We are interested in high school students’ interest in politics and government. This is not a quiz and we do not expect you to know all of the answers. Your responses are confidential; no one at your school – not even your teacher – will see what you write. You do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to.

Thank you for your help.

Name _____________________________
Civics Teacher _______________________
School ______________________________
Period/Time __________________________
Date ________________________________
Yale University Survey of High School Students

Your Interest in Politics

1. Here are some ways that people get their news and information. Please check which of these things you have done over the past week:

   _____ Read a newspaper
   _____ Watched news on television
   _____ Listened to news on the radio
   _____ Read news on the Internet
   _____ None of these

2. Suppose someone were to ask you to volunteer a few weekends to work for one of the presidential candidates. How likely is it that you would do that?

   _____ No way
   _____ Maybe
   _____ Probably
   _____ Definitely

3. How often do you discuss politics with friends?

   _____ Never
   _____ Maybe once or twice in the past year
   _____ Pretty often
   _____ A lot

4. In general when it comes to politics, do you think of yourself as a

   _____ Republican
   _____ Democrat
   _____ Independent
   _____ None of these
   _____ Don’t know
5. Some people are not interested in politics at all. Other people love politics and follow it all the time. How about you? Mark the statement that you agree with the most.

_____ I don’t like politics.
_____ I like politics but don’t follow it.
_____ I like politics and follow it sometimes.
_____ I really like politics and follow it a lot.

6. During the past year, have you run for student government, voted in a student election, or helped a candidate for student office?

_____ Yes
_____ No

7. During the past year, have you participated in any of the following organized groups or clubs in school?

_____ Sports teams
_____ Band or chorus
_____ Language clubs
_____ Community service
_____ Another group (please name) ___________________________

Facts About Government

8. The President is elected for how many years? ________________________

9. How many justices are on the Supreme Court? ______________________

10. What are the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution called?

_______________________________________________________________

11. What title is given to the head official of your town or city government?

_______________________________________________________________

12. What is that person’s name? ____________________________________

Which town does she/he represent? ________________________________
A Constitutional Case Study

13. Please read the following scenario and write a brief response.

An American citizen named Ali made a telephone call to a relative living in a foreign country in order to discuss travel plans. The phone call was intercepted by U.S. government officials because the relative was a suspected terrorist. The government officials insisted that they didn’t need a warrant to tap Ali’s phone conversation.

A few days later, federal agents arrived at Ali’s home in the U.S. and took him into custody declaring him to be an “enemy combatant.” Ali was transferred to a military detention facility. He was questioned in private, denied access to a lawyer, and not charged with a crime.

Were Ali’s constitutional rights violated? If so, which ones? Were the actions of the U.S. government constitutional? Why or why not?
U.S. Government Multiple Choice: Circle the letter of the correct answer.

14. Which of the following is specifically guaranteed by the first ten amendments?
   A. Right to an education  
   B. Right to a free press  
   C. Right to privacy  
   D. Right to free trade

15. Which of the following is true about the U.S. Congress?
   A. The age requirement for the Senate is older than that for the House of Representatives.  
   B. The Senate has more members than the House of Representatives.  
   C. Members of both houses must be natural born citizens.  
   D. Terms of office for the Senate and House of Representatives are the same length.

16. A militia is
   A. a professional army.  
   B. a supply of weapons.  
   C. a military organization made up of citizens.  
   D. a military school.

17. A “representative democracy” is a form of government in which
   A. all or most citizens govern directly.  
   B. citizens exhibit wide ethnic and cultural diversity.  
   C. those elected by the people govern on their behalf.  
   D. the President is elected by popular vote.

18. Which of the following is an example of a situation when a person may be convicted of treason?
   A. The person is seen speaking against the government.  
   B. Two people testify that they saw the person giving weapons to an enemy soldier during the war.  
   C. The person writes a letter describing plans to make war against the country.  
   D. The President says the person committed an act of treason.
19. Which of the following terms describes the power of the government to seize private property for public use?

A. Eminent domain  
B. Suffrage  
C. Double jeopardy  
D. Due process

20. Who determines whether or not there is enough evidence to send someone to trial for a felony?

A. Trial jury  
B. Petit jury  
C. Grand jury  
D. Hung jury

21. Which of the following is true about trials?

A. All trials must be decided by juries.  
B. A jury can refuse to convict someone if they believe the law is unjust.  
C. The media have an unrestricted right to cover trials.  
D. Only registered voters are required to serve on juries.

