

AP[®] U.S. Government and Politics Exam

SECTION I: Multiple-Choice Questions

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

At a Glance

Total Time

45 minutes

Number of Questions

60

Percent of Total Grade

50%

Writing Instrument

Pencil required

Instructions

Section I of this examination contains 60 multiple-choice questions. Fill in only the ovals for numbers 1 through 60 on your answer sheet.

Indicate all of your answers to the multiple-choice questions on the answer sheet. No credit will be given for anything written in this exam booklet, but you may use the booklet for notes or scratch work. After you have decided which of the suggested answers is best, completely fill in the corresponding oval on the answer sheet. Give only one answer to each question. If you change an answer, be sure that the previous mark is erased completely. Here is a sample question and answer.

Sample QuestionSample Answer

Chicago is a
(A) state
(B) city
(C) country
(D) continent
(E) village

(A) ● (C) (D) (E)

Use your time effectively, working as quickly as you can without losing accuracy. Do not spend too much time on any one question. Go on to other questions and come back to the ones you have not answered if you have time. It is not expected that everyone will know the answers to all the multiple-choice questions.

About Guessing

Many candidates wonder whether or not to guess the answers to questions about which they are not certain. Multiple choice scores are based on the number of questions answered correctly. Points are not deducted for incorrect answers, and no points are awarded for unanswered questions. Because points are not deducted for incorrect answer, you are encouraged to answer all multiple-choice questions. On any questions you do not know the answer to, you should eliminate as many choices as you can, and then select the best answer among the remaining choices.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section I

Time—45 minutes

60 Questions

Directions: Each of the questions of incomplete statements below is followed by five suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case and then fill in the corresponding oval on the answer sheet.

- The primary point of disagreement between Federalists and Anti-Federalists was over
 - whether representation in Congress should be equal among states or proportional to population
 - the strength of the federal government relative to the states
 - the future of the slave trade
 - whether people had inalienable rights
 - the future location of the nation's capital
- All of the following statements about gerrymandering are true EXCEPT that it
 - favors incumbent candidates over challengers
 - can divide like-minded voters into several districts to reduce their influence
 - has been allowed by the Supreme Court in some instances
 - increases the control voters have over their elected officials
 - can group members of a racial minority into a single district
- Federalism is a principle of government in which
 - power is shared between the national government and state governments
 - states have equal representation in the national government
 - individual liberties are guaranteed by a Bill of Rights
 - legislative, executive, and judicial powers are separated
 - states give their law-making powers over to the national government
- Which of the following is the best illustration of "pork barrel" legislation?
 - A federal agency is created to ensure the safety of food and animal products.
 - A bill can be passed only if a majority of Congresspersons from rural districts approve of it.
 - A senator refuses to vote for a tax increase without a corresponding decrease in spending.
 - A federal program provides free lunches to schoolchildren of low-income families.
 - A member of Congress inserts a provision into a bill to secure funding for a project in his or her district.
- An appointment to which of the following offices is NOT subject to confirmation by the U.S. Senate?
 - Securities and Exchange commissioner
 - Secretary of the Interior
 - White House Chief of Staff
 - Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
 - Chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
- The opposition of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL), and the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) to Samuel Alito's 2006 nomination to the Supreme Court is an example of
 - realignment
 - coalition building
 - impeachment
 - a recall election
 - a voter drive

