**Fayette County Public Schools**

**Government/Civics/ISS/Citizenship**

**Benchmark Assessment**

**Spring 2025 Processes, L & E Branches**

**HS.C.RR.1 Evaluate the civic responsibilities of individuals within a society.**

1. How has the Electoral College been perceived in terms of accurately reflecting the voice of the people?

* A. It has consistently mirrored the popular vote in presidential elections
* B. It has been criticized for occasionally overriding the popular vote outcome
* C. It has been abolished due to widespread dissatisfaction with its function
* D. It has never been questioned or challenged by voters or political leaders

1. During the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, what role did mass media play in shaping public opinion and influencing policy changes?

* A. It promoted segregationist ideologies and hindered progress
* B. It provided a platform for activists to spread their message and garner support
* C. It ignored civil rights issues altogether
* D. It advocated for the use of violence to suppress protests

1. How did interest groups influence the political process during the Progressive Era in the early 20th century?

* A. By organizing massive voter registration drives
* B. By advocating for the abolition of the Electoral College
* C. By lobbying for government reforms and social legislation
* D. By controlling the content of newspapers and radio broadcasts

**HS.C. PR.3 Evaluate intended and unintended consequences of public policies locally, nationally and internationally.**

| Executive Order 9981 stated that "there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed forces without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin." It established the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services to recommend revisions to military regulations in order to implement this policy.  The advisory committee examined the rules, practices, and procedures of the armed services and recommend ways to make desegregation a reality. The committee, chaired by Charles Fahy, was terminated upon submission of its final report, entitled "Freedom to Serve," on May 22, 1950. (From National Archives) |
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4. Which of the following would be considered an intended consequence of President Harry Truman’s Executive Order 9981?

* A. By the end of the Korean conflict in 1953, almost all of the military was integrated.
* B. Integration of the military was met with great resistance across all branches and ranks.
* C. The President’s Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Forces was unable to make any recommendations for improvement.
* Additional executive orders and acts of Congress were needed to solidify the policy.

5. Which of the following best explains the consequence of the Supreme Court decision from The United States v. Nixon, in which President Richard Nixon was forced to release tapes connected to the Watergate break-in?

* A. Presidential authority remained unquestioned and unchecked with regard to ethics.
* B. President Nixon would eventually resign from the Presidency as investigations uncovered more incriminating evidence.
* C. The Office of the Presidency would not be held accountable for transparency in criminal investigations.
* D. It set the precedent that a President could not be charged for crimes.

| **Key Components of the USA Patriot Act of 2001**  Department of Justice – in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001   1. **The Patriot Act allows investigators to use the tools that were already available to investigate organized crime and drug trafficking.**  * Allows law enforcement to use surveillance against more crimes of terror. * Allows federal agents to follow sophisticated terrorists trained to evade detection. * Allows law enforcement to conduct investigations without tipping off terrorists. * Allows federal agents to ask a court for an order to obtain business records in national security terrorism cases.  1. **The Patriot Act facilitated information sharing and cooperation among government agencies so that they can better “connect the dots.”**  * Prosecutors and investigators used information shared in investigating the defendants of the so-called “Virginia Jihad” case. This involved members of a Virginia Islamic Center, who trained for a jihad (holy war) in Northern Virginia by participating in paintball and paramilitary training, as well as traveling to Pakistan or Afghanistan between 1999 and 2001.  1. **The Patriot Act updated the law to reflect new technologies and new threats.**  * Allows law enforcement to obtain a search warrant anywhere a terrorist-related activity occurred. * Allows victims of computer hacking to to request law enforcement assistance in monitoring “trespassers” on their computers.  1. **The Patriot Act increased penalties for those who commit terrorist crimes.**  * Prohibits the harboring of terrorists. * Enhanced the inadequate maximum penalties for various crimes likely to be committed by terrorists. * Enhanced a number of conspiracy penalties. * Punishes terrorist attacks on mass transit systems. * Punishes bioterrorists. * Eliminates the statutes of limitations for certain terrorism crimes and lengthens them for other terrorist crimes. |
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6. Based on the information regarding the USA Patriot Act of 2001, why would some American citizens be concerned about its passage?

* A. There was a concern that innocent Americans would be subject to surveillance without them knowing.
* B. There was concern about travel restrictions placed on Pakistan and Afghanistan.
* C. There was a concern of the increase in harsher penalties for those charged with crimes connected to terrorist activity.
* D. There was a concern of federal agents obtaining warrants for innocent people.

**HS.C.CP.1 Explain how the U.S. Constitution embodies the principles of rule of law, popular sovereignty, republicanism, federalism, separation of powers and checks and balances to promote general welfare.**

7. Which of the following best represents the principle of popular sovereignty in action within the U.S. Constitution?

* A. The Voting Rights Act of 1965, which banned discriminatory practices adopted by southern states to restrict access to the ballot box.
* B. The Watergate scandal, which led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon
* C. The Vietnam War, which prompted protests against government policies
* D. The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), which expanded access to healthcare for millions of Americans

8. Which of the following events is the best modern example of checks and balances in action?

* A. The passage of the North American Free-Trade Agreement between Canada, the United States, and Mexico.
* B. The impeachment of President Donald Trump by the House of Representatives for his alleged perpetration of the January 6, 2021 political unrest.
* C. The signing of the Kyoto Protocol by President Bill Clinton to address climate change.
* D. The introduction of the Balanced Budget Act, aimed at the House of Representatives to reduce the federal budget.

9. Which of the following best demonstrates the principle of federalism as outlined in the Constitution?

* A. The appointment of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh.
* B. The withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan under President Barack Obama.
* C. The establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate environmental policies.
* D. The establishment and regulation of state lottery systems: 45 states have lotteries, but five do not.

**HS.C.CP.2 Analyze legislative, executive and judicial branch decisions in terms of constitutionality and impact on citizens and states.**

10. Which legislative action, passed in 1935, created a system of old-age benefits, unemployment insurance, and welfare programs, profoundly impacting American citizens and states?

* A. Social Security Act
* B. National Labor Relations Act
* C. Fair Labor Standards Act
* D. Civil Rights Act

11. Which legislative decision was ultimately deemed unconstitutional by the ruling of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka in th 1950s?

* A. The Plessy v. Ferguson decision
* B. Federal Jim Crow laws
* C. The Civil Rights Act of 1875
* D. The Separate But Equal Doctrine

| **Components of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965** | |
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| Title I | Financial assistance to local educational agencies for the education of children of low-income families |
| Title II | School library resources, textbooks, and other instructional materials |
| Title III | Supplementary educational centers and services |
| Title IV | Educational research and training |
| Title V | Grants to strengthen State Departments of Education |
| Title VI | General provisions |
| Additional Titles were added over time | |

12. Which of the following best describes the impact of President Lyndon Johnson’s signing of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965?

* A. A significant government overreach in the control of public and private schools across the country.
* B. Ensuring federal funding for education to improve school quality, and ensure equitable access to education.
* C. Taking away states’ rights to control their own education systems and standardizing assessment on a federal level.
* D. Restricting access to federal funds to educational institutions and programs.