22. What is federalism?

A. A political party at the time of the founding of America  
B. A set of essays defending the Constitution  
C. A political system where the national government has the ultimate power  
D. A political system where state and national governments share power

23. The principle of the “separation of powers” suggests that

A. government becomes more efficient with division of labor.  
B. power should not be concentrated in any one branch of government.  
C. there should always be at least two global superpowers.  
D. no single political party should dominate any legislature.
**What do you think?** Circle the letter of the response that is closest to your own opinion.

24. If a speaker at a public meeting begins to make racial slurs, the audience should:
   A. stop him from speaking.
   B. let him have his say and then answer him.

25. When a criminal refuses to confess his crimes, the authorities:
   A. should be able to pressure him until he does.
   B. have no right to push him around, no matter what.

26. Which of these comes closer to your own view?
   A. Nobody has the right to decide what should or should not be published.
   B. To protect its moral values, a society sometimes has to forbid certain things from being published.

27. Requiring police to tell a suspect that he has the right to remain silent:
   A. prevents the police from doing their job properly.
   B. is necessary to a fair system of law enforcement.

28. In dealing with crime, the most important consideration is to:
   A. protect the rights of the accused.
   B. stop crime even if we have to violate the rights of the accused.

29. Books that preach the overthrow of the government should be:
   A. banned from the library.
   B. made available by the library, just like any other book.

30. Searching a person’s home without a search warrant:
   A. should never be allowed.
   B. is sometimes justified in order to solve a crime.

31. Atheists should be allowed to make fun of God and religion.
   A. Yes
   B. No
32. It is better to live in an orderly society than to allow people so much freedom that they can become disruptive.
   A. Yes
   B. No

33. Foreign radicals who want to express their hatred of America should be able to hold rallies in a civic auditorium.
   A. Yes
   B. No

The U.S. Constitution: Circle yes or no.

34. Is flag burning a right protected by the Constitution or Bill of Rights?
   Yes     No

35. A friend leaves drugs in Michael’s locker without Michael’s knowledge. Michael’s girlfriend, Amy, sees the drugs in Michael’s locker and decides to tell the principal. Does the Constitution allow the principal to search Michael’s locker?
   Yes     No

36. Does the Constitution protect the right of public high school students to lead prayers before their football games?
   Yes     No

37. Mr. Jones was tried and found “not guilty” of murder. A month after the trial ends, the prosecutor receives new evidence that he believes will result in a conviction. Does the Constitution allow the prosecutor to retry Mr. Jones in this case?
   Yes     No
Which powers belong to federal, state and local government? Match each power with the level of government that can exercise it. Some answers may require more than one letter to be correct.

A. Federal  B. State  C. Local (town or city)

38. _________ Collect taxes
39. _________ Make a treaty with a foreign country
40. _________ Issue passports
41. _________ Conduct elections
42. _________ Coin money
43. _________ Issue a driver’s license
44. _________ Declare war
45. _________ Make traffic laws
46. _________ Decide the legal age for drinking

Separation of Powers: Match each federal power with the branch of government that can exercise it. You may use only ONE letter per answer.

A. Executive  B. Legislative  C. Judicial  D. Both Executive and Legislative

47. _____ Declare a law unconstitutional
48. _____ Veto bills
49. _____ Impeach and remove the President
50. _____ Fill vacancies on the Supreme Court
51. _____ Grant pardons
52. _____ Order the FBI to investigate a crime
**Landmark Court Cases:** Match each court case with its constitutional issue by placing the correct letter in the space provided.

A. Roe v. Wade  
B. Tinker v. Des Moines  
C. Miranda v. Arizona  
D. Brown v. Board of Education  
E. Board of Education of Pottawatomie County v. Earls  
F. United States v. Lopez

53. _______ Police must inform suspected criminals of their constitutional right to remain silent while being arrested.

54. _______ School districts are allowed to conduct random drug tests on any student involved in extracurricular activities.

55. _______ Segregation in schools was ruled to be unconstitutional.

56. _______ Students wearing black armbands to school in protest of the Vietnam War were engaging in symbolic speech that was protected by the First Amendment.

57. _______ The Gun-Free School Zones Act was ruled unconstitutional because the Commerce Clause did not give Congress the power to ban firearms in schools.

58. _______ The right to personal privacy includes the right to have an abortion.

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Thank you for participating in this survey. We want to assure you, again, that the information that you have provided will remain confidential. It will be used by researchers to help design courses and lessons for high school students about politics and government.