Assessment: Political Campaigns and Elections

Mastering the Content

1. The emphasis on elections in the United States most reflects which constitutional principle?
   A. individual rights
   B. popular sovereignty CORRECT
   C. checks and balances
   D. separation of powers

2. In which kind of primary election would a registered independent be unable to vote?
   A. open
   B. closed CORRECT
   C. blanket
   D. nonpartisan

3. The most common way people become candidates for public office is through
   A. popular drafts.
   B. party caucuses.
   C. petition drives.
   D. self-announcement. CORRECT

4. In which type of election is voter turnout likely to be the greatest?
   A. primary election
   B. midterm election
   C. off-year election
   D. presidential election CORRECT

5. Which of the following groups benefited most from the Voting Rights Act of 1965?
   A. women
   B. 18- to 20-year-olds
   C. Native Americans
   D. African Americans CORRECT

6. Televised debates and radio ads are examples of which of the following campaign approaches?
   A. retail politics
   B. microtargeting
   C. winner-take-all
   D. wholesale politics CORRECT
7. What is the main criticism leveled against the Electoral College system for electing presidents?
   A. It takes too long.
   B. It is undemocratic. CORRECT
   C. It discourages voting.
   D. It costs too much money.

8. What is the main source of funding for election campaigns?
   A. public financing
   B. contributions from PACs
   C. personal wealth of candidates
   D. donations from individual citizens CORRECT

9. What was one purpose of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, also known as the McCain-Feingold Act?
   A. to limit the use of soft money in campaigns CORRECT
   B. to make voter registration more convenient
   C. to ban the participation of PACs in campaigns
   D. to promote the use of more accurate voting

10. Which of these is the most likely reason for a donor to contribute to two opposing campaigns?
    A. to encourage others to donate as well
    B. to reduce the risk of a third-party victory
    C. to show support for the two-party system
    D. to gain access to whichever candidate wins CORRECT
Exploring the Essential Questions
Elections and voting: Why should they matter to you?

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush was approaching the end of his first term and hoping to win election to a second term. The diagram below summarizes the stages of that year's election process. The candidates who actively campaigned in the Democratic and Republican primaries are shown, along with the votes cast at each party's nominating convention. The results of the general election are shown as well.

11. Which candidate had the second largest number of votes at the Democratic National Convention? At the Republican National Convention?
Jerry Brown had the second largest number of votes at the Democratic National Convention. Patrick Buchanan had the second largest number of votes at the Republican National Convention.

12. During the primary elections, why did one major party have so many more serious contenders than the other?
Most Republicans supported the incumbent, George H.W. Bush, who was eligible for reelection. For the Democrats, there was no such single obvious presidential candidate as the primary season began.

13. How was it possible for a candidate who won nearly 20 percent of the popular vote to receive no votes in the Electoral College?
Most states give all their electoral votes to the one candidate with the largest popular vote. As a result, candidates who win less than a plurality of popular votes receive no Electoral College votes.
Using the 1992 election as an example, explain how a third-party candidate who does not win the election may significantly influence the election results.

If most of the people who voted for Ross Perot in 1992 had instead voted for George H.W. Bush, Perot might have defeated Bill Clinton. Perot may have drawn enough votes away from Bush for him to lose the election.