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

7. Which of the following does the Supreme Court NOT have the power to override?
- (A) Constitutional amendments
 - (B) Presidential executive orders
 - (C) Laws passed by Congress
 - (D) Laws passed by state legislatures
 - (E) Decisions of state courts
8. Which of the following does NOT appear in the Constitution?
- (A) The Electoral College
 - (B) Political parties
 - (C) Separation of powers
 - (D) The term length for members of Congress
 - (E) Supremacy of the federal law over state law
9. Which of the following best describes the balance the Supreme Court has struck between the establishment clause and the free-exercise clause?
- (A) Freedom of speech is protected except in certain situations, such as yelling “fire” in a crowded theater.
 - (B) Once a church has been recognized by the federal government, its tax-exempt status can never be revoked.
 - (C) Once Congress has created an administrative agency, that agency can be dissolved only by a constitutional amendment.
 - (D) State-sponsored prayer during school hours is prohibited, but voluntary prayer by student groups before school is allowed.
 - (E) Religious freedom allows people to avoid paying taxes.
10. Which principle was established by the Supreme Court’s decision in *Marbury v. Madison*?
- (A) One man, one vote
 - (B) Separate but equal
 - (C) Judicial review
 - (D) Right to privacy
 - (E) Freedom of expression
11. Divided government frequently results in
- (A) reapportionment of voting districts
 - (B) amendments to the Constitution
 - (C) conflict between states and the federal government
 - (D) an expansion of executive power
 - (E) delays in the confirmation of those nominated to be ambassadors
12. In which of the following cases did the Supreme Court decision establish the “separate but equal” doctrine of state-sponsored racial segregation?
- (A) *Plessy v. Ferguson*
 - (B) *McCulloch v. Maryland*
 - (C) *Gibbons v. Ogden*
 - (D) *Brown v. Board of Education*
 - (E) *Gideon v. Wainwright*
13. Which of the following describes a core principle of the Constitution as it was written in 1787?
- (A) Direct democracy
 - (B) Checks and balances
 - (C) Equal representation
 - (D) Unitary government
 - (E) Universal suffrage
14. The legal principle that instructs judges to follow established precedent when deciding cases is commonly referred to as
- (A) *certiorari*
 - (B) *de jure*
 - (C) *ex post facto*
 - (D) *stare decisis*
 - (E) *de facto*
15. Federal election laws are designed to achieve all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) require disclosure of campaign donations
 - (B) prevent campaigns from issuing “attack” ads
 - (C) limit campaign contributions
 - (D) require disclosure of campaign expenditures
 - (E) provide public financing of presidential campaigns
16. Which of the following statements about the House of Representatives is true?
- (A) All revenue bills must originate in the Senate before moving to the House.
 - (B) Representation in the House is allocated equally among the states, while representation in the Senate is allocated proportional to population.
 - (C) The Speaker of the House wields less power than the president *pro tempore* of the Senate.
 - (D) The House allows for unlimited debate, while the Senate does not.
 - (E) The House has a Committee on Ways and Means, while the Senate does not.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Section I

17. According to the Constitution, who determines voter eligibility requirements?
- (A) The president
 - (B) Congress
 - (C) State legislatures
 - (D) Federal administrative agencies
 - (E) The Supreme Court
18. Which of the following is NOT part of the “iron triangles” that influence public policy-making?
- (A) House committees
 - (B) Senate committees
 - (C) The courts
 - (D) Bureaucratic agencies
 - (E) Interest groups
19. Which of the following is the most direct result of an electoral system with single-member districts?
- (A) Proliferation of many small parties
 - (B) A balance of power that favors the president over Congress
 - (C) A persistent third-party presence
 - (D) Development of a two-party system
 - (E) Elected officials who are more responsive to voter demands
20. Which of the following court decisions did NOT deal with the First Amendment?
- (A) *Roe v. Wade*
 - (B) *New York Times v. United States*
 - (C) *DeJonge v. Oregon*
 - (D) *Dennis v. United States*
 - (E) *Engel v. Vitale*
21. Which of the following statements about political action committees (PACs) is most accurate?
- (A) They may only campaign for issues, not for individual candidates
 - (B) Their activities are not regulated by the Federal Election Commission (FEC)
 - (C) Their activities are limited to national presidential elections
 - (D) They raise money to influence federal, state, and local elections
 - (E) They may not be formed by corporations, unions, or other special interest groups
22. Which of the following is NOT a way in which the powers of the executive branch are balanced by the legislative branch?
- (A) The Senate may use the filibuster to block an executive order.
 - (B) Congress may impeach and convict a president for “high crime and misdemeanors.”
 - (C) The Senate can decline to ratify a treaty.
 - (D) The Senate can decline to approve a president’s nominee for the Supreme Court.
 - (E) The Congress may refuse the president’s request to declare war.
23. The attorney general is the head of which of the following entities?
- (A) The Senate Judiciary Committee
 - (B) The Department of Justice
 - (C) The Department of State
 - (D) The Judge Advocate General’s Corps
 - (E) The Central Intelligence Agency
24. Which of the following is an example of an implied power of the Congress?
- (A) regulation of interstate commerce
 - (B) borrowing money on the credit of the United States
 - (C) oversight of executive branch agencies
 - (D) declarations of war
 - (E) establishment of a post office
25. If no presidential candidate receives a majority of the Electoral College vote, then who becomes the president?
- (A) The candidate who wins the popular national vote
 - (B) The incumbent vice president of the United States
 - (C) Whomever is selected by the United States Supreme Court
 - (D) The president *pro tempore* of the Senate
 - (E) The candidate who wins the majority of votes in the House

