

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Members of the United States Congress (the Senate and the House of Representatives) are voted into office to represent and serve the citizens of their states. There are two senators elected from every state. How many congressmen/women are elected from every state?

- A. There are also two congressmen/women from every state.
- B. The number of congressmen/women from each state depends on the population of the state.
- C. The number of congressmen/women depends on the number of counties in each state.
- D. The number of congressmen/women depends on the number of political parties in each state.

2. One of the most important rights and privileges for United States citizens is voting. How could voting lead to political change?

- A. Voting raises money for the government.
- B. Voting ensures that people belong to a political party.
- C. Voting keeps the same people in office for life.
- D. Voting leads to putting new and different people in office.

3. The United States government is divided into three separate parts to make sure that the

- A. Senate has more power than the House of Representatives.
- B. president of the United States has the final say in all matters.
- C. executive, legislative, and judicial branches share the power.
- D. federal, state, and local governments work together.

4. Citizens can get involved in the political system in a number of ways. One way is to organize a peaceful protest outside a government office. Which of the following best explains the purpose of a peaceful protest?

- A. to hold signs and walk with others in a picket line
- B. to be photographed and appear on the evening news
- C. to stop anyone from entering or leaving the government office
- D. to try and get the government to make changes

5. The Constitution of the United States divides the government into branches and provides for a system of checks and balances. The Supreme Court can "check" the executive branch by

- A. overriding a veto by the president on a bill.
 - B. approving an appointment to the cabinet.
 - C. declaring war on an enemy of the United States.
 - D. deciding that an act by the president is unconstitutional.
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6. The president of the United States has "checks" over the other two branches of government. Which is a check the president has over the judicial branch?

- A. deciding the meaning of a law
 - B. making a treaty with another country
 - C. nominating a Supreme Court justice
 - D. rejecting a law passed by Congress
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7. Your class has been learning about pollution. One problem is that places are running out of space to store garbage. Which of the following would be an example of civic participation to solve the problem?

- A. You and your friends visit the town's landfill.
 - B. You write a report about the garbage problem for class.
 - C. You volunteer to take the garbage to the street.
 - D. You and your class start a school recycling program.
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8. The United States Constitution divides the national government into three branches, and includes a system of checks and balances. What is the purpose of dividing the government and having checks and balances?

- A. to carry out the laws passed by Congress and the President
 - B. to settle differences about the meaning of the laws
 - C. to approve bills before they go to the President
 - D. to keep one branch from becoming more powerful than the other two
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9. Why is democracy referred to as self-government?

- A. The government runs itself.
 - B. People pay for the government themselves.
 - C. People choose representatives who make decisions.
 - D. The citizens are free to do whatever they want.
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10. Which of the following belong to all of the citizens of the United States and cannot be taken away?

- A. certain privileges
- B. driving a car
- C. individual rights
- D. going to college

Answer Key

1. B) The number of congressmen/women from each state depends on the population of the state.
2. D) Voting leads to putting new and different people in office.
3. C) executive, legislative, and judicial branches share the power.
4. D) to try and get the government to make changes
5. D) deciding that an act by the president is unconstitutional.
6. C) nominating a Supreme Court justice
7. D) You and your class start a school recycling program.
8. D) to keep one branch from becoming more powerful than the other two
9. C) People choose representatives who make decisions.
10. C) individual rights