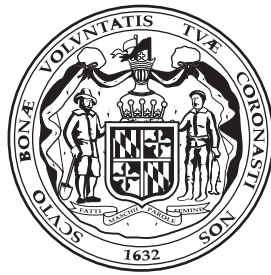


Government



Maryland High School Assessment
Public Release, Fall 2003

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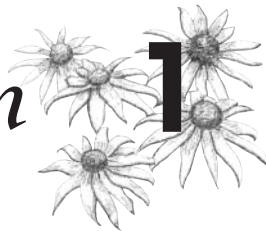
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Session



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 responsibility of Maryland's state government?

- A military training
- B education policy
- C Social Security
- D Medicare programs

2 Which of these government actions would be most effective in protecting the environment?

- F establishing wildlife management areas
- G reducing regulations on industrial pollution
- H encouraging development of farmland
- J building highways and bridges

3 Which of these principles of government is demonstrated when the governor of Maryland vetoes a bill?

- A federalism
- B popular sovereignty
- C checks and balances
- D representative democracy

4 Read the excerpt below.

"Neither slavery nor involuntary [labor], except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States. . . ."

*Thirteenth Amendment,
United States Constitution*

Which of these would be acceptable as a result of this amendment?

- F A defendant in a criminal case is sentenced by a court of law to provide unpaid community service work.
- G A public defender is required to provide legal services to a person accused of a crime who cannot afford representation.
- H A United States President is elected to serve as the country's leader for a term of four years.
- J A United States citizen is required by law to serve as a member of the jury when selected for duty.

5 Read the headlines below.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RAISES
AGE REQUIREMENT FOR
DRIVERS LICENSES

MAYOR PLEDGES
FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL
POLICE OFFICERS

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT
CALLS FOR MORE MEAT
INSPECTIONS

What is the intent of the government actions described in all the headlines?

- A to maintain public safety
- B to raise tax revenue
- C to reduce crime
- D to maintain social order

6 Read the scenario below.

BCR

Recently a city ordinance [law] was passed that banned skateboard riding on most city streets and sidewalks. You and your friends believe this is an unjust law.

- Describe two legal ways you and your friends could try to get this law changed.
- Explain why each of your choices would be effective.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

Directions

Read the news article excerpt below. Then answer Number 7.

**UNITED STATES SUPREME
COURT DECLARES "ONE
MAN, ONE VOTE"**

February 17, 1964

The Supreme Court ruled today that congressional districts severely unequal in population are unconstitutional since they deprive citizens of the full benefit of their vote. James Wesberry of Georgia brought the case against the Governor of Georgia, Carl Sanders. Wesberry claimed that his vote did not count as much as the votes in other districts because the population in his district was two to three times larger than those of other districts in the state.

7 Which of these resulted from the Supreme Court decision described in the article?

- A Legislative districts were made equal in land size.
- B Votes in urban areas were given more weight than votes in rural areas.
- C Polling places in some areas stayed open later than in other areas.
- D Congressional districts were made similar in population size.

8 The World Bank is most associated with which of the following activities?

- F supplying medical care after natural disasters
- G providing loans for capital improvements
- H supporting political candidates
- J offering military expertise

9 Which of these explains a difference between political parties and interest groups?

- A Political parties evaluate government policy, while interest groups set government policy.
- B Political parties influence laws, while interest groups ratify laws.
- C Political parties address many issues, while interest groups usually focus on one issue.
- D Political parties support candidates, while interest groups nominate candidates.

10 Which of the following is a responsibility of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)?

- F hiring air traffic controllers
- G enforcing product safety standards
- H regulating the use of cellular telephones
- J running cable television companies

11 In 1968 the Supreme Court upheld the arrest of a young man for burning his draft card as an anti-war protest.

Which of these best explains why the Supreme Court decided that burning draft cards is not a protected form of free speech?

- A His action interfered with the government raising an army.
- B The law prohibited burning anything in public without a permit.
- C All citizens have the responsibility to serve in the military.
- D The First Amendment excludes protesting as a form of free speech.

- 12** In 1847 Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels wrote the *Communist Manifesto*, which predicted the fall of capitalism. Read the excerpt below.