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

26. The No Child Left Behind Act, which established educational standards that states must meet to receive federal educational funding, is an example of which of the following?
- (A) A federal mandate
 - (B) A constitutional amendment
 - (C) Affirmative action
 - (D) Tort reform
 - (E) A government sponsored enterprise
27. Unlike in a closed primary election, in an open primary election
- (A) voters select the winner by caucus instead of by individual ballots
 - (B) the election results are not binding
 - (C) any registered voter may participate, regardless of party affiliation
 - (D) voters may register to vote on the day of the election
 - (E) voters may vote for more than one candidate
28. Political efficacy refers to the idea that
- (A) political parties can provide a check to the political influence wielded by corporations
 - (B) individuals believe that they can influence the government through participation in the democratic process
 - (C) the system of checks and balances ensures that the government is both efficient and productive
 - (D) politicians have a duty to inform their constituents about the democratic process
 - (E) government is most effective when the same party controls all three branches of government
29. An inherent power of the president is the power to
- (A) appoint a nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court
 - (B) negotiate a treaty with another country
 - (C) declare a state of emergency following a natural disaster
 - (D) veto a bill passed by the U.S. Congress
 - (E) appoint ambassadors while Congress is in recess
30. Which of the following is the most accurate statement about writs of *certiorari*?
- (A) Fewer than 5% of petitions for writs of *certiorari* are granted by the Supreme Court.
 - (B) The Supreme Court grants writs of *certiorari* only when there is a "circuit split."
 - (C) The lower court's ruling is overturned if the Supreme Court denies a writ of *certiorari*.
 - (D) Only the solicitor general may petition for a writ of *certiorari*.
 - (E) The attorney general may appeal a decision without petitioning for a writ of *certiorari*.
31. Which of the following statements best characterizes cooperative federalism?
- (A) The executive and legislative branches working on legislation together
 - (B) The federal government granting power over a policy area to the states
 - (C) Governments working with businesses to address an issue
 - (D) Many states working together to address a regional issue
 - (E) State and federal governments working on the same issue
32. Which of the following constitutional principles might be violated if the Environmental Protection Agency issued, enforced, and adjudicated all disputes regarding a new regulation?
- (A) Vertical federalism
 - (B) Due process of law
 - (C) Comity
 - (D) Equal protection of the laws
 - (E) Separation of powers
33. Which of the following is LEAST likely to explain low voter turnout for an election?
- (A) The preclearance provision of the Voting Rights Act
 - (B) Low levels of political efficacy among registered voters
 - (C) Regulations that require voters to show identification
 - (D) The frequency with which state and local elections occur
 - (E) The fact that elections are held on weekdays

