

SHS 1 Government Objectives

Section 3: Constitutionalism and Organs of Government

Instructions: Choose the most appropriate answer for each question.

1. A newly elected president decides to ignore the constitution and rule by personal decree because they believe it is more efficient. This action directly violates the principle of...
 - A. Constitutionalism.
 - B. The Executive.
 - C. The Judiciary.
 - D. A written constitution.
2. The primary purpose of having a constitution in a state is to...
 - A. list the names of all citizens.
 - B. ensure one political party stays in power forever.
 - C. provide a framework for governance and limit the powers of the government.
 - D. describe the country's geography.
3. A country's fundamental laws are compiled into a single, formal document that requires a special, difficult process to be amended. This country has a...
 - A. unwritten and flexible constitution.
 - B. written and rigid constitution.
 - C. system of constitutionalism.
 - D. parliamentary system.
4. A key advantage of a written constitution is that it...
 - A. can be changed easily by the ruling party.
 - B. provides clear, stable, and transparent rules for governance.
 - C. is less expensive to create.
 - D. allows the government to have unlimited power.
5. A country with an unwritten constitution, like the UK, can adapt its governing principles to new societal challenges more quickly than a country with a written one. This highlights the primary advantage of an unwritten constitution, which is its...
 - A. Rigidity.
 - B. Clarity.
 - C. Flexibility.
 - D. Entrenchment.
6. A government is prevented from passing a law that violates citizens' freedom of speech because the constitution forbids it. This is a practical application of...
 - A. the executive's power.
 - B. constitutionalism.
 - C. an unwritten constitution.
 - D. the judiciary's structure.
7. The main risk associated with an unwritten constitution is that...
 - A. it is too difficult to understand.
 - B. it offers weaker protection against the abuse of government power.
 - C. it cannot be changed or updated.
 - D. it is only suitable for small countries.
8. The term "entrenched" when referring to a written constitution means that its provisions...
 - A. are temporary and change with every new government.
 - B. are deliberately made difficult to amend or change.
 - C. apply only to the legislature.
 - D. are kept secret from the public.
9. In a presidential system, the president is accountable to...
 - A. the legislature, which can dismiss them with a vote of no confidence.
 - B. the judiciary, which appoints them.
 - C. the people, who directly elect them for a fixed term.
 - D. the head of the civil service.
10. A key feature of a parliamentary system is that the Head of Government (Prime Minister)...
 - A. is directly elected by the people in a separate election.
 - B. is the leader of the majority party or coalition in the legislature.
 - C. serves a fixed term and cannot be removed by the legislature.
 - D. is also the Head of State.
11. "Deadlock" is more likely to occur in a presidential system than a parliamentary system when...
 - A. the president and the legislature are from the same political party.
 - B. the president and the legislature are from different political parties.
 - C. the judiciary is weak.
 - D. the constitution is unwritten.
12. In the United Kingdom, the King is the Head of State, while the Prime Minister is the Head of Government. This division of roles is a characteristic of a...
 - A. Presidential system.
 - B. Hybrid system.
 - C. Parliamentary system.
 - D. Unicameral legislature.
13. The ability of the legislature to remove a government with a "vote of no confidence" is a key accountability mechanism in which system?
 - A. Presidential
 - B. Judicial
 - C. Parliamentary
 - D. Unicameral
14. Ghana's system of government is considered a "hybrid" because...
 - A. it has no constitution.
 - B. it combines features of both presidential and parliamentary systems.
 - C. the judiciary has more power than the other branches.
 - D. it is ruled by a monarch.

