CHAPTER 2: THE CONSTITUTIONAL SETTING

1. The first purpose of a constitution is to give legitimacy to the government.
   True    False

2. The traditionalistic/individualistic political culture is dedicated to unlimited governmental action.
   True    False

3. Both the Texas Constitution and the U.S. Constitution are based on the principle of separation of powers.
   True    False

4. The conservative political culture in Texas has resulted in a strong emphasis on giving the government sufficient powers to act quickly and decisively to meet the state's needs.
   True    False

5. The constitution under which Texas presently operates is the state's sixth since gaining independence from Mexico.
   True    False

6. The Texas constitution is much more flexible in allowing government to act than the national Constitution.
   True    False

7. Delegates to the 1875 constitutional convention, reflecting the philosophy of the Grange, were overwhelmingly liberal.
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8. The Texas Constitution has been amended over 439 times.
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9. In spite of its length, the Texas Constitution is a well organized document.
   True    False

10. The Texas Bill of Rights provides for equality under the law, religious freedom, due process for the criminally accused, and freedom of speech and of the press.
    True    False

11. Because they feared the possible abuse of power by the government, the framers of the Texas Constitution refused to include any checks and balances in the document.
    True    False

12. Rather than granting broad powers, the legislative article of the Texas Constitution emphasizes the specific actions the legislature may not take.
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13. The Texas Constitution requires that the comptroller of public accounts and the attorney general be elected statewide.
   True    False

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   True    False

15. The Texas Constitution provides enough formal powers to make the state's governor one of the strongest in the country.
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16. The judicial article of the Texas Constitution creates two supreme courts.
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17. Forms of local government authorized by the Texas Constitution include counties, municipalities, and special districts.
   True    False

18. Amendments to the Texas Constitution are proposed by an absolute two-thirds majority vote in both houses of the legislature.
   True    False

19. Unlike other laws, constitutions tend to be immune to political pressures.
   True    False

20. In the amending process, special interest groups typically set aside their own particular political, social, or economic viewpoints in order to promote the broader public interest.
   True    False

21. Most states, including Texas, no longer have unenforceable constitutional and statutory provisions that conflict with federal laws.
   True    False

22. Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution expressly grants certain powers to the national government and implies a broad range of additional powers through the “necessary and proper” clause.
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23. In Texas, the traditionalistic-individualistic political culture resulted in a heavy emphasis on limiting government’s ability to act.
   True    False
24. The Constitution of 1869 was heavily influenced by Jacksonian democracy, which produced long ballots, short terms of office for lawmakers, and the expansion of voting rights.

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25. Because Texas was an independent republic when it was annexed by the United States, it was required to relinquish its military property but was enabled to keep its public lands.

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26. Article II of the Texas Constitution describes the positive powers of the Texas legislature.

   True False

27. Little similarity exists between the provisions for the executive branch in the Texas Constitution and in the national Constitution.

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30. Article VI of the U.S. Constitution provides that in the case of a conflict between the U.S. Constitution and a state constitution,

   A. the U.S. Constitution invariably takes precedence.
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   E. the question of precedence must be settled by the state legislature.

31. Constitutions serve to

   A. give legitimacy to the government.
   B. organize the government.
   C. grant specific powers to the government.
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32. When a government's acts are accepted by the citizens as moral, fair, and just, the government is said to have

   A. sovereignty.
   B. authority.
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33. In the United States, checks and balances allow each branch of government to restrain the other branches and in so doing support the principle of

A. separation of powers
B. popular sovereignty.
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34. Chief among the guarantees against arbitrary action by the government is the U.S. Constitution's

A. supremacy of the laws clause.
B. "necessary and proper" clause.
C. "full faith and credit" clause.
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35. The traditionalistic-individualistic political culture of Texas resulted in a constitution

A. that centralizes power in the governor.
B. with a heavy emphasis on limiting government’s ability to act.
C. that does not have a bill of rights.
D. with unlimited controls on spending.
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36. The ____ provided for appointed judges and annual legislative sessions.

A. "statehood constitution" of 1845
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37. Which of the following were most influential in initiating and shaping the outcome of the Texas constitutional convention of 1875?

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38. The constitution adopted in 1876 included provisions to do all of the following except

A. set the salaries of elected officials in the constitution.
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39. The twenty counties that voted against ratification of the constitution in 1876 were

A. located in West Texas.
B. located in South Texas.
C. urban.
D. rural.
E. divided between rural and urban areas.
40. By mid-2007, the Texas Constitution had been amended ____ times.

A. 42
B. 189
C. 241
D. 440
E. 520

41. The Texas Constitution and the U.S. Constitution are alike in that

A. both provide for a chief executive able to control the executive branch.
B. both specify the salaries of members of the legislative branch.
C. both divide governmental functions among three branches.
D. neither provides for an elected judiciary.
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42. Article I of the Texas Constitution contains

A. provisions pertaining to the legislative branch.
B. provisions pertaining to the executive branch.
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B. the comptroller of public accounts
C. the Commissioner of the General Land Office
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49. Those who advocate reform of the Texas Constitution generally focus on which of the following issues?
   A. biennial legislative sessions
   B. excessive detail in the Constitution
   C. the plural executive branch
   D. weak county governments
   E. all of the above

50. Texas’ plural executive has resulted in an executive branch that is
   A. centralized.
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53. Special interests in Texas often attempt to have policies favoring them included in the constitution because
   A. there is great prestige in having their "own" provisions in the constitution.
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55. One of the purposes of constitutions is to limit governmental power. How does the Texas Constitution serve this particular purpose?

56. What were the circumstances that prompted Texas to adopt six different constitutions from 1836 to 1876? In what ways do these constitutions reflect the circumstances surrounding their preparation?

57. In what ways does the Texas Constitution reflect the influence of the U.S. Constitution? What effect have changes in the U.S. Constitution had on the Texas Constitution?
58. How is the Texas Constitution amended? What accounts for the fact that it has been amended 432 times (through the end of 2003) while the U.S. Constitution has been amended only twenty-seven times?

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