

American Politics Pop Quiz

Without using the internet or any resource other than your own brain, try to guess answers to each of the following questions.

1. In what year was the U.S. Constitution authored?
2. What institution proposes legislation in the federal government?
3. What are the two chambers of the U.S. Congress?
4. Which chamber has more members?
5. How many Senators are there from each U.S. state?
6. What institution determines the constitutionality of state and federal laws?
7. How are U.S. Senators elected to office?
8. How are members of the U.S. House of Representatives elected?
9. How is the President of the United States elected to office?
10. How are candidates in U.S. Presidential elections chosen?
11. Who is eligible to be the President of the United States?
12. What responsibilities does the Vice President of the United States have?
13. How much money can candidates spend on their election campaigns?
14. What is the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?
15. Who in the federal government has the power to declare war?
16. What is the size (in U.S. dollars) of the U.S. economy (GDP)?
17. What is the size (in U.S. dollars) of the U.S. federal budget?
18. What is the size (in U.S. dollars) of the U.S. federal government debt?
19. What percentage of the U.S. federal budget is spent on the military?
20. What percentage of the U.S. federal budget is spent on social welfare programs?
21. What percentage of the U.S. federal budget is spent on education?

22. How is the U.S. federal government authorized to raise revenue?
23. What is the “filibuster”?
24. Which institution is more powerful, the President or Congress?
25. Do U.S. states have the ability to ignore or amend federal legislation?
26. How are judges on U.S. federal courts appointed?
27. How are judges in state and local courts appointed?
28. How long can a U.S. politician remain in office?
29. In 1978, 1995–6, and 2013, the federal government “shut down.” What does this mean?
30. When was the last time both chambers of the U.S. Congress approved a budget resolution?
31. What is a “third party”?
32. What was the turnout rate in the 2012 U.S. Presidential election?
33. What is “polarization”? Is the United States polarized?
34. What is the highest U.S. federal tax rate on personal income/salary?
35. Denmark has a Gini index of 24. What is the Gini index for the United States?
36. What is Social Security?
37. What types of national health care or national health insurance does the United States have?
38. How is tertiary (University) education in the United States financed?
39. When did African Americans receive the right to vote in the United States?
40. When did women receive the right to vote in the United States?
41. What percentage of the U.S. population was born outside of the United States?
42. What percentage of the U.S. population is African American?
43. What is/are the official language(s) of the United States?
44. What is the official religion of the United States?
45. How many firearms (guns) are there in the United States?
46. How many people have been executed in the United States since 1976?
47. What is the minimum age for a convicted murderer to be eligible for the death penalty?
48. What is *Roe v. Wade*?
49. Who is Anthony Kennedy?
50. In contemporary American politics, what is the distinction between a political “liberal” and a political “conservative”?