

Governing California in the Twenty-First Century, Third Edition

Test Bank Questions

CHAPTER TWO: THE CONSTITUTION AND THE PROGRESSIVE LEGACY

1. The entry of the United States into World War I in 1917 largely ended the Progressive Movement.
 - a. true
 - b. false

 2. The Progressives believed that citizens supported the democratic process and would invest whatever time and effort was needed to participate in elections.
 - a. true
 - b. false

 3. In recent times, special interests have rarely tried to use the initiative process to implement policies that the legislature has been reluctant to pass.
 - a. true
 - b. false

 4. The California Constitution is a fairly long document consisting of nearly one hundred pages.
 - a. true
 - b. false
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5. The California Constitution does not contain a Bill of Rights, but instead depends on the United States Constitution for the protection of individual liberties.

- a. true
- b. false

6. Elections held at the local level in which no party label is shown on the ballot are called _____ elections.

7. The initiative, referendum, and the recall comprise a series of Progressive reforms generally referred to as _____.

8. In comparing the frequency of usage of the initiative, referendum, and recall, the _____ is the most frequently used.

9. Initially, the California Constitution limited the right to vote to _____.

10. Elections by which a political party nominates candidates to represent it in the general election are called _____.

11. Part of the reason that term limits were implemented in California is that

- a. term limits were imposed on the U.S. Congress.
- b. the California Supreme Court ordered that they be imposed on the legislature.
- c. there was statewide anger directed at Willie Brown, the Speaker of the Assembly.
- d. the legislature attempted to reform its own excesses.

12. California's population is relatively

- a. old.
- b. young.
- c. middle aged.
- d. none of the above

13. In terms of education, Californians are

- a. highly educated.
- b. poorly educated.
- c. generally high school dropouts.
- d. far behind the U.S. in general.

14. The following is NOT a Progressive Movement reform

- a. nonpartisan elections.
- b. primaries.
- c. office block ballot.
- d. term limits on the state legislature.

15. The concept of direct democracy includes the following

- a. the right of women to vote and the election of superior court judges.
- b. primaries and the office block ballot.
- c. the initiative, referendum, and recall.
- d. the recall only.

16. What year was California's first constitution established?

- a. 1849
 - b. 1879
 - c. 1882
-

d. 1900

17. California's Constitution is less than 50 pages.

- a. True
- b. False

18. In California, the voters have the power of direct action through

- a. The internet, MTV and Facebook.
- b. information learned through a political science course.
- c. veto power, pardon power and confirmation power.
- d. initiative, referendum and recall.

19. In California, the initiative

- a. is used to recall elected leaders.
- b. is used to suspend laws passed by California Legislature.
- c. allows citizens to propose laws.
- d. is the process used by both the Assembly and Senate to introduce a new laws.

20. The overall passage rate for initiatives from 1912 to 2008 was

- a. 10%
- b. 18%
- c. 36%
- d. 52%

21. From 1970 to 2008, what were the two most controversial propositions in California?

- a. Proposition 1 and 4
- b. Proposition 8 and 13
- c. Proposition 14 and 98
- d. Proposition 7 and 8

22. According to the authors, how much money was spent by both sides (for and against) on Proposition 8 in 2008?

- a. 11.2 million
- b. 65.7 million
- c. 73.4 million
- d. 141 million

23. In the book, David Broder argues that initiatives threaten to challenge or even subvert the American system of government.

- a. True
- b. False

24. In the book, William Niskanen believes that initiatives are dangerous to the political system.

- a. True
- b. False

25. According to David Broder, one of the major problems with the initiative process is:

- a. Initiatives act as a check on legislative extremism and irresponsible behavior.
- b. Initiatives blur the complexity of many issues and reduce them to clichés or sound bites upon which the voter is asked to make a yes/no choice.
- c. Initiatives are a product of the grassroots movements that have more to do with visceral social and economic issues than with well financed campaigns.
- d. The government is there to enforce laws, regardless of how they are made.

26. The Declaration of Rights in the California Constitution is more detailed than the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution.

- a. True
- b. False

27. Four characteristics of California government that are a legacy of the Progressive Movement include nonpartisanship in local elections, primary elections to select party nominees, the office block ballot, and direct democracy.

- a. True
- b. False

28. The goal of the Progressive Movement was to reduce the power of political parties and rich corporations.

- a. True
- b. False

29. The popular democracy process by which citizens can place a constitutional amendment or statute on the ballot is called the recall.

- a. True
- b. False

30. The process by which a certain percentage of those who voted in the last election can sign petitions to vote on a law enacted by the legislature is called the referendum.

- a. True
- b. False

31. The process by which an elected official is removed from office before his or her term expires is called the initiative.

- a. True
- b. False

32. Under the California Constitution of 1849 all laws and provisions were to be published in both English and Spanish, since California was a bilingual state.

- a. True
- b. False

33. Political reformers were involved in the convention to write the Constitution of 1879 but their efforts were insufficient to counter the domination of the state by corporations and the railroads.

- a. True
- b. False

34. In 1993 the legislature established a constitution revision commission that proposed amendments to fundamentally change the California Constitution.

- a. True
- b. False

35. Initiatives are the vehicle of special interests that are pursuing a narrow, private agenda.

- a. True
- b. False