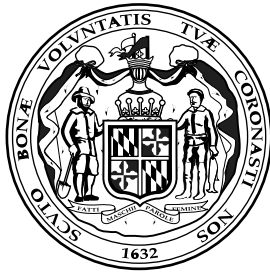


# *Government*



*Maryland High School Assessment*

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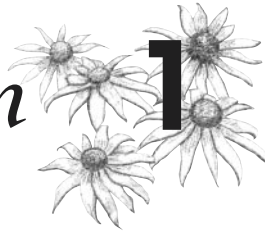
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# Session



## Sample A

Which situation would most likely lead to a criminal trial?

- A Two homeowners disagree on the boundary between their properties.
- B An auto mechanic ruins a car's engine and refuses to pay for the damage.
- C A person is caught leaving a store with a watch without paying for it.
- D A newspaper delivery person accidentally breaks a window.

## Sample B

Which of these has the authority to make laws?

- F the Cabinet
- G the Congress
- H the President
- J the Supreme Court



Notice that the answer choices for Sample B are FGHI. Selected response answer choices will alternate ABCD and FGHI.

In addition to selected response questions such as Sample A and Sample B, there will be constructed response questions that require a written answer. Brief constructed response questions, which require a short written answer, are labeled "BCR" below the question number in the Student Test Book. Extended constructed response questions, which require a longer written answer, are labeled "ECR" below the question number in the Student Test Book. The Rubric Sheet provides information about how constructed response questions will be scored. You may refer to the Rubric Sheet during the test.

Remember, read all directions and questions very carefully and choose the best answer for each question. If you are not sure about an answer, do the best you can, but don't spend too much time on any one question.

Answer all questions until you come to the end of Session 1, where you will see a stop sign. If you finish early, you may check your answers in Session 1, but do not go on to Session 2. You have 70 minutes to complete Session 1.



**1** Which of these is a power shared by the federal and state governments?

- A enforcing laws
- B raising armies
- C conducting local elections
- D establishing post offices

**2** The United States Constitution is called a “living document” because it

- F can be changed when needed
- G outlines the government’s structure
- H refers to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
- J supports every citizen’s right to make a good living

**3** The political institution in Maryland most like the United States Congress is the

- A State Archives
- B General Court
- C Court of Appeals
- D General Assembly

**4** Which of these forms of government allows citizens to choose their government leaders most freely?

- F absolute monarchy
- G oligarchy
- H representative democracy
- J dictatorship



5 Look at the cartoon below.



The cartoon is commenting on the power of

- A federal supremacy
- B judicial review
- C executive privilege
- D congressional oversight

**6** The two-party system dominates American politics. Historically, third parties have had difficulty obtaining political power in the United States.

**BCR**

- Describe two challenges third parties face in their struggle to gain political power in the United States.
- For each of the two challenges, include details and examples to support your description.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

**7** Read the quote below.

“Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

*Lord Acton, 1887*

Based on the quotation, Lord Acton would probably be most opposed to which system of government?

- A authoritarian
- B democratic
- C federal
- D unitary

**8** How did the Supreme Court’s decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* affect the Court’s earlier decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*?

- F The Court overturned the separate but equal doctrine in schools.
- G The Court approved schools requiring students to wear uniforms.
- H The Court ruled that school officials must show reasonable cause for making a search.
- J The Court upheld the decision that it is illegal for school officials to restrict freedom of expression.

**9** Sugar substitutes are used in many diet soft drinks. They were tested for many years before being approved for use.

Which of these regulatory agencies is responsible for giving this approval?

- A the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
- B the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- C the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- D the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

**10** Which of these actions would the Federal Reserve most likely take to help end a recession?

- F print more currency
- G reduce the interest rate
- H sell government securities
- J increase the reserve requirement

