

Civilisation US

Instructions aux candidats:

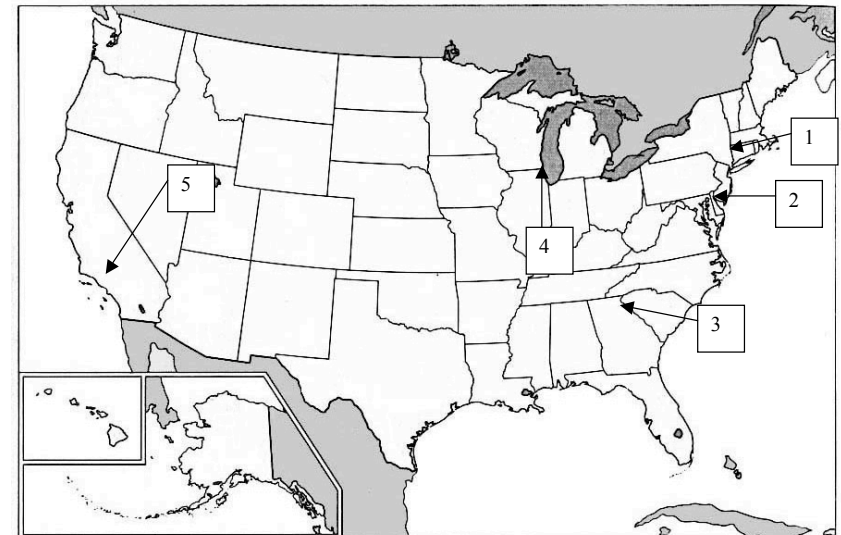
- Portez vos réponses sur la grille de réponses à votre nom en noircissant au crayon à papier à mine grasse la ou les case(s) qui correspond(ent) au(x) choix retenu(s).
- Il y a *au moins une réponse juste à chaque question, parfois deux ou plusieurs*. Notation: Les réponses à chaque question sont pondérées différemment. (réponse(s) juste(s): points positifs ; réponse(s) fausse(s) : points négatifs ; absence de réponse : pas de point).
- **La consultation de tout document, ainsi que toute communication entre candidats, sont interdites.** Toute tentative de fraude sera signalée au procès-verbal de l'épreuve et pourra être sanctionnée par la section disciplinaire du Conseil d'administration.
- Durée de l'épreuve: 45 minutes

1. Which is/are NOT among the objectives stated in the preamble to the Constitution of the US?
 - A. Insuring adequate education for all Americans
 - B. Establishing English as the official language of the US
 - C. Forming a more perfect union
 - D. Securing the blessings of liberty
2. What is meant by the expression "contiguous states"? Which are examples?
 - A. The states that make up geographic regions. The Deep South and New England are examples.
 - B. The states with common borders. Arizona and New Jersey are examples.
 - C. The states that have borders with other countries. Alaska and Maine are examples.
 - D. The states that were formed out of territorial acquisitions. Hawaii and the Middle West are examples.
3. What was the outcome of the election in 2004?
 - A. President Bush was re-elected, but both Houses of Congress are dominated by the Democrats.
 - B. President Bush was re-elected, the House of Representatives is dominated by the Republicans, and the Senate by the Democrats.
 - C. President Bush was re-elected mostly because of support for him in California, and both Houses of Congress are dominated by the Republicans.
 - D. President Bush was re-elected even though he lost in California, and both Houses of Congress are dominated by the Republicans.
4. Why was Ohio so important in the 2004 election?
 - A. Because Ohio has the largest population and thus the largest number of electoral votes.
 - B. Because Ohio was the last large state to finish counting the votes.
 - C. Because Ohio had enough votes to decide the election.
 - D. Because the electorate in Ohio was so evenly divided that it was impossible to predict the outcome before the election.

