Chapter 5, Lesson 5: US National Government

**Learning Objectives:**

* 1. Describe the legislative branch of government.
  2. Explain the executive branch of government.
  3. Describe the judicial branch of government.

**MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.**

1) How long does each term of Congress last?

A) Six months

B) Nine months

C) One year

D) Two years

2) How many primary political parties has the United States had for almost its entire history?

A) Two

B) Three

C) Four

D) Five

3) Which political party favored higher protective tariffs and minimal government intervention in people's lives?

A) Conservative

B) Republican

C) Democratic

D) Freedom

4) Which political party advocated more rights for the middle class, favored states' rights as well as labor unions and laws that gave more power to the people?

A) Conservative

B) Republican

C) Democratic

D) Freedom

5) How many voting members does the House of Representatives have?

A) 100

B) 237

C) 345

D) 435

6) How many members does the Senate have?

A) 50

B) 100

C) 150

D) 200

7) What is the length of term that Senators serve?

A) Two years

B) Four years

C) Six years

D) Eight years

8) Who is next in line to become president, provided he or she is legally qualified, if anything happens to the president and vice president?

A) The Speaker of the House

B) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate

C) The Secretary of State

D) The Secretary of Defense

9) Who are the real leaders in the Senate, and the most powerful players in the House of Representatives, aside from the Speaker?

A) Party leaders

B) Majority rulers

C) Party officers

D) Floor leaders

10) When do joint resolutions passed by both houses of Congress become laws?

A) When signed by the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate

B) One month following passage

C) When signed by the president

D) When the resolution states they become law

11) Where must any bill that involves money start?

A) The House

B) The Senate

C) The Whitehouse

D) The Federal Reserve

12) How long was the filibuster by senators opposed to the Civil Rights Act in 1964?

A) 5 days

B) 2 weeks

C) 1 month

D) 74 days

13) How many members that are present must vote for a bill in order for it to pass?

A) One half

B) A simple majority

C) Two thirds

D) Three quarters

14) Who heads the executive branch of the United States government?

A) The President

B) The Speaker of the House

C) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate

D) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

15) At least how many electoral votes must a candidate win to be elected president or vice president?

A) 199

B) 215

C) 270

D) 320

16) Which President won four terms?

A) Harry S. Truman

B) Franklin D. Roosevelt

C) Woodrow Wilson

D) William H. Taft

17) Who must approve a treaty or other formal agreement with another nation the President makes?

A) The Senate

B) The House

C) The Joint Chiefs of Staff

D) The Secretary of State

18) How many vice presidents have become president due to the death or resignation of a president?

A) Four

B) Five

C) Seven

D) Nine

19) Where must a case must be heard if the law in question applies to the U.S. Constitution?

A) A federal court

B) A civil court

C) A local court

D) A judicial court

20) How many District Courts are there?

A) 51

B) 94

C) 102

D) 200

21) How many United States courts of appeals are there?

A) 9

B) 12

C) 25

D) 50

22) How can a federal judge be removed from office?

A) Losing an election

B) At the request of the President

C) Impeachment

D) Being recalled by the governor

23) Who is the head of the Justice Department?

A) The Director of the FBI

B) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

C) The President of the United States

D) The Attorney General of the United States

24) What words will you see on the face of its marble building, if you visit the Supreme Court?

A) Equality for All

B) Justice is Blind

C) Equal Justice Under Law

D) All are Equal Here

25) How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

A) Four

B) Six

C) Nine

D) Twelve

**TRUE/FALSE. Write 'T' if the statement is true and 'F' if the statement is false.**

26) Only one independent candidate for president has ever won an election.

A) T

B) F

27) Chairpersons of standing committees are the most powerful members of Congress.

A) T

B) F

28) The Constitution does not provide for direct popular election of the president.

A) T

B) F

29) Our legal system is based on an ideal goal to treat every person the same.

A) T

B) F

30) The Constitution sets forth strict qualifications for federal judges.

A) T

B) F

**FILL IN THE BLANK. Write the word or phrase that best completes each statement or answers the question.**

31) A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ occurs when the House and Senate meet together.

32) The detailed work of lawmaking is done in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rather than on the House or Senate floors.

33) The president is also the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; he or she is the most important representative of the United States, leads in foreign policy, plans and guides relationships with other nations.

34) The president appoints Supreme Court justices, with the consent of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**SHORT ANSWER. Provide a brief answer for each question.**

35) What are the two branches of Congress and what are they based upon?

36) List the four joint committees formed by the House and Senate, which include members of both houses.

37) Describe the five life-and-death things a Standing Committee can do to a bill.

38) Describe the line of succession after the vice president, according to the 1947 Presidential Succession Act.

**CASE STUDY. Read each case study and select the best answer.**

39) Aubrey has just been elected to the House of Representatives from a farming area in Iowa. She wants to represent those who elected her as best she can. She knows they have a lot of issues that need attention and she wants to make sure she gets appointed to a committee where she can do the most good for the people who elected her. Which committee should Aubrey try to get on?

A) Agriculture committee

B) Finance committee

C) Labor committee

D) Rules committee

40) Justin lives in a small town in Missouri. One of his neighbor’s trees fell on his property and damaged his car and a small tool shed. Justin thinks his neighbor should pay to repair the damages but his neighbor said it was an “act of nature” so he is not responsible. Justin has decided to take his neighbor to court to settle this issue. What kind of dispute is Justin making?

A) Local dispute

B) Federal dispute

C) Criminal dispute

D) Civil dispute