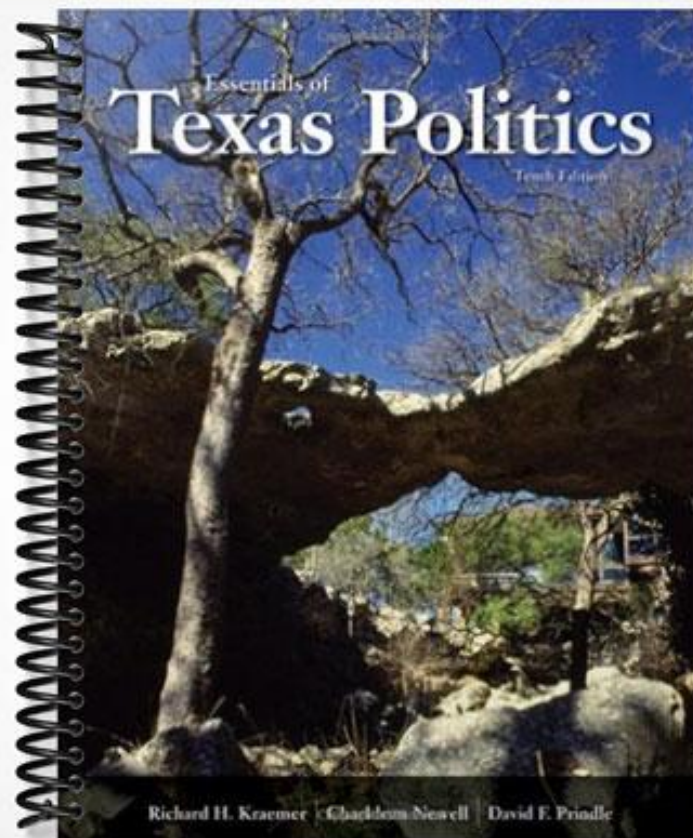


TEST BANK



CHAPTER 2: THE CONSTITUTIONAL SETTING

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1. The first purpose of a constitution is to give legitimacy to the government.
True False
2. The traditionalistic/individualistic political culture is dedicated to unlimited governmental action.
True False
3. Both the Texas Constitution and the U.S. Constitution are based on the principle of separation of powers.
True False
4. The conservative political culture in Texas has resulted in a strong emphasis on giving the government sufficient powers to act quickly and decisively to meet the state's needs.
True False
5. The constitution under which Texas presently operates is the state's sixth since gaining independence from Mexico.
True False
6. The Texas constitution is much more flexible in allowing government to act than the national Constitution.
True False
7. Delegates to the 1875 constitutional convention, reflecting the philosophy of the Grange, were overwhelmingly liberal.
True False
8. The Texas Constitution has been amended over 439 times.
True False
9. In spite of its length, the Texas Constitution is a well organized document.
True False
10. The Texas Bill of Rights provides for equality under the law, religious freedom, due process for the criminally accused, and freedom of speech and of the press.
True False
11. Because they feared the possible abuse of power by the government, the framers of the Texas Constitution refused to include any checks and balances in the document.
True False

12. Rather than granting broad powers, the legislative article of the Texas Constitution emphasizes the specific actions the legislature may not take.
True False
13. The Texas Constitution requires that the comptroller of public accounts and the attorney general be elected statewide.
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14. Texas has a plural executive.
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15. The Texas Constitution provides enough formal powers to make the state's governor one of the strongest in the country.
True False
16. The judicial article of the Texas Constitution creates two supreme courts.
True False
17. Forms of local government authorized by the Texas Constitution include counties, municipalities, and special districts.
True False
18. Amendments to the Texas Constitution are proposed by an absolute two-thirds majority vote in both houses of the legislature.
True False
19. Unlike other laws, constitutions tend to be immune to political pressures.
True False
20. In the amending process, special interest groups typically set aside their own particular political, social, or economic viewpoints in order to promote the broader public interest.
True False
21. Most states, including Texas, no longer have unenforceable constitutional and statutory provisions that conflict with federal laws.
True False
22. Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution expressly grants certain powers to the national government and implies a broad range of additional powers through the "necessary and proper" clause.
True False
23. In Texas, the traditionalistic-individualistic political culture resulted in a heavy emphasis on limiting government's ability to act.
True False

