

## Chapter 2: Understanding Government and Civics

### Part I: Multiple Choice

Write the letter of the **BEST** response for each of the following items.

- \_\_\_ 1. Which of the following **BEST** defines government?
- A. The system through which countries trade
  - B. The system by which a country is organized
  - C. The system by which a country organizes its military
  - D. The system through which countries communicate with each other
- \_\_\_ 2. Who is the head of government?
- A. The leader who is in charge of running the country
  - B. A group of people that make decisions for the country
  - C. A group of people that settle disputes between citizens in the country
  - D. The leader who represents the country and meets with foreign leaders

Read the information in the box below to answer the next question.

Sophia lives in Canada. Sophia is very active within the government and makes sure that she educates herself before going to vote in each election. After a major election for the legislative branch, the new head of government is chosen.

- \_\_\_ 3. What type of government does the scenario describe?
- A. Dictatorship
  - B. Absolute Monarchy
  - C. Presidential Democracy
  - D. Parliamentary Democracy

Read the information in the box below to answer the question.

Sara lives in Zimbabwe. While the leader of Zimbabwe was originally elected, elections have not been held in many years. The military supports the president of Zimbabwe, and helps him keep power.

- \_\_\_ 4. What type of government does Zimbabwe have?
- A. Dictatorship
  - B. Absolute Monarchy
  - C. Presidential Democracy
  - D. Parliamentary Democracy
- \_\_\_ 5. Which of the following **BEST** defines a democracy?
- A. One person has total power in the government
  - B. One central government makes all the decisions
  - C. Citizens have the power to elect the government leaders
  - D. A political party or small group has all the power in the government

- \_\_\_6. Which of the following **BEST** describes the purpose of the judicial branch?
- A. To create laws for the country
  - B. To settle disputes between citizens
  - C. To enforce laws within the country
  - D. To enforce laws outside of the country
- \_\_\_7. Which of the following **BEST** describes the difference between bicameral and unicameral legislatures?
- A. A bicameral legislature only has one house while a unicameral legislature has two houses.
  - B. A bicameral legislature is made up of two houses while a unicameral legislature only has one house.
  - C. A bicameral legislature includes both the judicial and legislature while a unicameral house only has the legislature.
  - D. A bicameral legislature has elected representatives while a unicameral legislature only has appointed representatives.
- \_\_\_8. Why were governments first created?
- A. To determine an official language
  - B. To keep order and protect the people
  - C. To control trade with other groups of people
  - D. To coordinate military movement during war

Read the information in the box below to answer the question.

Riley decided that he wanted to have a more active role in the government, so he ran for office. He won and was elected by the people into office. His main job will be to enforce laws that are prepared and passed by another group of people.
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- \_\_\_9. Which branch of government does Riley work in?
- A. Judicial
  - B. Executive
  - C. Bicameral legislative
  - D. Unicameral legislative
- \_\_\_10. Which part of the government has the **MOST** power in a confederation government?
- A. Local government
  - B. State government
  - C. Central government
  - D. Central and local government

- \_\_\_ 11. What is sovereignty?
- A. The right of one person to decide which country to live in
  - B. The right of a group of people to be free of outside interference
  - C. When one group of people is controlled by another group of people
  - D. When one person is given control of people and maintains it through force
- \_\_\_ 12. Which of the following **BEST** describes the purpose of the executive branch?
- A. To create laws for the country
  - B. To settle disputes between citizens
  - C. To enforce laws within the country
  - D. To enforce laws outside of the country

Read the information in the box below to answer the question.

Before the US Constitution was written, the newly independent United States was broken into divided states. Each state had the power to make their own laws. The national government was given some power, but it was weaker than the individual state governments.

- \_\_\_ 13. Which type of distribution of power did the early United States have?
- A. Unitary
  - B. Federal
  - C. Autocracy
  - D. Confederation
- \_\_\_ 14. Which of the following **BEST** describes the purpose of the legislative branch?
- A. To create laws for the country
  - B. To settle disputes between citizens
  - C. To enforce laws within the country
  - D. To enforce laws outside of the country
- \_\_\_ 15. Which of the following **BEST** defines an autocracy?
- A. One person has total power in the government
  - B. One central government makes all the decisions
  - C. Citizens have the power to elect the government leaders
  - D. A political party or small group has all the power in the government
- \_\_\_ 16. Which part of the government has the **MOST** power in a federal government?
- A. Local government
  - B. State government
  - C. Central government
  - D. Central and local government

Read the information in the box below to answer the next question.

Marco lives in Chile. When he turns 18, Marco will be able to register to vote. The leader of his country is elected by citizens and serves for a four-year period.

- \_\_\_17. What type of government does Chile have?
- A. Dictatorship
  - B. Absolute Monarchy
  - C. Presidential Democracy
  - D. Parliamentary Democracy
- \_\_\_18. Which of the following **BEST** defines an oligarchy?
- A. One person has total power in the government
  - B. One central government makes all the decisions
  - C. Citizens have the power to elect the government leaders
  - D. A political party or small group has all the power in the government
- \_\_\_19. Which part of the government has the **MOST** power in a unitary government?
- A. Local government
  - B. State government
  - C. Central government
  - D. Central and local government

Read the information in the box below to answer the next question.

Abdul lives in the United Kingdom. Queen Elizabeth has been on the throne since 1953. Her main duties include entertaining visiting foreign leaders and appearing at important ceremonies. Once Abdul turned 20 years old, he could vote in elections for parliament.

- \_\_\_20. What type of government does the United Kingdom have?
- A. Dictatorship
  - B. Absolute monarchy
  - C. Presidential Democracy
  - D. Constitutional Monarchy

Read the information in the box below to answer the question.

Leonard is elected by citizens. His main job is to work with other elected people to create laws. Once a law is passed in the House of Representatives, where Leonard works, it has to go to the Senate to be approved.

- \_\_\_21. What type of legislature does Leonard work in?
- A. Central legislature
  - B. Bicameral legislature
  - C. Executive legislature
  - D. Unicameral legislature

Read the newspaper headlines below to answer the question.

Some recent headlines from Thailand.

“King dies!”

“Entire country mourns the death of their beloved leader”

“Crowned Prince will become next king!”

\_\_\_ 22. Based on the recent newspaper headlines, what type of government does Thailand have?

- A. Dictatorship
- B. Absolute Monarchy
- C. Presidential Democracy
- D. Parliamentary Democracy

Read the information in the box below to answer the question.

Louis lives in China. Louis is able to vote in elections for government leaders, however, all people that run for office must be approved by the Chinese Communist Party. In fact, this political party makes many of the decisions within the government of China.

\_\_\_ 23. What type of government does China have?

- A. Autocracy
- B. Oligarchy
- C. Presidential Democracy
- D. Parliamentary Democracy

### Part II: Constructed Response

24. Compare and contrast parliamentary and presidential democracies. Do not use a Venn diagram.

Write your answer in paragraph form.