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Section I

34. A “motion for cloture” is used to
- (A) send a bill back to the House
 - (B) override a presidential veto in the House
 - (C) amend an appropriations bill in the House
 - (D) end a filibuster and force a vote on a bill in the Senate
 - (E) block a vote on a presidential appointee in the Senate
35. Which of the following statements about presidential elections since 1972 is most accurate?
- (A) Voters increasingly get their information from newspapers.
 - (B) Voters have become more focused on individual candidates.
 - (C) Elections have become dominated by special interest groups.
 - (D) Voters increasingly vote based on a party’s platform.
 - (E) No candidate has won a majority of the popular vote.
36. The idea that the Bill of Rights applies to both federal and state governments by means of the Fourteenth Amendment is called
- (A) *mandamus*
 - (B) *habeas corpus*
 - (C) strict constructionism
 - (D) comity
 - (E) the doctrine of incorporation
37. Which of the following is the primary purpose of “motor voter” laws?
- (A) To increase turnout on election days
 - (B) To make it easier for citizens to register to vote
 - (C) To require that all voters know how to drive
 - (D) To establish voter identification laws
 - (E) To automatically register all licensed drivers to vote
38. Why has network news coverage become less diverse in recent years?
- (A) Increasing liberal bias in the news media
 - (B) Increasing visibility for individual candidates on TV
 - (C) Increasing concentration of ownership in the news media
 - (D) Decreasing cost of political ads on TV
 - (E) Decreasing cost of newspapers

39. Which of the following is true of appellate courts?
- (A) Appellate judges never use the *stare decisis* principle.
 - (B) Appellate trials are usually jury trials.
 - (C) Appellate judges usually decide the facts of a case.
 - (D) About 90% of appellate cases involve criminal law.
 - (E) Appellate judges review decisions of lower courts.

Opinions on Support for Congressional Gun Control Measures

Region	Men		Women	
	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
Northeast	56%	33%	58%	33%
Midwest	41%	48%	39%	49%
South	31%	56%	31%	57%
West	65%	26%	64%	27%

40. The preceding table most clearly shows a large difference of opinion based on
- (A) gender
 - (B) region
 - (C) age
 - (D) income
 - (E) race
41. Which of the following has the Supreme Court held about the death penalty?
- (A) The death penalty may only be imposed upon citizens.
 - (B) Under some circumstances, the death penalty may not violate the Eighth Amendment.
 - (C) Under some circumstances, the death penalty may violate the Third Amendment.
 - (D) States may execute any adult regardless of intellectual disability.
 - (E) The death penalty may only be imposed upon men.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

42. Which of the following is an example of devolution?
- (A) Allowing states to decide how to meet federally mandated greenhouse gas emissions targets
 - (B) A “race to the bottom” in which states compete with each other to have the fewest environmental regulations
 - (C) A state that legalizes marijuana possession in conflict with federal law
 - (D) A state being prevented from implementing a fuel efficiency standard that is more stringent than that set by the federal government
 - (E) The federal government establishing a requirement that a state increase its drinking age to 21 in order to receive federal highway funding
43. An example of a categorical grant would be
- (A) money loaned by the federal government to cities to fund school maintenance
 - (B) money given by the federal government to states without conditions
 - (C) money loaned by the federal government to a private company to prevent it from failing
 - (D) money given by the federal government to states to fund Head Start early education programs
 - (E) tax deductions given by the federal government to private citizens who buy fuel efficient automobiles
44. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 has had which of the following effects?
- (A) States have been prohibited from establishing voter identification requirements.
 - (B) Voters must now pass literacy tests before voting.
 - (C) Voting participation for racial minority voters has increased.
 - (D) The voting age was lowered from 21 to 18.
 - (E) It overturned *Plessy v. Ferguson*.
45. Which of the following has been true of the Republican Party since the 1980s?
- (A) It has become aligned with civil libertarians.
 - (B) It has come to be dominated by labor unions.
 - (C) It has become more antagonistic to business interests.
 - (D) Its membership has come to include environmental activists.
 - (E) It has become more influenced by evangelical Christians.
46. Legislative oversight occurs when
- (A) congressional committees investigate and evaluate the performance of executive agencies and departments
 - (B) a court is unwilling to break with precedent to overturn legislative acts
 - (C) the Supreme Court declares laws or executive actions unconstitutional
 - (D) an amendment to a bill is proposed that softens more objectionable elements of the bill
 - (E) a bill passes both the Senate and the House of Representatives with at least a two-thirds majority

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

INDEPENDENT VOTERS AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (1980-2012)

Percent of Independents Voting for Candidates, by Party

	2012	2008	2004	2000	1996	1992	1988	1984	1980
Democratic	42.3	51.1	52.4	44.3	48.7	39.2	42.6	33.0	29.8
Republican	50.1	48.5	47.5	48.6	33.4	30.4	57.1	66.5	55.2