24. The Constitution of 1869 was heavily influenced by Jacksonian democracy, which produced long ballots, short terms of office for lawmakers, and the expansion of voting rights.
- True False
25. Because Texas was an independent republic when it was annexed by the United States, it was required to relinquish its military property but was enabled to keep its public lands.
- True False
26. Article II of the Texas Constitution describes the positive powers of the Texas legislature.
- True False
27. Little similarity exists between the provisions for the executive branch in the Texas Constitution and in the national Constitution.
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29. The authors of the Constitution of 1876 produced a restrictive document that no longer impedes the development and implementation of needed policies and programs.
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30. Article VI of the U.S. Constitution provides that in the case of a conflict between the U.S. Constitution and a state constitution,
- A. the U.S. Constitution invariably takes precedence.
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 - E. the question of precedence must be settled by the state legislature.
31. Constitutions serve to
- A. give legitimacy to the government.
 - B. organize the government.
 - C. grant specific powers to the government.
 - D. limit the power of the government.
 - E. all of the above.
32. When a government's acts are accepted by the citizens as moral, fair, and just, the government is said to have
- A. sovereignty.
 - B. authority.
 - C. legitimacy.
 - D. justice.
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33. In the United States, checks and balances allow each branch of government to restrain the other branches and in so doing support the principle of
- A. separation of powers
 - B. popular sovereignty.
 - C. legitimacy
 - D. judicial review.
 - E. none of the above.
34. Chief among the guarantees against arbitrary action by the government is the U.S. Constitution's
- A. supremacy of the laws clause.
 - B. "necessary and proper" clause.
 - C. "full faith and credit" clause.
 - D. Preamble.
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35. The traditionalistic-individualistic political culture of Texas resulted in a constitution
- A. that centralizes power in the governor.
 - B. with a heavy emphasis on limiting government's ability to act.
 - C. that does not have a bill of rights.
 - D. with unlimited controls on spending.
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36. The ____ provided for appointed judges and annual legislative sessions.
- A. "statehood constitution" of 1845
 - B. Civil War Constitution of 1861
 - C. Constitution of 1866
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37. Which of the following were most influential in initiating and shaping the outcome of the Texas constitutional convention of 1875?
- A. members of the Grange
 - B. Radical Republicans
 - C. Mexican Americans
 - D. Union Army veterans
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38. The constitution adopted in 1876 included provisions to do all of the following except
- A. set the salaries of elected officials in the constitution.
 - B. establish a state debt ceiling.
 - C. limit the governor's term to two years.
 - D. hold annual regular legislative sessions.
 - E. limit the number of executive appointments the governor may make.
39. The twenty counties that voted against ratification of the constitution in 1876 were
- A. located in West Texas.
 - B. located in South Texas.
 - C. urban.
 - D. rural.
 - E. divided between rural and urban areas.

40. By mid-2007, the Texas Constitution had been amended ____ times.
- A. 42
 - B. 189
 - C. 241
 - D. 440
 - E. 520
41. The Texas Constitution and the U.S. Constitution are alike in that
- A. both provide for a chief executive able to control the executive branch.
 - B. both specify the salaries of members of the legislative branch.
 - C. both divide governmental functions among three branches.
 - D. neither provides for an elected judiciary.
 - E. neither protects against discrimination based on gender.
42. Article I of the Texas Constitution contains
- A. provisions pertaining to the legislative branch.
 - B. provisions pertaining to the executive branch.
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43. Home rule refers to
- A. the power of the legislature to control cities.
 - B. the authority of a local government to write its own charter and make changes in it without legislative approval.
 - C. the right of homeowners to own guns.
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44. The Texas Constitution specifies that ____ is/are to be elected.
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 - C. the Commissioner of the General Land Office
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46. The Texas Constitution requires that all ____ be governed by a commission that combines executive and legislative authority and is headed by a judge.
- A. counties
 - B. municipalities
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- A. municipalities.
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48. Amendments to the Texas Constitution may be proposed by
- A. the legislature only.
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 - E. none of the above.
49. Those who advocate reform of the Texas Constitution generally focus on which of the following issues?
- A. biennial legislative sessions
 - B. excessive detail in the Constitution
 - C. the plural executive branch
 - D. weak county governments
 - E. all of the above
50. Texas' plural executive has resulted in an executive branch that is
- A. centralized.
 - B. fragmented.
 - C. a cabinet form of government.
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51. The last time Texans had an opportunity to vote on a new constitution was
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53. Special interests in Texas often attempt to have policies favoring them included in the constitution because
- A. there is great prestige in having their "own" provisions in the constitution.
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54. Which of the following are strategies used by groups to embed their particular policy concerns in the Constitution?
- A. secure a provision that will result in economic gains for the group
 - B. prohibit the state from taking a particular action
 - C. secure tax relief
 - D. advance a special interest that is already the subject of a constitutional guarantee
 - E. all of the above
55. One of the purposes of constitutions is to limit governmental power. How does the Texas Constitution serve this particular purpose?
56. What were the circumstances that prompted Texas to adopt six different constitutions from 1836 to 1876? In what ways do these constitutions reflect the circumstances surrounding their preparation?
57. In what ways does the Texas Constitution reflect the influence of the U.S. Constitution? What effect have changes in the U.S. Constitution had on the Texas Constitution?

58. How is the Texas Constitution amended? What accounts for the fact that it has been amended 432 times (through the end of 2003) while the U.S. Constitution has been amended only twenty-seven times?
59. How is the Texas Constitution viewed by special interest groups in the state? What are the advantages and disadvantages to interest groups in having their particular concerns addressed in the constitution?

CHAPTER 2: THE CONSTITUTIONAL SETTING **Key**

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TRUE
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FALSE
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