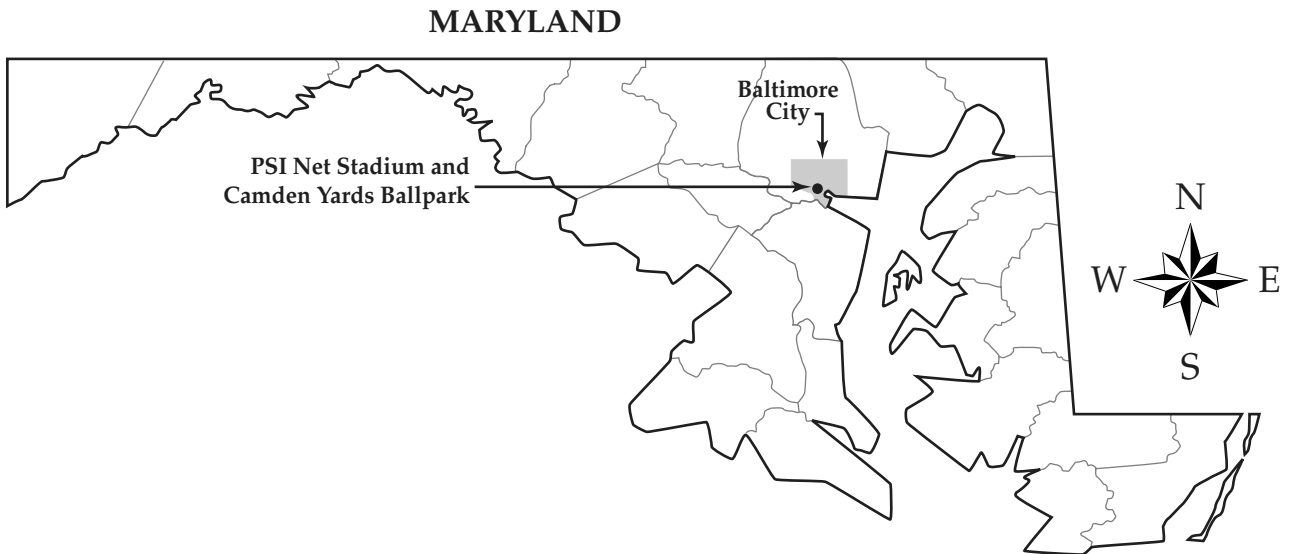
- 11** The process of amending the Constitution is an example of federalism because it requires
- A approval of two-thirds of the Supreme Court
  - B unanimous approval of both the President and Congress
  - C unanimous approval of both state and local governments
  - D approval of two-thirds of Congress and three-fourths of the states

- 12** A public school system would violate federal law if it
- F required the wearing of uniforms
  - G discriminated on the basis of race
  - H demanded a minimum grade-point average
  - J requested the participation of parents

- 13** When proposing new projects such as airports and highways, federal agencies are required to
- A increase user fees
  - B seize private property from citizens
  - C conduct public opinion polls
  - D provide environmental impact statements

**D**irections

Study the map below. Then answer Number 14.

**14****BCR**

- Explain why the members of the Maryland General Assembly would support funding to build major league baseball and football stadiums in densely populated areas rather than in lightly populated areas.
- Consider economic, geographic, and political issues.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

**15** A police officer stopped a citizen for speeding. Without probable cause, the officer opened the trunk of the citizen's car to look for drugs.

The citizen can challenge the actions of the police officer on the grounds that a citizen has

- A the right to an attorney
- B the right to avoid self-incrimination
- C the right to equal protection under the law
- D the right to protection against illegal searches and seizures

**16** The United States stops trading with a country because of reported evidence that the government of the country mistreats its citizens.

Which foreign policy tool is the United States government using in this situation?