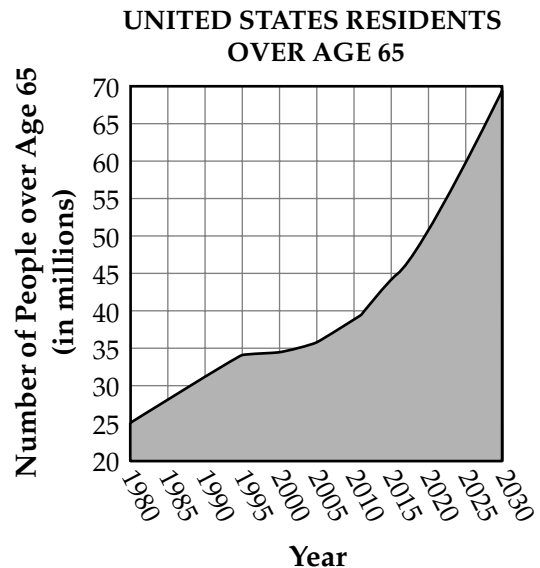
“The modern working-class developed a class of laborers who live only so long as they find work, and who find work only so long as their labor increases capital.”

from the *Communist Manifesto*

According to the excerpt above, Marx and Engels believed that capitalism

- F restricted the economic freedom of employers
- G discouraged competition among businesses
- H failed to ensure the quality of goods produced
- J failed to protect the basic rights of workers

- 13** Look at the graph below.



Increasing the budget for which of these programs would most help the United States government prepare for the trend shown in the graph?

- A defense
- B education
- C social security
- D employment opportunities

14 Read the information below.

BCR

Police cameras have been installed at intersections in parts of Maryland to photograph the license plates of red-light runners. Many citizens oppose this government use of cameras.

- What constitutional issue might be involved in this use of cameras?
- Explain whether you agree or disagree with this practice.
- Include examples and details to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

15 The “elastic clause” gives Congress implied power to act in areas not specifically expressed in the Constitution at the time it was written.

Congress is exercising its power under the “elastic clause” when it

- A declares war on a foreign nation
- B establishes a post office in a community
- C authorizes the testing of nuclear weapons
- D prohibits export taxes

16 Which of these would most likely be the reason for a country to refuse to cooperate with international fishing limits?

- F to avoid high tariffs
- G to encourage international trade
- H to protect economic self-interests
- J to protest environmental pollution

Directions

Look at the cartoon below. Then answer Number 17.



'I'M SORRY, KID, BUT IT REALLY HURTS ME MORE THAN IT HURTS YOU'

17 According to the cartoon, what is a criticism of the juvenile justice system?

- A The system gives judges little choice in punishment.
- B The juvenile justice system wastes too much money.
- C The government has too much control over the lives of juveniles.
- D The courts make the community responsible for juveniles' actions.

"Comprehensive Guidelines for Sentencing Juvenile Offenders" editorial cartoon by Ed Valtman, copyright © 1975 by Ed Valtman. Used by permission of Rothco Cartoons. All rights reserved.

18 The prosecutor in a criminal case is the person who

- F represents the defendant
- G represents the government
- H serves as head of the jury
- J presides as judge

19 Which of these types of government allows citizens to have the greatest amount of political influence?

- A dictatorship
- B direct democracy
- C absolute monarchy
- D oligarchy

20
BCR Foreign aid is an important part of United States foreign policy.

- Describe types of foreign aid the United States provides to other countries.
- Should the United States provide foreign aid to other countries? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

21 After the 1979 accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant, the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission tightened restrictions on the nuclear power industry in order to

- A ensure due process
- B protect public health
- C develop military strength
- D guarantee equal rights

- 22** Read the quotation below.

“Crunched over the [coal] chutes, the boys sit hour after hour, picking at the pieces of slate and other [trash]. . . . I once stood . . . and tried to do the work a twelve-year-old boy was doing day after day, for ten hours at a stretch, for sixty cents a day. The gloom . . . [troubled] me. . . .”

John Spargo, *The Bitter Cry of the Children*, 1906

According to the quotation, John Spargo was probably in favor of the government

- F lowering the minimum wage
- G forbidding the establishment of labor unions
- H regulating child labor practices
- J playing a smaller role in private business

- 23** When a defendant was tried and found innocent of a crime, the state prosecutor was disappointed but could not legally try the case again. Doing so would violate the defendant’s right to protection from

