.S. Supreme Court? *

- a. 5
- b. 7
- c. 9
- d. 11

91. Which of the following includes two major political parties in the United States?

- a. Libertarian Party and Democratic Party
- b. Progressive Party and Libertarian Party
- c. Democratic Party and Republican Party
- d. Progressive Party and Republican Party

92. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Which of the following is true? *

- a. only citizens 21 and older can vote
- b. only citizens with jobs can vote
- c. only citizens 18 and older can vote
- d. only citizens who pay taxes can vote

93. Who is the current President of the United States?*

Answers will be updated each year based on election results.

94. Who is the current Governor of Kentucky? *

Answer choices will be updated each year based on election results.

95. Who is the current Vice President of the United States? *

Answer choices will be updated each year based on election results.

96. Name the two current U.S. Senators for the state of Kentucky. *

Answer choices will be updated each year based on election results.

97. Who is the current Chief Justice of the United States? *

Answer choices will be updated each year based on election results.

98. What is the political party of the current President? *

Answer choices will be updated each year based on election results.

99. Who is the current Speaker of the House of Representatives? *

Answer choices will be updated each year based on election results.

100. Name your current U.S. Representative. *

Answer choices will be updated each year based on election results.