Percent of Popular Vote Won, by Party
(Incumbents' results in *italics*)

	2012	2008	2004	2000	1996	1992	1988	1984	1980
Democratic	<i>51.1</i>	52.9	48.3	48.4	49.2	40.3	45.7	40.6	<i>41.0</i>
Republican	47.2	45.7	<i>50.7</i>	47.9	40.7	37.5	53.4	<i>58.8</i>	50.8
Other	*	*	*	*	8.4	18.9	*	*	6.6

*No third-party candidate won more than 5% of the popular vote in these elections.

47. The table above supports which of the following statements about independent voters during presidential elections?
- (A) Independent voters are more likely to support the incumbent when the incumbent is a Democrat.
 - (B) Until 2000, the independent vote generally aligned with the popular vote.
 - (C) The unpredictability of the independent voters is why politicians do not try to attract independent voters.
 - (D) Republicans have won a plurality of independent votes whenever there was a viable third-party candidate.
 - (E) The Republican Party would earn more votes if there were not independent voters.
48. The origination clause of the Constitution states that
- (A) the Bill of Rights must not be infringed upon by any state legislature
 - (B) Congress and the president must jointly create the annual federal budget
 - (C) revenue bills must be initiated in the House of Representatives
 - (D) the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction over all constitutional matters
 - (E) international treaties are to be written by the president
49. How many votes in the Senate must a presidential nominee to the Supreme Court receive in order to be confirmed?
- (A) Forty percent
 - (B) Fifty-one percent
 - (C) Fifty-five percent
 - (D) Sixty percent
 - (E) Seventy-five percent
50. Federal judges are subject to which of the following disciplinary actions?
- (A) Impeachment, conviction, and removal from office by Congress
 - (B) Removal from office by the appointing President
 - (C) Removal from office by the president-elect
 - (D) Recall elections by citizens residing in the district over which the judge has jurisdiction
 - (E) Establishment of an arbitrary term limit
51. Which of the following statements about interest groups is accurate?
- (A) They don't use campaign funding as a tactic to win favor with legislators.
 - (B) They are more successful when their members all belong to the same political party.
 - (C) They rarely cover issues that appeal to residents of more than one state.
 - (D) They focus most of their lobbying efforts on state legislators.
 - (E) They generally are not focused on appealing to a broad group of people.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

52. Which of the following statements is true regarding delegates to presidential nomination conventions?
- (A) Delegates are generally more likely to register as third party voters at some point.
 - (B) The majority of the general population is more educated than are delegates.
 - (C) Delegates typically have little interest in politics.
 - (D) Typically, the general population is less ideological than are delegates.
 - (E) Usually, the general population is wealthier than are delegates.
53. What power was granted to the states by the Articles of Confederation but not by the Constitution?
- (A) Coining money
 - (B) Authorizing constitutional amendments
 - (C) Having representation in Congress
 - (D) Appealing to the president to adjudicate disputes
 - (E) Levying taxes
54. Which of the following categories of spending are paid without an appropriations bill?
- (A) Department of Education special acts and authorizations
 - (B) Justice department budgets
 - (C) Federal budget entitlements
 - (D) Department of Defense funding
 - (E) Housing and Urban development assistance
55. According to *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), which of the following amendments was violated by the “separate but equal” doctrine that had been established in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)?
- (A) First Amendment
 - (B) Sixth Amendment
 - (C) Ninth Amendment
 - (D) Thirteenth Amendment
 - (E) Fourteenth Amendment
56. Which of the following best predicts how someone will vote in an election?
- (A) The voter’s gender
 - (B) The voter’s political party affiliation
 - (C) The voter’s socioeconomic status
 - (D) The voter’s religion
 - (E) Where the voter lives

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

PARTY AFFILIATION IN THE UNITED STATES BASED ON EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Highest Level of Educational Attainment	Males		Females	
	Republicans	Democrats	Republicans	Democrats
Grade School	12%	85%	13%	87%
High School Diploma	13%	80%	21%	72%
Vocational Degree	24%	72%	28%	58%
College Degree	36%	64%	36%	52%
Master's Degree	49%	51%	30%	61%
Doctoral Degree	56%	34%	19%	70%