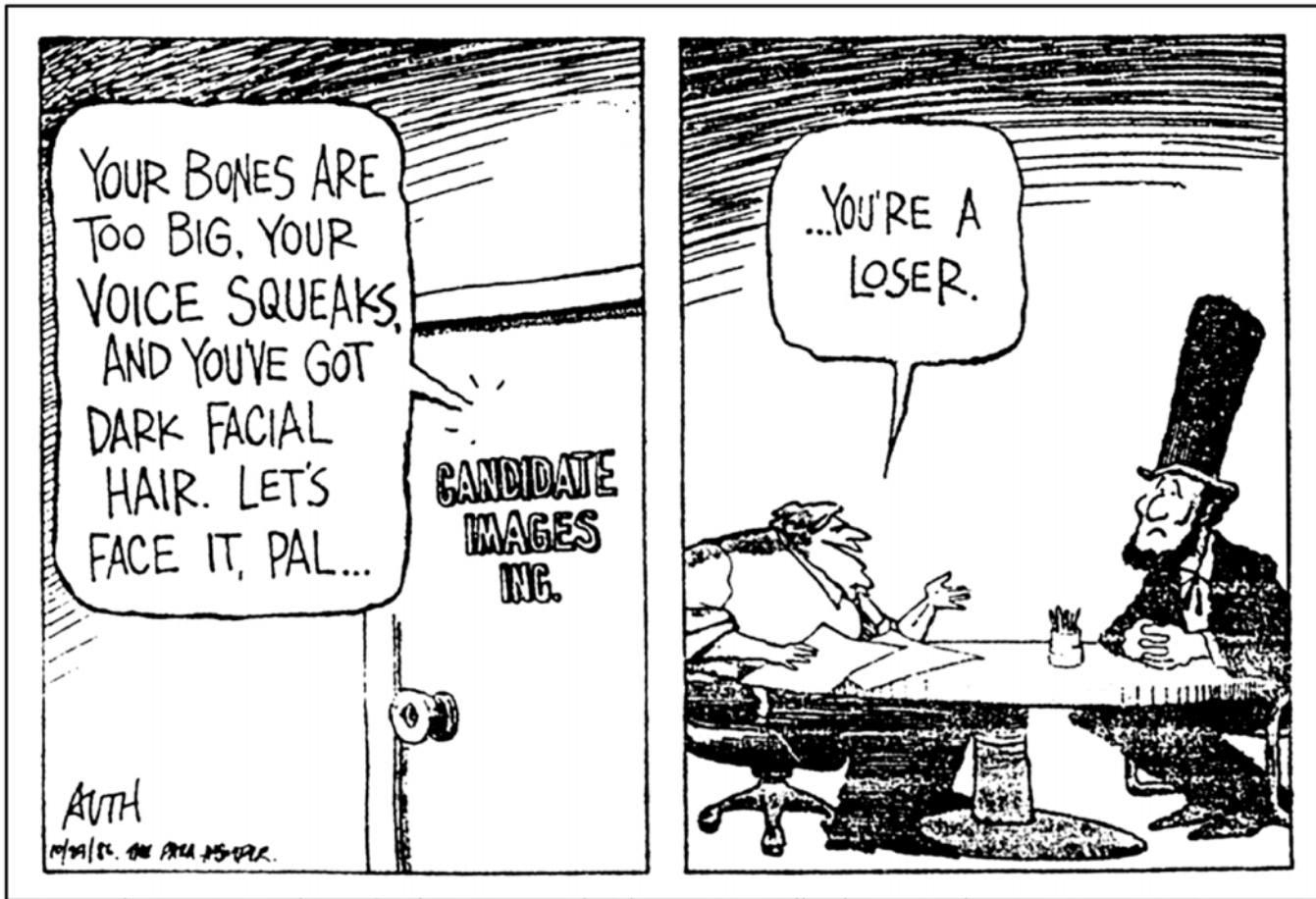
- A double jeopardy
- B self-incrimination
- C illegal search and seizure
- D cruel and unusual punishment

- 24** In an authoritarian government, freedom of speech is usually

- F protected by the government as a civil right
- G guaranteed in the government’s constitution
- H censored and controlled by the government
- J regulated only when it presents a clear and present danger

Directions

Study the cartoon below. Then answer Number 25.



25 The cartoonist would most likely agree that

- A donations to political candidates have decreased
- B qualifications for political candidates have changed
- C political candidates pay little attention to public opinion polls
- D political candidates mainly represent large business interests

"Candidate Images Inc." editorial cartoon by Auth, copyright © by the Philadelphia Inquirer. Reprinted with permission of United Press Syndicate. All rights reserved.

26 Which of these explains why former members of the legislature are often hired as lobbyists?

- F They retain congressional voting privileges.
- G They have inside knowledge of lawmaking procedures.
- H They are able to continue using the offices they had as congressional members.
- J They are elected to interest groups by the same constituents who elected them as lawmakers.