- F economic sanction
- G peace treaty
- H foreign aid
- J military involvement

**17** Which of these was formed as a security alliance among the United States and its Western European allies?

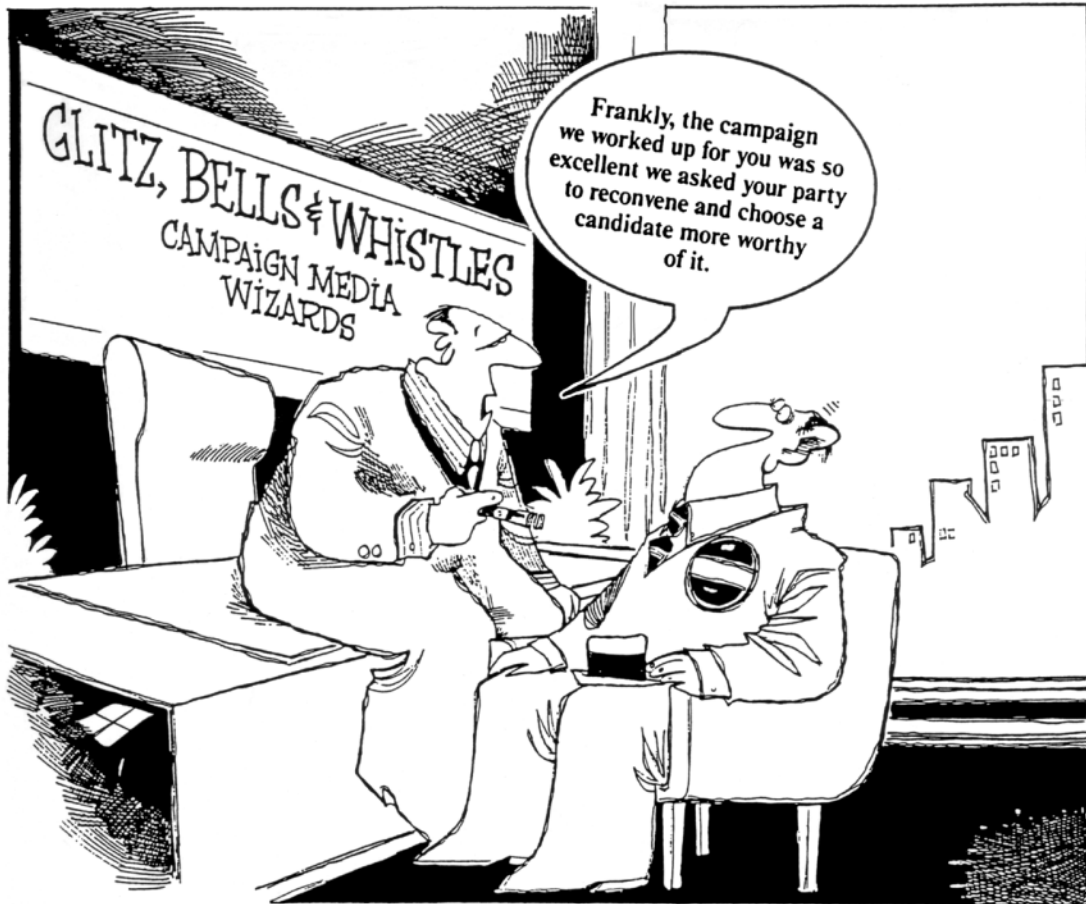
- A the United Nations
- B the International Red Cross
- C the International Monetary Fund
- D the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

**18** What is the purpose of an indictment?

- F to formally charge a person with a crime
- G to advise a person of the right to remain silent
- H to sentence a person who has been convicted
- J to decide whether a person is guilty or not guilty



19 Look at the cartoon below.



Which of these ideas about political campaigns is represented by the cartoon?

- A They cost too much for some candidates.
- B They are products of planned marketing.
- C They have little effect on elections.
- D They are dependent on grassroots support.

**20** Which of the following government agencies would be most involved in developing proposals to preserve wetlands such as swamps, bogs, and marshes?

- F Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- G Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
- H Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- J Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

**21** Read the headline below.



Which of these responsibilities of government is most related to the event described in the headline?

- A regulation of monopolies
- B regulation of product safety
- C enforcement of minimum wage laws
- D enforcement of equal opportunity laws

**22** Which of these is the most direct way for a group of teenagers to influence the outcome of a bill that would raise the minimum driving age?

- F testifying at a legislative hearing
- G launching a voter registration drive
- H writing to an ambassador
- J appealing to a high court

**23** The United States government is allowed to restrict publication of information that

- A criticizes presidential decisions
- B supports one political party
- C endangers national security
- D promotes legal reforms

**24** On January 1, 1999, the euro became the common currency for eleven European countries.

The adoption of the euro created a region based on a common

- F political ideology
- G defense strategy
- H economic interest
- J cultural characteristic

**25** Which of these is the best example of plea bargaining in a criminal case?

- A A defense attorney requests that the police release a suspect from jail.
- B A defense attorney and a prosecutor negotiate the charges against a defendant.
- C A judge questions the police about their reasons for requesting a search warrant.
- D A judge listens to a defendant's plea for leniency before pronouncing sentence.