57. All of the following can be inferred from the table above EXCEPT:
- (A) Men who have attained a vocational degree are more likely to identify as Republicans than are those with only a high school diploma.
 - (B) Men who have attained a doctoral degree are more likely to identify as Democrats than are those with only a college degree.
 - (C) Women who have completed grade school and men who have attained a high school diploma are equally likely to identify as Republicans.
 - (D) Men who have attained a Master's degree are less likely to identify as Republicans than they are to identify as Democrats.
 - (E) Women who have attained a vocational degree are more likely to identify as Republicans than are men who have attained a vocational degree.
58. Which of the following would occur if Congress were to pass legislation and declare a recess, and the president took no action on the bill within ten days of its passage?
- (A) A line-item veto
 - (B) A pocket veto
 - (C) An adjournment
 - (D) A writ of *certiorari*
 - (E) Senatorial courtesy
59. Which of the following is not a special position held by a member of Congress?
- (A) President *pro tempore*
 - (B) Speaker of the House
 - (C) Congressional Management Foundation Chair
 - (D) Minority Whip
 - (E) Democratic Caucus Chairman
60. Interest groups are barred from taking part in which of the following activities?
- (A) Sending lawmakers to educational seminars
 - (B) Giving tangible gifts to lawmakers
 - (C) Providing research to government officials
 - (D) Staging protests and boycotts
 - (E) Filing lawsuits in federal courts

END OF SECTION I

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. Spend approximately one-fourth of your time (25 minutes) on each question. Illustrate your essay with substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

1. The framers of the U.S. Constitution created the American government to hinder any single faction from becoming too powerful. As a result, government power and responsibility divides many ways. One of these ways is through federalism, in which the national government has some powers, state governments have other powers, called reserved powers, and many powers are shared. While the framers' conception of division of power remains largely intact, the common source of the government power is the participation of citizens. Since the eighteenth century, some amendments to the U.S. Constitution increase opportunities for political participation by citizens.
 - (a) Identify one power the U.S. Constitution expressly gives to the national government, but denies state governments.
 - (b) Powers neither specifically granted to the federal government nor denied to state governments are reserved to the states by the Tenth Amendment. Identify one reserved power.
 - (c) Identify two constitutional amendments that increased opportunities for political participation by citizens and explain how these amendments increased participation.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

2. Citizens' personal characteristics play a large role in determining their political ideologies and attitudes.

- (a) Define political ideology.
- (b) Identify the political ideology commonly associated with the Democratic Party and describe one belief commonly held by people with that ideology.
- (c) Identify the political ideology commonly associated with the Republican Party and describe one belief commonly held by people with that ideology.
- (d) Choose two of the following factors and describe how each factor you choose influences people's ideology and political attitudes:
 - Race/ethnicity
 - Gender
 - Income level

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Section II

3. The political party that controls the majority is able to exert great influence on the legislative process. However, there are limits to the power exerted by the party in power.

(a) Explain how each of the following gives the majority party an advantage in the legislative process.

- Speaker of the House selection
- Control of the Rules Committee
- Germaneness requirement

(b) Explain how each of the following limits the power of the majority party in the Senate legislative process.

- Filibuster
- Senatorial hold
- Rider

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

From Where Do Americans Receive the News?

Percent of respondents who receive news from only traditional media (Television, radio, and/or print newspapers)

Age	2010	2012
18-24	21%	11%
25-29	32%	20%
30-39	27%	22%
40-49	40%	24%
50-64	46%	42%
65 and older	62%	60%

Source: Pew Research Center

4. News media play an important role in shaping public debate.

(a) Define the following terms.

- Public opinion
- Policy agenda

(b) Explain how the news media affect the policy agenda.

(c) Refer to the table above.

- Describe the difference in news consumption between those 18 to 24 years old and those 65 and older.
- Describe the change in news consumption among all age groups from 2010 to 2012.

END OF EXAMINATION