

Civil Service

FSOT
Foreign Service Officer Test



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Question: 1

Which word is best defined as the unlimited power to govern?

- A. Oligarchy
- B. Communism
- C. Absolutism
- D. Patriarchy

Answer: C

Explanation:

In absolutism, the ruler is sovereign. Kings often said that they governed by divine right and were responsible to only God. Patriarchy is a social organization where descent follows the male line. An oligarchy is a small group of people who control a government. Communism is where a communist party holds power alone.

Question: 2

How many Federal Reserve banks are in the United States?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 12
- D. 27

Answer: C

Explanation:

There are Federal Reserve banks in (1) Boston; (2) New York; (3) Philadelphia; (4) Cleveland; (5) Richmond; (6) Atlanta; (7) Chicago; (8) St. Louis; (9) Minneapolis; (10) Dallas; (11) Kansas City; and (12) San Francisco.

Question: 3

Which phrase, coined during the Cold War, best describes a First World country?

- A. A stateless nation
- B. An impoverished and unstable country
- C. An industrialized but not democratic country
- D. An industrial democracy

Answer: D

Explanation:

A stateless nation is one that wants statehood but does not have it (Kurds in the Middle East). An industrialized but not democratic country is how a Second World country is usually described. An impoverished and unstable country is a description of a Third World country.

Question: 4

In 2002, President George W. Bush cited certain countries as being part of an "axis of evil." Which country was NOT part of that description?

- A. Iran
- B. Iraq
- C. North Korea
- D. Afghanistan

Answer: D

Explanation:

In 2002, the United States was involved with nation building in Afghanistan.

Question: 5

What was the Patriot Act created to confront and work against?

- A. Terrorism
- B. Weapons of mass destruction
- C. Free trade
- D. Global warming

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Patriot Act was specifically formed to combat terrorism.

Question: 6

Which freedom is NOT covered by the First Amendment to the Constitution?

- A. Freedom of the press
- B. Freedom from cruel and unusual punishment
- C. Freedom of assembly
- D. Freedom to petition the government

Answer: B

Explanation:

The First Amendment covers freedom of the press, petitioning the government, and assembling peacefully. "Cruel and unusual punishment" is covered in the Eighth Amendment.

Question: 7

Which amendment guarantees a speedy trial in the United States?

- A. Fourth Amendment
- B. Sixth Amendment
- C. Eighth Amendment
- D. Fourteenth Amendment

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Fourth Amendment outlaws unreasonable search and seizure. The Eighth Amendment protects against excessive bail. The Fourteenth Amendment states the rights of citizenship.

Question: 8

Which is a phrase used to describe irresponsible and inflammatory reporting by the press?

- A. Propaganda
- B. Penny press
- C. Free speech
- D. Yellow journalism

Answer: D

Explanation:

Free speech means that people can generally say what they want to. Propaganda is misinformation and half-truths about something. "Penny press" is the phrase used to describe the early newspapers published in the United States.

Question: 9

How long is the elected term for a member of the Senate?

- A. 3 years
- B. 4 years
- C. 5 years

D. 6 years

Answer: D

Explanation:
Senators are elected for a term of 6 years.

Question: 10

What is a term used for a person who flees a nation for political freedom?

- A. Prisoner of war
- B. Nonresident alien
- C. Immigrant
- D. Refugee

Answer: D

Explanation:
Although an immigrant or a nonresident alien can be a refugee, the term for people who flee for political reasons is "refugee."

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