

Lesson Quiz 5-1

The logo for 'networks' features the word 'networks' in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font. A stylized graphic of intersecting lines, resembling a network or starburst, is positioned behind the letters 'o' and 'r'.

The Structure of Congress

DIRECTIONS: True/False In the blank, indicate whether the statement is true (T) or false (F).

- _____ 1. Both the Senate and House of Representatives contain the same number of members from each state.
- _____ 2. A member of the Senate who was elected for 6 terms would serve for 24 years.
- _____ 3. State legislatures cannot use political factors as a basis for redistricting.
- _____ 4. Congress is a bicameral legislature that provides checks and balances during the process of lawmaking.
- _____ 5. Someone who was born outside of the United States but becomes a U.S. citizen can become eligible to run for the U.S. Senate.

DIRECTIONS: Multiple Choice Indicate the answer choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- _____ 6. Which of these actions might result in the expulsion of a member of the House?
- A. The member accepts money from a company to support a bill.
 - B. The member speaks in opposition to an energy bill on the Senate floor.
 - C. The member violates House rules by improperly using campaign donations.
 - D. The newly elected member has not turned 25 years old yet.
- _____ 7. Which of these statements is true for both the House of Representatives and the Senate?
- A. Members get allowances to visit their states.
 - B. Members must be at least 30 years old.
 - C. Members represent a particular district.
 - D. Population dictates the number of members.
- _____ 8. One political party has consistently won a House seat within a particular district with 75–80% of the vote. Then, one year, the other party wins the seat with 85% of the vote. This result could be evidence of which of the following?
- A. gerrymandering
 - B. incumbent advantage
 - C. reapportionment
 - D. neither of the above
- _____ 9. Which of these is likely to occur during a congressional session?
- A. Both the House and the Senate are adjourned for months in the summer.
 - B. Both the House and the Senate are in operation at the same time.
 - C. Either the House or the Senate works during the end-of-year holidays.
 - D. Neither the House nor the Senate adjourns until all work is completed.
- _____ 10. An amendment based on an idea proposed by James Madison in 1789 was enacted in 1992. This amendment relates to which of the following?
- A. congressional pay raises
 - B. gerrymandering
 - C. expulsion from Congress
 - D. incumbency

Lesson Quiz 5-2



The Structure of Congress

DIRECTIONS: Matching Match each item with the correct statement below.

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|---|---------------------------|
| _____ 1. can effect a member's choice on which committees to serve | A. whip |
| _____ 2. closed meeting used by members of a party to make decisions | B. quorum |
| _____ 3. assists the Speaker in planning the legislative program of the party | C. caucus |
| _____ 4. number of members needed to take an official legislative action | D. majority leader |
| _____ 5. persuades members of their party to vote a certain way on bills | E. constituent |

DIRECTIONS: Multiple Choice Indicate the answer choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- _____ 6. To maintain uniformity in democratic proceedings, Thomas Jefferson wrote the first rules manual for Congress when he was vice president. Which of the following behaviors would not be tolerated, based on this rules manual?
- A. debate on a bill being cut off by the presiding officer**
 - B. one member directly debating another on the House floor**
 - C. one member speaking in support of another member's bill**
 - D. two members discussing a bill in their offices**
- _____ 7. When a bill comes to a vote on the House floor, you know that it has
- A. achieved a majority of members in support.**
 - B. also been considered on the Senate floor.**
 - C. been revised through the process of concurrent jurisdiction.**
 - D. passed through the House Rules Committee.**
- _____ 8. Which of these would MOST likely be a result of increasing the concentration of power within the office of the Speaker of the House?
- A. increase in accountability to the American people**
 - B. increase in committees**
 - C. increase in cooperation between parties**
 - D. increase in unity within a party**
- _____ 9. The House rule that limits the amount of time a member can speak during a debate is meant to
- A. allow many bills to be heard.**
 - B. encourage polite behavior.**
 - C. increase power of the majority party.**
 - D. reduce member participation.**
- _____ 10. Which of these committee types has the greatest powers over the movement of a bill through Congress?
- A. joint committees**
 - B. the House Rules Committee**
 - C. standing committees**
 - D. select committees**

Lesson Quiz 5-5



The Structure of Congress

DIRECTIONS: Matching Match each item with the correct statement below.

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|---|--|
| _____ 1. one reason for increasing staff for the last 30 years | A. congressional research service |
| _____ 2. personal staffer who provides information to lawmaker about legislative issues | B. subcommittee staff |
| _____ 3. administrative assistant who supervises staff and runs a lawmaker's office | C. chief of staff |
| _____ 4. provides information to lawmakers and staff from any published source | D. advanced technology |
| _____ 5. studies issues and writes memos related to bills for a variety of members | E. legislative director |

DIRECTIONS: Multiple Choice Indicate the answer choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- _____ 6. Which statement describes a difference between the roles of personal and subcommittee staff?
- A.** Personal staff manage schedules; subcommittee staff provide legislative information.
 - B.** Personal staff research bills; subcommittee staff schedule hearings on bills.
 - C.** Personal staff serve only members; subcommittee staff serve only personal staff.
 - D.** Personal staff support one member; subcommittee staff support members from all parties.
- _____ 7. A legislative director who wanted advice on the legality of a provision in an educational reform bill would contact which of these congressional support agencies?
- A.** CBO (Congressional Budget Office)
 - B.** CRS (Congressional Research Service)
 - C.** GAO (Government Accountability Office)
 - D.** GPO (Government Printing Office)
- _____ 8. Staff for the Conservation, Forestry and Natural Resources subcommittee of the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee in the Senate would be experts in which of the following?
- A.** food pyramid
 - B.** grain prices
 - C.** milk prices
 - D.** wood products
- _____ 9. Which of these is one reason that the number of personal staff members has become five times larger in the past 70 years?
- A.** Individuals now ask for more help with government matters.
 - B.** Lawmakers no longer have a need to read or understand legislation.
 - C.** Many lawmakers have other jobs during their time in office.
 - D.** Subcommittees no longer provide staff to help lawmakers.
- _____ 10. How can political parties influence policy through congressional staff?
- A.** Congressional support agencies are controlled by political parties.
 - B.** Personal staff are likely to be in the same party as the member they work for.
 - C.** Political parties have direct control of staff that belong to their party.
 - D.** Staff that work on a committee are usually in the same party as the committee chair.