5. Which best explain(s) how President Bush was re-elected in 2004.
 - A. He received 3 million more votes than Senator Kerry.
 - B. He obtained a majority of all the votes cast and therefore all of the Electoral votes.
 - C. He received more votes than any other candidate in states which together represented a majority of the Electoral College.
 - D. He received a majority of all the popular votes cast and was ratified by the Supreme Court.
6. Why was the 2004 election important for the system of "checks and balances"?
 - A. Because the President will probably appoint new members to the Supreme Court.
 - B. Because the newly-elected Congress will probably impeach the President.
 - C. Because the state legislatures will probably not ratify the President's appointments.
 - D. Because the Congress will probably confirm most of the President's appointments.
7. Which best explain(s) the origins of the federal organization of the US?
 - A. During the war for independence, the British tried to "divide and conquer" by instituting separate colonies.
 - B. The authors of the Constitution thought that the country was too large to be governed directly, so they created separate states.
 - C. When the British colonies declared their independence, they tried to find ways of maintaining their individual identities while also forming a compact whole.
 - D. The British colonies were established at various times, for various purposes, and each had its own institutions, and wished to maintain them.
8. Which list(s) include(s) only states which were founded as British colonies?
 - A. Texas, Massachusetts, New York
 - B. Massachusetts, Virginia, Pennsylvania
 - C. Pennsylvania, Ohio, Georgia
 - D. Pennsylvania, Georgia, Virginia
9. Which list(s) include(s) places that are NOT states?
 - A. New York, Hawaii, Puerto Rico
 - B. California, the District of Columbia, Nevada
 - C. Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas
 - D. New Jersey, New Hampshire, New Haven
10. What state constitutional provision made possible Arnold Schwarzenegger's election as Governor of California?
 - A. checks and balances
 - B. recall
 - C. impeachment
 - D. federalism
11. Which of these administrative units are to be observed at the federal level of government?
 - A. Cities
 - B. Counties
 - C. Special Districts
 - D. None of these

12. What features of the frieze in the US Capitol showing Christopher Columbus's landing in the Americas stand out as typical of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century?
 - A. Columbus's "noble" expression and stance.
 - B. The natives' attitudes of veneration of the conqueror
 - C. The allusions to the destruction of native cultures caused by European colonization
 - D. The obviously exhausted and mutinous sailors on Columbus's ship
13. Which were among the stated purposes of the Progressives of the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth?
 - A. To reduce the dependence of the states on the assent of the people in governing
 - B. To make it easier for businessmen to influence government and be elected.
 - C. To increase the direct participation of the people in the functioning of government.
 - D. To reduce the influence of moneyed interests on government
14. Why do the criminal codes of some states, but not others, include the death penalty?
 - A. Because each state legislates on criminal matters, including penalties and punishments.
 - B. Because the Supreme Court decided that the states with most criminality should use very forceful deterrents.
 - C. Because some states have instituted gun-control, but not others.
 - D. Because prison populations in some states are very large and must be reduced.
15. Until 1959, the highest mountain in the US was in California. Why is it no longer there?
 - A. Because neighboring states objected to the shadow cast by the mountain, and it was eliminated.
 - B. Because an earthquake caused state borders to shift, and the mountain is now in another state.
 - C. Because the Supreme Court decided that no state should be allowed to claim the highest mountain, and it was declared a federal territory.
 - D. Because another state, which had a higher mountain, entered the Union.
16. Which characterizes Alaska?
 - A. Small population, large surface area, vast plains suitable for agriculture
 - B. Large population, large surface area, mild climate
 - C. Large population, small surface area, high mountains, petroleum reserves
 - D. Small population, large surface area, high mountains, petroleum reserves
17. Which is/are true of New England's importance in the evolution of US culture?
 - A. New England was of minor importance until recently, when Harvard was founded.
 - B. New England has been of significant symbolic importance since the seventeenth century, when the "Pilgrim Fathers" established a colony.
 - C. A large number of prestigious universities can be found in New England.
 - D. New England was one of the centers of revolutionary activity in the latter part of the eighteenth century.