27 When flooding occurs in Maryland, which of the following actions could the governor take immediately to preserve order and ensure the safety of citizens?

- A mobilize the National Guard to protect private property
- B order the construction of more bridges
- C propose state legislation aimed at protecting the wetlands
- D propose federal legislation for low-interest loans

28
ECR

The modern presidency of the United States is often referred to as the most powerful office in the world. Yet the President's powers are limited.

- Explain how the President's powers are limited.
- Explain how the President can be successful in overcoming these limitations.
- Which of the ways you described for overcoming limitations to presidential power would be the most effective? Explain why.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

29

Which of these best reflects how the federal government manages the economy through fiscal policy?

- A taxing and spending
- B buying and selling securities
- C controlling the money supply
- D controlling interest rates



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 50 minutes to complete Session 2.



30 A police officer arrests a suspected criminal and neglects to inform the suspect of the charges against him.

Which of these best describes the above situation?

- F a failure to ensure separation of powers
- G a violation of due process rights
- H the abuse of executive privilege
- J the misuse of the power of eminent domain

31 Why are federal judges appointed for life?

- A to ensure freedom from control by elected officials
- B to attract people with experience to the job
- C to guarantee that states retain their powers
- D to protect the wishes of the majority of citizens

32 Which of these is usually a result of free trade between countries?

- F more embargoes on goods
- G higher tariffs on goods
- H more markets for goods
- J reduced supplies of goods

33 A homeowner signed a written agreement with a roofing company to have an old roof replaced.

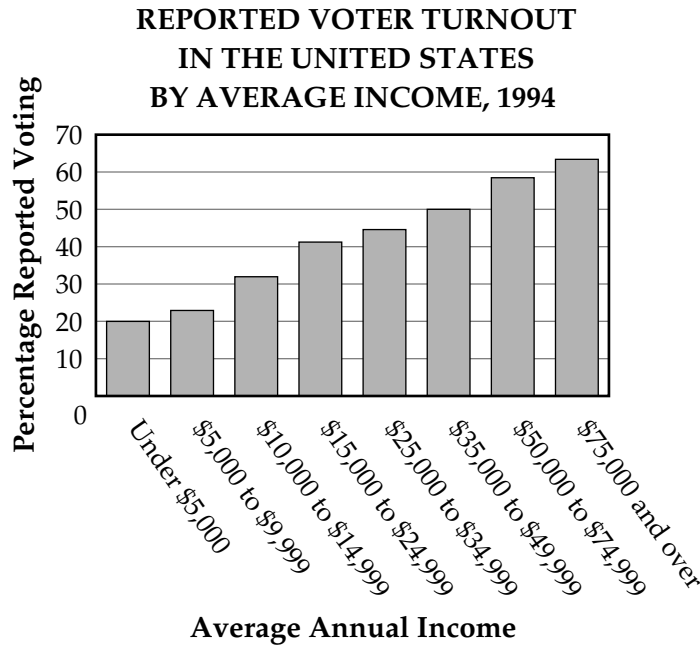
In the United States legal system, this type of written agreement is called a

- A contract
- B misdemeanor
- C negotiation
- D tort



Directions

Study the graph below. Then answer Number 34.



34

BCR

- Describe how a law requiring citizens to vote could affect the voting patterns shown on the graph.
- Should voting be mandatory in the United States? Explain why or why not.
- Use details and examples to support your position.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



35 Which of these is represented by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?

- A the amount of reserve that banks are required to hold
- B the rate of interest charged on reserves lent to banks
- C the total value of goods and services produced within a nation
- D the change in the average price of consumer goods and services

36 Read the newspaper article below.



The action described in the article is most directly related to which of the following goals of the United Nations?

- F to suppress acts of aggression
- G to develop diplomatic relations
- H to foster worldwide cooperation
- J to promote economic progress

37 Read the excerpt below.

The President in every possible instance shall consult with Congress before introducing United States Armed Forces into hostilities [military conflicts] . . . and after every such introduction shall consult regularly with the Congress until United States Armed Forces are no longer engaged in hostilities. . . .

The War Powers Act of 1973

Based on the excerpt, the War Powers Act was most likely issued in response to

- A protest against drafting women
- B lack of preparedness in the armed forces
- C expansion by the President of his role as Commander in Chief
- D attempts by the Supreme Court to control the Department of Defense

38 The population of Massachusetts has increased since 1970, but its representation in Congress has declined.

Which of these best explains why this has happened?

