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.
About You and Your Interest in Politics

1. How interested are you in politics and current events?
   _____ Very interested
   _____ Somewhat interested
   _____ Not at all interested

2. In general when it comes to politics, do you think of yourself as a
   _____ Republican
   _____ Democrat
   _____ Independent
   _____ None of these
   _____ Don’t know

3. How old are you now? _______

Facts About Government: Provide the correct answer in the blank space below if you know it.

4. How long is the term of a U.S. Senator? _____ years

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

6. The President is elected for how many years? __________________

7. How many justices are on the Supreme Court? __________________

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

9. Name the governor of [STATE]. Is the governor a Democrat or a Republican?
   ________________________________
How Politics and Government Work: Please indicate whether you think the following statements are true or false by placing an X next to your answer.

10. The President has the power to declare a state of emergency and suspend laws in the case of war.   True_____   False_____

11. If Congress passes a law and the President vetoes it, Congress can enact it anyway with a two-thirds majority vote.   True_____   False_____

12. The Constitution created a weaker central government than the Articles of Confederation.   True_____   False_____

13. So long as all the students at a public school are the same religion, that school can begin the school day with a prayer.   True_____   False_____

14. The government cannot place any limits on freedom of speech.   True_____   False_____  

15. Juries can find a defendant not guilty if they think the law that was broken is unjust.   True_____   False_____  

16. Only the Ninth Amendment protects personal liberty.   True_____   False_____  

17. The official religion of the United States is Christianity.   True_____   False_____  

18. Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court are appointed for life.   True_____   False_____
Political Opinions and Beliefs: Here are a few statements that some people agree with and other people disagree with. For each one, indicate whether you agree or disagree by placing an X next to your answer.

19. It's a waste of resources to pay for trials for people who are obviously guilty.
   _____ Agree   _____ Disagree

20. Suppose somebody is against all churches and religion. If that person wanted to make a speech in your community against churches and religion, do you think he or she should be allowed to speak?
   _____ Agree   _____ Disagree

21. What about a person who opposes the war in Iraq? Suppose that person wanted to organize a protest rally outside a government building. Should he or she be allowed to do it?
   _____ Agree   _____ Disagree

22. It is better to live in an orderly society, even if some freedoms are limited, rather than to allow people so much freedom that they can become disruptive.
   _____ Agree   _____ Disagree
The U.S. Constitution: Please circle yes or no.

23. Suppose a person is found *not guilty* of a crime in a trial. Later, he or she is linked to the same crime by strong DNA evidence. Can he or she be tried again for this same crime?
   
   Yes     No

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

25. 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

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

27. 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

What do you think? Please circle yes or no.

28. Atheists should be allowed to make fun of God and religion.
   
   Yes     No

29. It is better to live in an orderly society than to allow people so much freedom that they can become disruptive.
   
   Yes     No

30. Foreign radicals who want to express their hatred of America should be able to hold rallies in a civic auditorium.
   
   Yes     No
A Constitutional Case Study

Members of a town called Dexter are fed up with a small group of people that have moved in and started a new church that no one has ever heard of. The church members are trying hard to recruit new members by going door-to-door and passing out literature. Neighbors persuaded the town to hold an open meeting to decide what action to take. After lengthy debate, almost everyone in the room voted to have the new church closed. There are currently 28 members of this church, and about 8,500 other residents of the town.

31. Name two rights under the Bill of Rights that are at stake here:

   1. __________________________________________________

   2. __________________________________________________

32. If the majority of the town votes to close a religious organization that it doesn’t like, the minority of people who are members have no right to keep it open.

   Agree _____              Disagree _____

33. If I lived in that town, I would:

   A. Vote to have the new church closed.

   B. Vote to let the church stay open but ban them from going door-to-door.

   C. Allow the church to stay open and allow them to go door-to-door.
What do you think? Please circle the letter of the response that is closest to your own opinion.

34. 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.

35. 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.

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. Which statement comes closest to your views on criminal justice?
   A. It’s a waste of resources to pay for trials for people who are obviously guilty.
   B. Even those who are guilty of a crime deserve a fair trial.

39. What is your opinion of jury duty?
   A. Serving on a jury seems like a major hassle. I hope I never get called to serve.
   B. Although serving on a jury can be time consuming, I don’t mind serving if I get called.
Multiple-Choice: Circle the letter of the answer you think is correct.

40. What are the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution called?
   A. The Rights of Man and the Citizen
   B. The Bill of Rights
   C. The Declaration of Independence
   D. The Preamble

41. Which of these practices has the Supreme Court judged to be constitutional?
   A. Religious clubs holding meetings on school grounds after school
   B. School-sponsored prayer
   C. Ten Commandments posted in public school classrooms
   D. Students voting on whether to read a prayer at sporting events

42. The Supreme Court has ruled that speech includes the following forms of expression:
   A. Non-verbal acts
   B. Symbolic acts
   C. Spoken words
   D. All of the above

43. When they wrote the First Amendment, what kind of speech were the Founders most concerned with protecting?
   A. Religious speech
   B. Court testimony
   C. Private speech
   D. Speech about politics

44. Which of these is an example of censorship?
   A. An entertainer is not invited to perform at a concert because she expressed her political views.
   B. A parent limits the amount of time her son can spend instant-messaging with friends.
   C. An army sergeant reviews newspaper articles written by American soldiers in Iraq to be certain that no information that might be helpful to the enemy is included.
   D. A storeowner won’t allow people who swear into his shop.
45. What is eminent domain?

A. The United States owns all of the land in the United States.
B. People may claim unused government land.
C. The states own the land within their state boundaries.
D. The government can take land from private individuals for public use.

