

ANSWER KEY
Comparative Politics Test # 1: CP Concepts and US

1. In comparative politics the 'state' is defined as: ***D. the political institutions in a country that are responsible for making, implementing, enforcing and adjudicating important policies for the country.***
2. The American system does not conform terribly well to the "Responsible Party Model" because: ***D. Separation of powers and divided government hinders parties from implementing policies once elected***
3. Immediately prior to the establishment of our current constitution, the United States was governed under: ***A. The Articles of Confederation***
4. Which of the following is TRUE regarding political culture? ***E. Both A and C***
 - a. Political culture develops through socialization and collective national experience (history)
 - c. Political culture can be rapidly transformed by major historical events (i.e., 9-11)
5. Duverger's Law specifies: ***D. Proportional representation elections lead to multiparty systems***
6. ***FALSE*** -- All major democracies have a system of judicial review similar to the US.
7. President Obama nominated Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court, but the Senate had to approve her before she could take the position. This is an example of: ***A. Checks and balances***
8. Which of the following is NOT TRUE about nations? ***B. All nations have their own state***
9. Of the states examined in this course, which has the largest total land area? ***D. Russia***
10. A method of comparing income across countries that takes variations in the cost of living in different places into account is known as ***B. purchasing power parity (PPP)***
11. Which of the following is NOT one of the elements of the "American Creed" (i.e., the core elements of American political culture)? ***B. An overwhelming desire for the government to undertake redistributive policies***
12. ***FALSE*** -- A constitution is defined solely as the document that founded a country's government.
13. In an area like Northern Ireland, divisions in terms of class, religion, ethnicity, politics, etc. tend to separate the same groups of people on each and every issue (i.e., if you are Catholic you are likely to be lower class, think of yourself as Irish, etc.). This phenomenon is known as: ***D. Polarizing Cleavages***

14. In the United States, divided government refers to the period
B. in which a member of one party controls the presidency and members of the other party control at least one branch of government.
15. In attempting to establish a governmental system of limited but effective government, which of the following was NOT one of the key elements included by the Framers in the original Constitution? ***D. Authority for the Supreme Court to undertake judicial review***
16. An estimate of a country's total economic output in a given year is referred to as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Gross National Income [GNI] was also acceptable)
17. Of the states examined in this course, which has the highest GDP per capita (PPP)?
A. United States
18. ***FALSE*** -- The current government in Iraq, elected by a free and fair national vote, would best be described as a consolidated democracy.
19. Of the states examined in this course, which scored best on the International Corruption Perceptions Index? ***B. Great Britain***
20. ***TRUE*** -- 'Iron Triangles' refer to the relationships of mutual support developed by government agencies, members of Congress, and interest groups in various policy areas.
21. *Marbury v. Madison*
C. established the principal of judicial review of the Constitutionality of federal laws.
22. For most Americans, the issue of socio-economic class is perceived:
B. subjectively with most Americans thinking of themselves as middle class
23. Political scientists examine the political realm using the scientific method, but are less successful than those in the natural sciences in producing reliable findings. Why is that?
E. both A and C
a. human free will renders the subject matter inherently unpredictable
c. it is difficult to isolate the causal influence of individual variables on political outcomes
24. In an electoral system using proportional representation: ***D. seats in the legislature are distributed in proportion to the percentage of votes a party receives***
25. The key distinguishing trait of a parliamentary system is: ***A. A fusion between the executive and legislative branches***
26. ***FALSE*** -- An ethnocentric bias refers to the tendency of some political scientists to see ethnic divisions as the key explanatory variable to nearly all political conflicts.
27. One of the major reasons that political science is unable to develop consistent causal theories compared to the natural sciences is:
c. the inability to employ control variables in order to test hypotheses

28. **FALSE** -- Unlike a parliamentary system where the prime minister is voted into office by the legislature, the US president is directly elected by the votes of the American people. [*Electoral College!!!*]

29. The US Department of Education provides some financing and guidance for schools, public education is primarily a state and local responsibility. This is an example of:

b. federalism

30. **TRUE**– The Democrats and Republicans have dominated American politics since the 1850s and are likely to continue to do so because the single-member plurality electoral system used in the US favors a two-party system.

EXTRA CREDIT: "Rewarding pointless knowledge since 2000"

A. What are the **CAPITALS** of the two countries that share land borders with the United States? You only get the point get them **BOTH** right!!

The capital of Mexico is **MEXICO CITY**

The capital of Canada is **OTTAWA** (not 'Canada City')