**26** Which of these rights is guaranteed to criminal defendants as a result of the Supreme Court's decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright*?

- F the right to an attorney
- G the right to a trial by jury
- H the right to confront witnesses in court
- J the right to remain silent when questioned by police

**27** Read the list of freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

**ECR**

- freedom of religion
- freedom of speech
- freedom of the press
- the right to peaceably assemble
- the right to petition the government

Citizens of a newly independent country are drafting a constitution. They have requested your help in selecting the two most important rights in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution to include in their constitution.

- Choose two First Amendment rights from the United States Constitution that you think should be included in the new country's constitution.
- Identify your choices and explain why you think they should be included.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



**D**irections

Look at the chart below. Then answer Numbers 28 and 29.

PERCENTAGE OF MARYLAND POPULATION IN SELECTED AREAS

	Baltimore City	Baltimore County	Montgomery County	Prince Georges County
1970	21.3%	15.8%	13.3%	16.8%
1980	18.7%	15.5%	13.7%	15.8%
1990	15.4%	14.5%	15.8%	15.3%
2000	13.0%	13.6%	16.1%	15.3%

**28** Which of these areas would most likely have experienced the greatest decline in tax revenue since 1970?

- F Baltimore City
- G Baltimore County
- H Montgomery County
- J Prince Georges County

**29** According to the chart, which of these areas most likely had to increase government spending for services from 1970 to 2000?

- A Baltimore City
- B Baltimore County
- C Montgomery County
- D Prince Georges County



# *Session* **2**

Answer all questions until you come to the end of Session 2, where you will see a stop sign. If you finish early, you may check your answers in Session 2, but do not go back to Session 1. You have 52 minutes to complete Session 2.



**30** Which of these is an action the International Monetary Fund takes to help developing nations?

- F stabilizing currencies
- G supplying medical care
- H resolving border disputes
- J providing medical technology

**31** Unemployment insurance and minimum wage laws are methods by which the United States government

- A controls inflation
- B protects workers
- C promotes economic competition
- D encourages economic specialization

**32** Which of these would be an opportunity cost to a government offering a tax break to businesses that invest in new machinery?

- F an increase in industrial innovation
- G an increase in industrial productivity
- H a decrease in the quality of goods exported
- J a decrease in the amount of money collected

**33**  
**BCR** The blue crab population supports many important commercial and recreational activities in the Chesapeake Bay. However, some scientists have expressed concern that the blue crab population may be declining.

- Should the Maryland state government play a role in managing the blue crab population?
- Explain the possible consequences of your position.
- Include details and examples to support your explanation.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



**34** Read the quotation below.

“... in all that people can individually do for themselves, government ought not to interfere.”

*Abraham Lincoln*

Which of these constitutional principles best applies to this quote?

- F rule of law
- G due process
- H limited government
- J separation of powers

**35** Which of these is a responsibility of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)?

- A producing television shows
- B granting licenses to television stations
- C hiring television directors and actors
- D deciding which television advertisements are effective

**36** Over the past fifty years, many Americans have moved from the Northeast and the Midwest to the South and the West.

As a result of this population shift, the South and the West have gained influence in

- F the Senate
- G the Supreme Court
- H the State Department
- J the House of Representatives

**37** Which of these would most likely require interstate cooperation?

- A the maintenance of historic monuments in Baltimore City
- B the construction of a civic center in Wicomico County
- C the establishment of guided tours of Annapolis
- D the conservation of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay

**38** The government has the right to stop a public demonstration if the demonstration

- F expresses a minority opinion
- G presents only one point of view
- H threatens the safety of the community
- J criticizes the actions of public officials

**39** Read the headline below.

**GOVERNMENT AGENCY  
SHUTS DOWN FOOD  
PROCESSING PLANT FOR  
HEALTH VIOLATIONS**

Which of these is the most likely reason for this government action?

- A to prevent labor strikes
- B to protect consumers
- C to promote competition
- D to provide economic support for businesses

**40** In 1908, Theodore Roosevelt said, "Oh, if I could be President and Congress too, for just ten minutes."

Which principle of United States government was frustrating President Roosevelt when he made this statement?

