

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
- filibuster.
 - privilege.
 - immunity.
 - courtesy.
28. Most of the governor's board and commission appointments to head state agencies must be submitted and approved by
- at least two-thirds of the Senate.
 - the relevant Senate committee.
 - a majority of the House of Representatives.
 - at least a simple majority vote of the senators.
29. If a governor or other elected executive official is suspected of criminal activity,
- the Texas House may bring charges through impeachment, after which the Texas Senate would render judgment.
 - the Texas Senate may bring charges through impeachment, after which the Texas House would render judgment.
 - the Texas Rangers may bring charges through impeachment, after which the Texas Supreme Court would render judgment.
 - 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
- debated and voted upon.
 - referred to the appropriate committee.
 - forwarded to the Senate for its action.
 - referred to the House Rules Committee.
31. House rules prohibit ghost voting, a practice which involves representatives
- scaring another representative into voting their way.
 - pressing the voting button for another representative.
 - having a senator vote for them.
 - 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
- filibustering.
 - gerrymandering.
 - invoking cloture.
 - senatorial privilege.
33. If the governor vetoes a bill after the legislature has adjourned,
- the bill will die and cannot be overridden.
 - the bill may go to a House-Senate conference committee.
 - the legislature will call itself into an override session.
 - 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