18. Which best describe(s) the configuration of many US cities?
 - A. The wealthy live in the inner city, while the poor live in suburbs and must travel long distances to get to work.
 - B. The wealthy live in the downtown area, and work in the inner city.
 - C. The wealthy live in suburbs, and work in the downtown.
 - D. The poor live in the inner city, often very close to the downtown area.
19. What religious group founded Salt Lake City?
 - A. Baptists
 - B. Fundamentalists
 - C. Mormons
 - D. Catholics
20. What cities can be found at the numbers?



- A. 1 = Boston; 2 = New York; 3 = Atlanta; 4 = Chicago ; 5 = San Francisco
 - B. 1 = New York; 2 = Washington; 3 = Atlanta; 4 = Saint Louis; 5 = San Francisco
 - C. 1 = New York; 2 = Washington; 3 = Atlanta; 4 = Chicago; 5= Los Angeles
 - D. 1 = Boston; 2 = Washington; 3 = Memphis; 4 = Chicago; 5 = Seattle
21. Which states have the highest mountains?
 - A. Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont
 - B. Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan
 - C. Colorado, Wyoming, Montana
 - D. Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma

22. Which correctly describes the procedure for the addition of Amendments to the US Constitution?
- A. Two-thirds of Congress propose amendments, and three fourths of the states must ratify
 - B. Three fourths of Congress propose amendments, and three fourths of the states must ratify
 - C. Two thirds of the Congress propose amendments, and two thirds of the Supreme Court must ratify
 - D. Two thirds of the Supreme Court propose amendments, and three fourths of Congress must ratify
23. Why are there two houses in the US Congress?
- A. So that property-owners can be represented in the Senate, and the poor in the House of Representatives.
 - B. So that aristocrats can be represented in the House of Lords, and the people in the House of Commons.
 - C. So that states can be represented in the Senate and the people in the House of Representatives.
 - D. So that states can be represented in the House of Representatives and the people in the Senate.
24. Which list includes only groups that are growing as a percentage of the US population at large?
- A. Women & Hispanics
 - B. African-Americans & WASPS
 - C. Hispanics & Asians
 - D. Native Americans & Non-hispanic whites
25. Which correctly describe(s) elections to Congress?
- A. The House of Representatives is renewed every two years.
 - B. One third of the Senate is renewed every two years
 - C. Congressional elections may not take place at the same time as other elections.
 - D. Only natural-born citizens may be Senators or Representatives.
26. Which were the among the objections to the Constitution during the debate over ratification?
- A. It gave too much power to the central government at the expense of the states, and did not include a Bill of Rights.
 - B. It offered opportunities for improved trade, and imposed a strict separation of powers.
 - C. The Bill of Rights was too long, and the President did not have enough authority.
 - D. The President had too much authority, and there was no Bill of Rights.
27. Why was it necessary to include a provision for the admission of new states to the Union?
- A. Because the United States possessed territories that were expected to become states.
 - B. Because the "Indians" insisted upon having a state of their own.
 - C. Because Canada hoped to join the Union.
 - D. Because there were not enough states for the Congress to function properly.

28. What is meant by the expression "Judicial Review"?
- A. The magazine that is circulated among members of the Supreme Court.
 - B. The power of the Supreme Court to decide whether laws are in conformity with the Constitution.
 - C. The power of the Supreme Court to declare laws unconstitutional.
 - D. The power of the President to appoint members of the Supreme Court and the judiciary.
29. When did Puerto Rico become a state?
- A. 1898 B. 1959 C. 1962 D. Never: Puerto Rico is not a state
30. How many members of the Electoral College are there? Why?
- A. 51: one for each state and one for the District of Columbia
 - B. 300: one per million people in the population
 - C. 538: one for each member of Congress and three for the District of Columbia
 - D. 538: at least three for each state, and three for the District of Columbia
31. Which accurately represent(s) trends in immigration in the last third of the nineteenth century?
- A. Immigrants from Western Europe constituted a larger percentage of the total.
 - B. Immigrants from Eastern Europe constituted a larger percentage of total.
 - C. The majority of immigrants came from Asia.
 - D. European immigrants greatly outnumbered immigrants from Asia.
32. Which was/were among the purpose of the National Origins Immigration Act of 1924?
- A. To improve the genetic characteristics of the American population by encouraging immigration from a variety of origins.
 - B. To promote homogeneity in the American population by reducing immigration from previously underrepresented places.
 - C. To prevent the population from decreasing by requiring immigration from as many places as possible.
 - D. To preserve the "American character" by encouraging immigration from Northern and Western Europe.
33. When have the major peaks in immigration to the US occurred?
- A. At the beginning of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth.
 - B. At the beginning and end of the twentieth century.
 - C. At the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth.
 - D. During the 1850s (because of the Gold Rush in California) and the 1950s (after the McCarran-Walter Act).
34. Why is 1954 an important date in US population history?
- A. Because the Supreme Court put an end to "separate but equal" and Ellis Island was closed.
 - B. Because of the Brown vs Board of Education decision and the decision to change the way immigrants were received.
 - C. Because the Brown vs Board of Education decision restricted immigration from most Latin American countries.
 - D. Because the majority of the population voted to end racial segregation and encourage immigration.

