1. Functions of the Texas legislature include all of the following, except
   a. enacting legislation.
   b. proposing constitutional amendments.
   c. appointing state judges.
   d. removing executive and judicial officials.

2. The number of senators in the Texas legislature is
   a. 31.
   b. 40.
   c. 150.
   d. 400.

3. The Texas legislature is __________, meaning that it is composed of two chambers.
   a. unicameral
   b. bicameral
   c. bilateral
   d. unitary

4. The Texas House of Representatives consists of __________ members.
   a. 31
   b. 55
   c. 150
   d. 400

5. Legislative redistricting for both houses in Texas routinely occurs
   a. every even-numbered years.
   b. every odd-numbered years.
   c. the first odd-numbered year in a decade.
   d. the first even-numbered year in a decade.

6. Which of the following is true of members of the Texas Senate?
   a. They usually serve terms of two years with no term limits.
   b. They usually serve terms of two years with a limit of 3 terms.
   c. They usually serve terms of four years with no term limits.
   d. They usually serve terms of four years with a limit of 3 terms.

7. Which of the following is true of members of the Texas House of Representatives?
   a. They serve terms of four years and are limited to 3 terms.
   b. They serve terms of four years with no term limits.
   c. They serve terms of two years and are limited to 3 terms.
   d. They serve terms of two year terms with no term limits.

8. A vacancy in the Texas House or Senate arising during a term is filled by
   a. the chamber’s presiding officer.
   b. the Legislative Redistricting Board.
   c. a special election.
   d. governor’s appointment.

9. Regular sessions of the Texas legislature meet for
   a. 140 days, in odd-numbered years.
   b. 150 days, every single year.
   c. 140 days in even-numbered years.
   d. 150 days, every four years.
10. Which of the following is not true regarding special sessions of the Texas legislature?
   a. They may only meet for 30 days.
   b. They have their agenda set by the governor.
   c. They may only be called by the governor.
   d. They are limited to three per year.

11. The redistricting practice of drawing legislative districts to favor one group or party is called
   a. electioneering.
   b. packing.
   c. gerrymandering.
   d. filibustering.

12. The U.S. Supreme Court found in Reynolds v. Sims (1964) that
   a. legislative districts of bicameral state legislatures must have substantially equal populations.
   b. only the lower house of state legislatures must have substantially equal populations.
   c. all states must have bicameral legislatures.
   d. some term limits for members of Congress violates the U.S. Constitution.

13. Under the Texas Constitution, those serving in the Texas legislature
   a. cannot hold another government office.
   b. are able to hold more than one government office.
   c. can be paid by another governmental entity.
   d. cannot earn money from private sector sources.

14. Which of the following groups dominates the membership of the Texas legislature?
   a. Anglo Protestant men
   b. Hispanic Catholic men
   c. African American Protestant men
   d. Anglo Catholic women

15. Educationally, most members of the Texas legislature have
   a. attended institutions of higher learning.
   b. only completed high school.
   c. received post-graduate degrees.
   d. attended private, not public school.

16. Republican membership in the Texas legislature has
   a. remained at about the same level since 1961.
   b. tended to be elected from major cities.
   c. constituted a majority in both chambers since 2003.
   d. been mainly due to the support of Latino voters.

17. Compared to legislators in other states, those in Texas receive
   a. low pay, low allowances, and meager retirements.
   b. average pay, high allowances, and meager retirements.
   c. low pay, reasonable allowances, and generous retirements.
   d. high pay, low allowances, and generous retirements.

18. The lieutenant governor also functions as the state’s
   a. Speaker of the House.
   b. adjutant general.
c. president of the Senate.
d. attorney general.

19. Which of the following is not true regarding the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives?
a. He or she is selected by direct popular vote in a general election.
b. He or she may appoint all committee chairs.
c. He or she refers all bills to standing committees.
d. He or she is the joint chair of the Legislative Budget Board.

20. In the Texas House, a committee that considers legislation and recommends whether it should or should not pass is called a(n)
a. procedural committee.
b. substantive (standing) committee.
c. interim committee.
d. joint (two-house) committee.