46. According to the Fifth Amendment, when can an accused criminal be forced to testify against him or herself?

A. When he or she is arrested
B. When the state believes that other witnesses are lying
C. During sentencing
D. Accused persons can never be forced to testify at their own trials.

47. What rights does the Sixth Amendment guarantee accused criminals during their trials?

A. The right to an attorney.
B. The right to call and confront witnesses.
C. The right to know the specific crime of which they are accused.
D. All of the above

48. Which two branches of government have to agree that probable cause exists before a search warrant can be issued?

A. The legislative and the executive
B. The legislative and the judicial
C. The judicial and the executive
D. The state and the federal

49. What does a grand jury do?

A. They re-try a case.
B. They decide guilt or innocence.
C. They set the penalty for a crime.
D. They decide if there is enough evidence to go to trial.
50. Due process means all of the following **EXCEPT**:

   A. The government must act fairly.
   B. Laws themselves must be constitutional.
   C. Legislation must respect individual rights and be enforced fairly.
   D. The government cannot interfere in any way in individuals’ lives.

51. Powers given to the central or federal government by the Constitution include all of the following **EXCEPT**:

   A. To direct commerce between the states
   B. To coin money and collect taxes
   C. To raise armies
   D. To issue driver’s licenses

52. 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

53. A militia is

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

54. 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.
55. 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.

56. 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.

57. 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.

58. 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

59. 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.
60. “Illegally obtained evidence cannot be used in a court of law.” This statement is based on a person’s constitutional right to:

A. face an accuser in open court.
B. protection against double jeopardy.
C. a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury.
D. protection against unreasonable search and seizure.

61. 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

62. The major reason the Bill of Rights was added to the U.S. Constitution was to:

A. limit the power of the state governments.
B. protect individual liberties against abuse by the federal government.
C. provide for equal treatment of all people.
D. separate powers among the three branches of government.

63. “…no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause,…and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.” This section of the 4th amendment to the U.S. Constitution addresses the issue of:

A. states’ rights.
B. separation of powers.
C. implied powers.
D. limits on governmental power.

64. Which factor has made the strongest contribution to the development of religious freedom in the United States?

A. Most citizens have shared the same religious beliefs.
B. Religious groups have remained politically unified.
C. School prayer has been ruled constitutional by the Supreme Court.
D. Guarantees in the U.S. Constitution have encouraged religious expression and toleration.
65. “Protection of free speech would not protect a man who falsely shouts, ‘Fire!’ in a theater and causes a panic.“

- Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes

Which interpretation of the Bill of Rights does this statement illustrate?

A. The needs of the government are more important than civil liberties.
B. Constitutional protections of liberty are not absolute.
C. The Supreme Court can eliminate freedoms listed in the Bill of Rights.
D. The Bill of Rights does not safeguard individual liberties.

66. Among the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment is the right to:

A. the free exercise of religion.
B. keep and bear arms.
C. due process of law.
D. a speedy and public trial.

67. Which fact about American government reflects the principle of federalism?

A. Power is divided among legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
B. Private organizations in the United States do much of the work that is performed by local governments in other countries.
C. Citizens in the United States are subject to both state and national laws.
D. Citizens in the United States have a right to protection from intrusion into their private affairs.

68. The amendment process was included in the U.S. Constitution in order to:

A. remove government officials from political office.
B. check the power of the Supreme Court.
C. allow government to meet the changing needs of society.
D. preserve the federal system of government.

69. A system of checks and balances was included in the U.S. Constitution because the authors were concerned about:

A. one branch of government becoming too strong.
B. the states having too much power.
C. the people having a voice in government.
D. the military gaining control of the United States.
70. 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  

71. In the U.S. Congress, differences between Senate and House of Representatives versions of a bill are usually resolved by accepting the version that is:

A. preferred by a majority of the State legislators.  
B. supported by the Supreme Court.  
C. agreed to by a joint conference committee of both Houses.  
D. preferred by the House in which the bill originated.  

72. The major role of political parties in the United States is to:

A. protect the American public from corrupt public officials.  
B. insure that free and honest elections are held.  
C. nominate candidates for public office and conduct campaigns.  
D. meet constitutional requirements for choosing the President.  

73. The system of checks and balances is best illustrated by the power of:

A. the President to veto a bill passed by Congress.  
B. Congress to censure one of its members.  
C. a governor to send the National Guard to stop a riot.  
D. state and federal governments to levy and collect taxes.  

74. The authors of the U.S. Constitution believed that the voice of the people should be heard frequently. Which part of the Government was instituted to respond most directly to the will of the people?

A. Senate  
B. House of Representatives  
C. Supreme Court  
D. Presidency
75. The two major political parties make their final selection of a Presidential candidate through:
   A. delegates' votes at a national party convention.
   B. decisions of the electoral college.
   C. actions of the State legislatures.
   D. citizens' choices in public opinion polls.

76. Which action could eliminate the electoral college?
   A. A Supreme Court ruling
   B. A Presidential order
   C. Passage of legislation by Congress
   D. Ratification of a constitutional amendment

77. Which level of government in the United States has the power to coin money?
   A. Federal
   B. State
   C. Local (town or city)
   D. All of the above

78. The United States Constitution requires that a census be taken every ten years to reapportion:
   A. membership to the House of Representatives.
   B. the number of delegates to national nominating conventions.
   C. Federal aid to localities.
   D. agricultural subsidies.
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

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

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

81. ______ Segregation in schools was ruled to be unconstitutional.

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

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

84. ______ The right to personal privacy includes the right to have an abortion.

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.