Questions for Regents Practice

MULTIPLE CHOICE
Directions
Review the Test-Taking Strategies section of this book. Then answer the following questions, drawn from actual Regents examinations. Each question is followed by four choices. Read each question carefully. Decide which choice is the correct answer. Then on a separate piece of paper, mark your answer for each question.

1 "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

This quotation reflects beliefs mainly derived from
1 the Magna Carta
2 the divine right monarchs of Europe
3 John Locke's theory of natural rights
4 Marxist philosophy

Base your answers to questions 2 and 3 on the quotation below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of those ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government. . . ."

2 This quotation presents a justification for
1 anarchy
2 revolution
3 despotism
4 laissez faire

3 According to the quotation, governments get their authority from
1 the people
2 powerful leaders
3 the justice system
4 political parties

4 "The individual can be free only when the power of one governmental branch is balanced by the other two."

—Baron de Montesquieu, 1735 (adapted)

The idea expressed in this quotation is best illustrated by which aspect of the United States government?
1 existence of a Cabinet
2 separation of powers
3 elastic clause
4 executive privilege

5 In the colonial era, developments such as the New England town meetings and the establishment of the Virginia House of Burgesses represented
1 colonial attempts to build a strong national government
2 efforts by the British to strengthen their control over the colonies
3 steps in the growth of representative democracy
4 early social reform movements
"The only representatives of the people of these colonies are persons chosen therein by themselves; and that no taxes ever have been, or can be constitutionally imposed on them but by their respective legislatures."

—Statement by the Stamp Act Congress, 1765

What is a valid conclusion that can be drawn from this quotation?
1. The colonial legislatures should be appointed by the English King with the consent of Parliament.
2. Only the colonists' elected representatives should have the power to levy taxes.
3. The English King should have the right to tax the colonists.
4. The colonists should be opposed to all taxation.

One way in which the United States Constitution differed from the Articles of Confederation was that the Constitution:
1. created a national government having three branches
2. provided for the direct election of the President by the voters
3. made the amendment process more difficult
4. increased the powers of the states

Base your answers to questions 8 and 9 on the discussion below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Speaker A: States must be represented in the national government solely on the basis of population. It is indeed the only fair situation.

Speaker B: The national legislature must be based on equal representation of the states to protect the interests of the small states.

Speaker C: States must accept the supremacy of the national government on all issues; otherwise, the system will fail.

Speaker D: The national Congress should consist of two houses: one in which representation is based on population, and one in which states are equally represented.

8 Which document was being written when this discussion most likely occurred?
1. Declaration of Independence
2. United States Constitution
3. Covenant of the League of Nations

9 Which speaker's idea about representation was actually included in the document that was written?
1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D

10 "We should consider we are providing a constitution for future generations of Americans, and not merely for the particular circumstances of the moment."

—Delegate at the Constitutional Convention of 1787

The writers of the Constitution best reflected this idea when they provided that:
1. Senators should be elected directly by the people
2. Three-fifths of the slaves should be counted as part of the total population
3. Congress shall make all laws necessary and proper to carry out its constitutional powers
4. Political parties should be established to represent various viewpoints

11 During the debates over the ratification of the United States Constitution, Federalists and Anti-Federalists disagreed most strongly over the
1. division of powers between the national and state governments
2. provision for admitting new states to the Union
3. distribution of powers between the Senate and the House of Representatives
4. method of amending the Constitution
12. The main purpose of the Bill of Rights is to
   1. prevent governmental abuse of power
   2. increase the power of the Federal judiciary
   3. provide for separation of powers
   4. create a bicameral legislature

13. The fact that the United States Constitution provided for federalism and a system of
   checks and balances suggests that
   1. the original thirteen states sought to
      dominate the national government
   2. its writers desired the national govern-
      ment to rule over the states
   3. its writers feared a concentration of
      political power
   4. the American people of that time
      supported a military government

14. The United States Supreme Court is sometimes said to fulfill a legislative function
    because
   1. its members are appointed by the
      President
   2. its judgments may determine the effect
      of the law
   3. its members serve only so long as
      Congress approves
   4. it meets regularly with Congress to
      advise on the appropriateness of
      proposed laws

15. Which quotation taken from the United States Constitution provides for limiting the
    power of government?
   1. "All persons born or naturalized in the
      United States . . . are citizens of the
      United States . . . ."
   2. "This Constitution . . . shall be the
      supreme law of the land . . . ."
   3. "The President shall be commander in
      chief of the army and navy . . . ."
   4. "Congress shall make no law respecting
      an establishment of religion . . . or
      abridging the freedom of speech, or of
      the press . . . ."

16. Which action is an example of lobbying by
    a special interest group?
   1. labor union members threatening to strike
      if their company opens a factory in a
      foreign nation
   2. members of Congress introducing a bill
      that will provide for low-interest college
      loans
   3. a congressional committee investigating
      the activities of organized crime
   4. several lumber companies asking
      Senators to allow logging on Federal
      lands

17. If the President has vetoed a bill, the United
    States Constitution provides that the bill
    will become a law when the bill is
   1. declared constitutional by the Supreme
      Court
   2. passed again by two-thirds of both houses
      of Congress
   3. approved by three-fourths of the State
      legislatures
   4. approved by a joint committee of
      Congress

18. In the United States, the electoral college
    system affects the campaigns of major-party
    presidential candidates by influencing
    candidates to
   1. concentrate upon the states with large
      populations
   2. place more emphasis on controversial
      issues than on personality
   3. focus upon the states where winning by a
      large plurality is likely
   4. appeal to the electoral college members
      rather than to the general public
19 The decision of President George Washington to use the state militia to put down the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794 demonstrated that the states were still the dominant power in the new nation. President was becoming a military dictator, Federal Government had no authority to impose an excise tax. New National Government intended to enforce Federal laws.

20 In United States history, which statement best represents the political ideology of Alexander Hamilton and the Federalists? 
1 Only the wealthy will survive in the economic system.
2 A strong central government is essential for the economic growth of the nation.
3 No one should have to pay taxes to the National Government.
4 Elected officials should give public jobs to those who helped them into office.

21 The major role of political parties in the United States is to 
1 protect the American public from corrupt public officials.
2 insure that free and honest elections are held.
3 nominate candidates for public office and conduct campaigns.
4 meet constitutional requirements for choosing the President.

22 The term “judicial review” refers to the power of the 
1 Supreme Court to determine the constitutionality of laws.
2 Congress to pass laws over the veto of the President.
3 states to approve amendments to the Constitution.
4 President to veto bills passed by Congress.

23 In deciding to purchase the Louisiana Territory, President Thomas Jefferson had to overcome the problem of 
1 obtaining the support of Western settlers.
2 passing the constitutional amendment necessary to authorize the purchase.
3 avoiding a possible war with England over the purchase.
4 contradicting his belief in a strict interpretation of the Constitution.

24 “The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is, in extending our commercial relations to have with them as little political connection as possible.”

—George Washington, Farewell Address, 1796

This statement helped establish the United States foreign policy called 
1 containment.
2 internationalism.
3 imperialism.
4 neutrality.

25 The Monroe Doctrine declared that the United States would 
1 prevent the establishment of new European colonies anywhere in the world.
2 help colonies in North and South America adopt a democratic form of government.
3 view European interference in the Americas as a threat to the national interest of the United States.
4 prevent other nations from trading with South American nations.