- F A large number of people in Massachusetts are not citizens.
- G A large number of people in Massachusetts have not registered to vote.
- H Massachusetts has chosen not to send representatives to the national government.
- J Population growth in Massachusetts has not kept pace with the growth of other states.

39 Look at the cartoon below.



According to the cartoon, the two political parties are

- A supporting the same viewpoint on an issue
- B working together to solve a national problem
- C supporting issues they believe will win votes
- D opposing the amount of money the government spends

“Surplus/National Debt” cartoon by Oliphant, copyright © 1999 Universal Press Syndicate. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

40 The International Red Cross would most likely become involved in

- F providing weapons to a military ally
- G helping refugees get food and shelter
- H creating trade agreements among nations
- J giving money to nations for economic developments

41 Licensing for certain occupations is an example of a government regulation that

- A controls wages in licensed occupations
- B encourages monopolies in competing occupations
- C limits entry into an occupation by setting standards
- D guarantees lifetime employment for licensed workers

42 On July 5, 2000, Maryland launched a \$9 million initiative designed to provide after-school activities for middle school students.

Which of these is the socio-economic goal of this policy or program?

- F protecting public health
- G promoting child welfare
- H preserving affordable housing
- J providing public transportation

43 Maryland's Smart Growth Areas Act of 1999 encourages the building of new homes in vacant city lots.

Which of these is a reason Maryland's government passed this law?

- A to eliminate the use of unsanitary water
- B to prevent over-development of rural areas
- C to encourage farmers to produce larger crops
- D to encourage more people to own small businesses

44 Which of these local population statistics would be most useful in deciding where to construct a public high school?

- F political party identity
- G family composition
- H occupation
- J religion

45 The federal government's policy is to censor material that

- A threatens national security
- B promotes an unpopular opinion
- C disagrees with presidential decisions
- D criticizes a government law

46
BCR In order to make driving safer, some citizens want a law prohibiting drivers from using cell phones while driving.

- Explain the economic costs and benefits of this law if it is passed.
- Based on the costs and benefits, do you support or oppose the law? Explain why.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

47 Due to large financial losses in the American automobile industry, the United States once set limits on the number of cars it imported. This response is most likely an example of government policy being shaped by

- A national interests
- B international interests
- C state interests
- D regional interests



48 The Chesapeake Bay has recently suffered a decline in the oyster population. At the urging of citizens, Virginia and Maryland have cooperated in passing legislation to restore the oyster population.

The above is an example of

- F states working together to protect resources
- G states in conflict over disappearing resources
- H government developing a resource policy without public support
- J government introducing new resource taxes

49 A company decides to install more machines and lay off workers. Which economic question is being directly addressed?

- A how to produce
- B what to produce
- C for whom to produce
- D how much to produce

50 Which of these best explains why state government leaders must carefully evaluate costs and benefits when developing budgets?

- F Taxes can usually be increased to meet needs.
- G Demand for services often exceeds tax revenues.
- H Demand for services is usually satisfied by federal spending.
- J State tax revenues are often matched by federal funds.

51 Which of these cases helped establish the right of the Supreme Court to review the constitutionality of federal law?

- A *Marbury v. Madison*
- B *McCulloch v. Maryland*
- C *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- D *Brown v. Board of Education*

52 Traffic congestion is a problem in the Washington–Baltimore metropolitan region.

BCR

- Propose possible actions the government could take to solve this problem.
- Explain why some people would oppose these actions.
- Include details and examples to support your solutions and the oppositions to your solutions.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

53 Which of these consumer activities is most influenced by the Federal Reserve?

- A getting a home mortgage
- B purchasing a discount airplane ticket
- C using a prescription drug
- D reading nutritional labels on foods

54 Which of the following best illustrates the reason Congress passes civil rights legislation?

- F to promote equity
- G to establish better legal aid
- H to solve housing shortages
- J to increase school funding

55 In which form of government do states, cities, and counties have the least political power?

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

56 A local government allocates funds to expand an elementary school.

Which of these most likely describes an opportunity cost of this policy?

- F installation of electrical fixtures by the PTA
- G purchase of new textbooks
- H free construction materials donated by a local company
- J the services of volunteer architects to create blueprints



57
BCR

- Describe an action that the federal government has taken to prevent discrimination.
- How effective do you think this action has been?
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

58

A builder can legally refuse to sell a home to a prospective buyer because of the buyer's

- F family size
- G credit history
- H national origin
- J religious beliefs