- F federalism
- G rule of law
- H majority rule
- J separation of powers

**41** Which of these is a requirement for a fair trial in a criminal case?

- A The jury must recognize the lawyers involved in the case.
- B The lawyers must know each other.
- C The defendant must know the charges.
- D The judge must insist that the defendant testify.

**42** Read the scenario below.

The Maryland government is expanding a major highway to reduce traffic congestion. The state will take the private property it needs and compensate the owners for their land.

Which of these allows the government action described above?

- F judicial review
- G eminent domain
- H affirmative action
- J popular sovereignty

**43** Which of these has contributed most to the discussion of reforming the social security system?

- A Americans are living longer than ever before.
- B The number of retired persons has decreased.
- C Fewer people are paying taxes to support the program.
- D The taxes to pay for the program have never been increased.



# Directions

Look at the cartoon below. Then answer Numbers 44 and 45.



**44** Which economic concept caused the situation illustrated in the cartoon?

- F economic globalization
- G international economic aid
- H embargoes on foreign products
- J global trade restrictions

**45**  
**BCR**

- Describe an advantage and a disadvantage the scenario in the cartoon presents to the United States economy.
- State whether you agree or disagree with the cartoonist's point of view.
- Include details and examples in your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

**46** The World Bank's support of government services most directly affects developing nations'

- F economies
- G military institutions
- H currencies
- J foreign policy

**47** Because of the Endangered Species Act, a man was forbidden from planting crops on his land because the habitat of an endangered species would be destroyed.

In the situation above, there is a conflict between a government policy and an individual's

- A freedom of expression
- B freedom of religion
- C voting rights
- D property rights

**48** Read the excerpt below.

**"All persons shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the . . . services . . . of any place of public accommodation . . . without discrimination or segregation on the grounds of race, color, religion, or national origin."**

*Civil Rights Act of 1964*

According to the excerpt, a restaurant would be violating the Civil Rights Act of 1964 if it refused to serve a person who was

- F talking too loudly
- G smoking a cigarette
- H wearing informal clothing
- J saying a prayer

**D**irections

Look at the cartoon below. Then answer Numbers 49 and 50.



**49** Which of these best represents the opinion of the cartoonist?

- A Rates of inflation are low.
- B Effects of inflation are unnoticeable.
- C Actions needed to control inflation are unnecessary.
- D Actions taken to control inflation are ineffective.

**50** The problem illustrated in the cartoon is most harmful to which of these groups?

- F people on fixed incomes
- G investors owning foreign currency
- H consumers paying cash for purchases
- J workers receiving bonuses for productivity

**51** **BCR** The federal government requires medicines to be tested extensively before they can be used by the general public.

- How does this requirement affect drug manufacturers and consumers?
- State whether you agree or disagree with this policy.
- Include specific details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

**52** A group of nation states formed a government in which each state retained control over its internal matters and gave almost no powers to the central government.

Which system of government was formed?

- F unitary
- G federal
- H confederate
- J authoritarian

**53** The mass media is sometimes referred to as “the fourth branch of the government” because it

- A endorses all governmental policies
- B influences public opinion
- C is a powerful federal agency
- D is paid for with federal taxes

**54** Read the headline below.

**SUPREME COURT TO  
DECIDE CONSTITUTIONALITY  
OF ARREST PROCEDURES**

This headline would have been most appropriate for which of the following cases?

- F *Miranda v. Arizona*
- G *Gideon v. Wainwright*
- H *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*
- J *Tinker v. Des Moines*

- 55** A traditional economy is an economic system
- A based on long-standing customs
  - B composed of elements of capitalism and socialism
  - C controlled completely by the government
  - D determined solely by individuals competing for profits

- 56** Suppose the President and leaders of Congress agreed to increase funding for the military and for education, while not funding protection of wetlands for migrating cranes.

Which of these does the above decision reveal about economic costs and benefits?

- F There must be priorities in a limited budget.
- G Money is available to fund all programs.
- H Choices are made with a focus on local goals.
- J Budget decisions always benefit the environment.

- 57** In many criminal cases, the prosecutor and defense attorney engage in plea bargaining before a trial begins. Often, the prosecutor will reduce the charges if the accused agrees to plead guilty.

**BCR**

- What advantages does each side gain from this type of agreement?
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