21. The “farm-to-table” caucus is described as a bipartisan caucus because its members include legislators
a. from both the Democratic and Republican Parties.
b. with both conservative and libertarian ideologies.
c. from different racial and ethnic groups.
d. from both rural and urban areas.

22. When an amendment to the U.S. Constitution is proposed by Congress, the Texas legislature may vote for ratification using
a. simple resolution passed by a two-thirds vote in both chambers.
b. joint resolution requiring a simple majority vote in each body.
c. joint resolution passed by both houses and a popular referendum.
d. concurrent resolution passed by a three-fifths vote and signed by the governor.

23. A bill making exception to general law for a named individual is known as a
a. concurrent resolution.
b. special bill.
c. general bill.
d. local bill.

24. To enact a law applying specifically to Collin county, the Texas legislature would pass a
a. special bill.
b. local bill.
c. joint resolution.
d. concurrent resolution.

25. The primary function of the state auditor is to
a. determine if there are sufficient funds to pay legislative appropriations.
b. determine if state funds have been spent by the state agencies in accordance with law.
c. determine how state revenues are to be invested.
d. authorize the payment from the Treasury to all persons with claims against the state.

26. The legislature may require reports from state agencies under a procedure known as
a. auditing.
b. consultation.
c. oversight.
d. gerrymandering.
27. Before making an appointment, the governor is expected to consult with the senator of an affected district, a process called senatorial
   a. filibuster.
   b. privilege.
   c. immunity.
   d. courtesy.

28. Most of the governor’s board and commission appointments to head state agencies must be submitted and approved by
   a. at least two-thirds of the Senate.
   b. the relevant Senate committee.
   c. a majority of the House of Representatives.
   d. at least a simple majority vote of the senators.

29. If a governor or other elected executive official is suspected of criminal activity,
   a. the Texas House may bring charges through impeachment, after which the Texas Senate would render judgment.
   b. the Texas Senate may bring charges through impeachment, after which the Texas House would render judgment.
   c. the Texas Rangers may bring charges through impeachment, after which the Texas Supreme Court would render judgment.
   d. the Texas Ethics Commission may bring charges through impeachment, after which the Texas Senate would render judgment.

30. After its first reading in the House of Representatives, a bill is
   a. debated and voted upon.
   b. referred to the appropriate committee.
   c. forwarded to the Senate for its action.
   d. referred to the House Rules Committee.

31. House rules prohibit ghost voting, a practice which involves representatives
   a. scaring another representative into voting their way.
   b. pressing the voting button for another representative.
   c. having a senator vote for them.
   d. not voting when present in the chamber.

32. A senator can attempt to delay or impede a bill’s passage by speaking on the floor as long as physically possible, which is called
   a. filibustering.
   b. gerrymandering.
   c. invoking cloture.
   d. senatorial privilege.

33. If the governor vetoes a bill after the legislature has adjourned,
   a. the bill will die and cannot be overridden.
   b. the bill may go to a House-Senate conference committee.
   c. the legislature will call itself into an override session.
   d. the bill will go on a referendum override ballot.
Texas Legislature
Answer Section

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. ANS: C  PTS: 1
2. ANS: A  PTS: 1
3. ANS: B  PTS: 1
4. ANS: C  PTS: 1
5. ANS: C  PTS: 1
6. ANS: C  PTS: 1
7. ANS: D  PTS: 1
8. ANS: C  PTS: 1
9. ANS: A  PTS: 1
10. ANS: D  PTS: 1
11. ANS: C  PTS: 1
12. ANS: A  PTS: 1
13. ANS: A  PTS: 1
14. ANS: A  PTS: 1
15. ANS: A  PTS: 1
16. ANS: C  PTS: 1
17. ANS: C  PTS: 1
18. ANS: C  PTS: 1
19. ANS: A  PTS: 1
20. ANS: B  PTS: 1
21. ANS: A  PTS: 1
22. ANS: B  PTS: 1
23. ANS: B  PTS: 1
24. ANS: B  PTS: 1
25. ANS: B  PTS: 1
26. ANS: C  PTS: 1
27. ANS: D  PTS: 1
28. ANS: A  PTS: 1
29. ANS: A  PTS: 1
30. ANS: B  PTS: 1
31. ANS: B  PTS: 1
32. ANS: A  PTS: 1
33. ANS: A  PTS: 1