35. What is meant by the expression “affirmative action”?
- A. A movement of the head meant to indicate “yes”.
 - B. Efforts by minorities to overcome the effects of prejudice.
 - C. Efforts by religious groups to reach heaven.
 - D. Efforts by government and businesses to overcome the effects of prejudice.
36. How much did the population grow between 1990 and 2000?
- A. The population increased by about 14 million, from 92 million to 106 million.
 - B. The population increased by about 30 million from 249 million to 281 million.
 - C. The population increased by about 5 million, from 27 million to 32 million.
 - D. The population increased by about 30 million, from 220 million to 249 million.
37. Which “heartland” city suffered LEAST during the economic re-alignments of the 1970s?
- A. Los Angeles B. Pittsburg C. Detroit D. Chicago
38. Which most accurately suggest(s) the concerns of the authors of the Constitution in the area of “checks and balances”?
- A. The fact that Congress has the impeachment power suggests that they had most confidence in the legislative branch.
 - B. The fact that the Supreme Court appoints the President suggests that they had great confidence in cooperation between the branches.
 - C. The fact that the President can only dissolve Congress once during his term in office suggests that they feared executive excesses.
 - D. The fact that the President has the veto power suggests that they wanted to insure some degree of cooperation between the executive and the legislative.
39. Why are primary elections not mentioned in the US Constitution?
- A. Because the authors of the Constitution did not know that political parties would arise.
 - B. Because there were only two parties and primary elections would have been too expensive.
 - C. Because the main political parties preferred to organize their own internal operations.
 - D. Because New Hampshire had not been admitted to the Union.
40. Approximately what proportion of the population of the US is made up of Native Americans (“Indians”)?
- A. 25% B. 2.5% C. 80% D. 0.9%
41. The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution because
- A. the Founding Fathers did not include provisions for the initiative, the referendum and the recall
 - B. it was decided that personal liberties would be protected by the executive branch
 - C. many people thought that the separation of powers was a necessary, but not a sufficient, protection of personal rights
 - D. the Southern states wanted to be sure that the right to own slaves was mentioned in the Constitution
42. What state is the capital of the US in?
- A. Washington B. Virginia C. Maryland D. none of these

43. Which are among the principal characteristics of “mainline” and “evangelical” denominations?
- A. Mainline denominations usually insist upon the literal truth of sacred texts.
 - B. Evangelical denominations are usually highly motivated by questions of religious doctrine and theology.
 - C. Recently, evangelical denominations have avoided “worldly” issues such as sexual morality.
 - D. Mainline denominations are rapidly increasing in membership.
44. The Bill of Rights contributed to religious history in the US by
- A. establishing the Church of England as the official church.
 - B. requiring immigrants to join the official church.
 - C. giving the President the power to determine the official church.
 - D. guaranteeing freedom of religion and expression.
45. Several denominations came into being in the US. Among them are
- A. the Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Mormons, and the Puritans
 - B. the Mormons, the Christian Scientists, and the Lutherans
 - C. Methodists, the “Hare Krishna”, and the Amish
 - D. the Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Christian Scientists, and the Mormons