15. The President of Ghana must appoint the majority of ministers from Parliament. This feature is borrowed from which system?
- Presidential
 - Parliamentary
 - Judicial
 - Unicameral
16. One of the main reasons Ghana adopted a hybrid system was to...
- create a more powerful executive with no checks.
 - balance power between the executive and legislature to ensure stability.
 - make the process of changing the constitution easier.
 - eliminate the role of the judiciary.
17. In a pure presidential system, a cabinet minister is typically...
- also a member of the legislature.
 - not a member of the legislature.
 - appointed by the judiciary.
 - the leader of the opposition party.
18. A major advantage of the presidential system is...
- the flexibility to change leaders at any time.
 - the fusion of executive and legislative powers.
 - the stability provided by a fixed term of office for the president.
 - the supremacy of the legislature.
19. The "political arm" of the executive is responsible for making policy decisions, while the "administrative arm" (civil service) is responsible for...
- making laws.
 - interpreting laws.
 - implementing those policies.
 - electing the president.
20. If a Prime Minister's party loses its majority in parliament, they may be forced to resign. This highlights the parliamentary system's...
- rigidity.
 - direct accountability to voters.
 - dependence on the confidence of the legislature.
 - clear separation of powers.
21. A body of elected representatives is tasked with debating and passing a new education bill. This body is performing the primary function of...
- the Executive.
 - the Judiciary.
 - the Legislature.
 - the Civil Service.
22. A political analyst notes that in Country X, laws are passed very quickly, but there is a concern that they are not thoroughly reviewed for potential flaws. This situation is a common characteristic of which legislative structure?
- Bicameral legislature
 - Unicameral legislature
 - Hybrid system
 - Federal system
23. A key advantage of a bicameral legislature is that it...
- is less expensive to operate.
 - allows for a more thorough review and debate of proposed laws.
 - makes the law-making process much faster.
 - concentrates all power in one single body.
24. Ghana's Parliament is an example of a...
- Bicameral legislature.
 - Unicameral legislature.
 - Hybrid legislature.
 - Judicial body.
25. The function of the legislature that involves monitoring the actions of the executive branch is known as...
- Representation.
 - Law making.
 - Oversight.
 - Budgeting.
26. In a bicameral system like the USA, the two houses (the House of Representatives and the Senate) provide...
- a faster legislative process.
 - a system of checks and balances within the legislature itself.
 - a weaker form of representation.
 - a direct role for the president in law-making.
27. A potential disadvantage of a unicameral legislature is that it...
- is too slow and inefficient.
 - may pass hasty or poorly considered laws due to a lack of review.
 - is more expensive to maintain.
 - does not represent the people.
28. When a Member of Parliament raises an issue affecting their constituency, such as the need for a new school, they are performing their function of...
- Oversight.
 - Ratification.
 - Representation.
 - Impeachment.
29. A bill can only become a law after it is debated and approved by the legislative body. This process ensures that laws are...
- made in secret.
 - subject to public and representative scrutiny.
 - only beneficial to the executive.
 - never changed or amended.
30. The existence of an upper and a lower house in a bicameral legislature is often designed to...
- represent different interests, such as population and regional equality.
 - ensure that one party controls both houses.
 - speed up the process of passing laws.
 - give the executive more control over law-making.

31. A unicameral system is often considered more efficient and less expensive, making it a suitable choice for...

- A. large federal countries with diverse regions.
- B. smaller, unitary states with more homogenous populations.
- C. countries with a presidential system only.
- D. countries with an unwritten constitution only.

32. If the legislature refuses to approve the national budget proposed by the executive, it is exercising its...

- A. law-making power.
- B. oversight and budgeting functions.
- C. representative function.
- D. judicial function.

33. The branch of government that settles a legal dispute between two citizens is performing the primary role of...

- A. the Legislature.
- B. the Executive.
- C. the Judiciary.
- D. the Civil Service.

34. For the judiciary to function effectively and fairly, it must be...

- A. controlled by the executive branch.
- B. independent of political influence.
- C. made up of members of the ruling party.
- D. able to create its own laws.

35. The highest court in Ghana, which has the final say on legal matters and interprets the constitution, is the...

- A. High Court.
- B. Court of Appeal.
- C. Supreme Court.
- D. District Court.

36. A person charged with a minor offense like a traffic violation would first appear in which court?

- A. The Supreme Court
- B. The Court of Appeal
- C. The High Court
- D. The District Court

37. The principle that a judge should have no personal or financial interest in the outcome of a case they are hearing is known as...

- A. Independence.
- B. Impartiality.
- C. Interpretation.
- D. Implementation.

38. If a citizen believes a new law passed by Parliament violates their constitutional rights, which branch of government would have the final authority to decide the matter?

- A. The Executive
- B. The Legislature
- C. The Judiciary
- D. The Civil Service

39. A case involving a 15-year-old offender would be heard in a...

- A. Circuit Court.
- B. High Court.
- C. Juvenile Court.
- D. Supreme Court.

40. The structure of Ghana's judiciary, with lower courts and upper courts, ensures that...

- A. all cases are heard by the Supreme Court.
- B. there is a system of appeals, allowing decisions to be reviewed.
- C. judges are also members of parliament.
- D. the president can overturn any court decision.

41. The Court of Appeal's main function is to...

- A. hear cases for the first time.
- B. review decisions made by the High Court.
- C. interpret the constitution.
- D. handle only minor criminal cases.

42. A landlord-tenant dispute over unpaid rent would most likely be handled by a...

- A. Supreme Court.
- B. Court of Appeal.
- C. District Court or a specialized tribunal.
- D. High Court.

43. A country's constitution requires a 75% majority vote in parliament to be amended. This feature suggests the country has a...

- A. flexible, unwritten constitution.
- B. rigid, written constitution.
- C. unicameral legislature.
- D. parliamentary system.

44. In a hybrid system like Ghana's, a potential conflict of interest arises because...

- A. the judiciary is too powerful.
- B. ministers who are also MPs must balance their duties to the executive and the legislature.
- C. the president has no real power.
- D. the constitution is unwritten.

45. A government that frequently changes laws to suit its immediate political needs, without any special procedure, most likely has...

- A. a written and entrenched constitution.
- B. an unwritten and flexible constitution.
- C. a strong and independent judiciary.
- D. a bicameral legislature.

46. The main reason a bicameral legislature might prevent "hasty or biased legislation" is because a bill...

- A. is written by the president.
- B. must be approved by two different chambers, allowing for more scrutiny.
- C. can be vetoed by the judiciary.
- D. is only debated for a very short time.

47. If the President could fire Supreme Court judges whose rulings they disagreed with, which fundamental principle would be most directly violated?

- A. Judicial independence
- B. The law-making function of the legislature
- C. The oversight function of the executive
- D. The flexibility of the constitution

48. A presidential system with a strong, independent legislature from an opposing party is the most likely scenario to lead to...

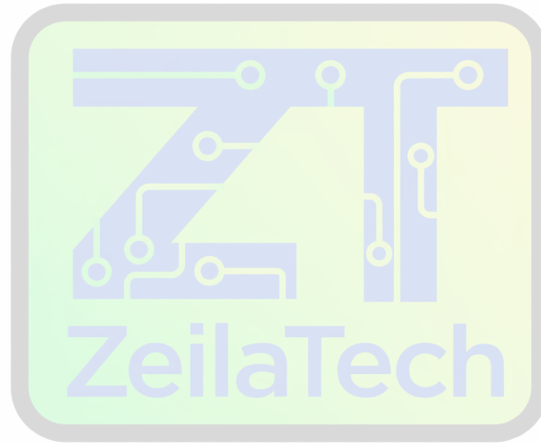
- A. quick and efficient law-making.
- B. legislative deadlock.
- C. a vote of no confidence.
- D. the creation of a hybrid system.

49. A citizen is arrested and detained for a week without being told the reason. This action violates the principles of constitutionalism, specifically the right to...

- A. a written constitution.
- B. due process.
- C. an independent executive.
- D. a bicameral legislature.

50. The existence of specialized bodies like Juvenile Courts and Rent Tribunals within the judicial structure shows that the legal system...

- A. is designed to handle all cases in the same way.
- B. recognizes that different types of disputes require different approaches.
- C. is controlled entirely by the Supreme Court.
- D. is inefficient and overly complicated.



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