Part I. Fill-in-the-blank and T/F. 2 Points Each. Each of these should be answered in a word or a phrase.

1. In the first few months after taking office, presidents enjoy a _____________, during which time they usually receive support for their initiatives from Congress, the press, and the public.

2. Name one of the three principles of bureaucracy.

3. In the presidential nominating process, what time of year do the Democratic and Republican parties hold their national conventions? (A season or month during the season is fine.)

4. _______________ is a system of hiring and promoting employees in the federal bureaucracy based on professional qualifications, not party loyalty.

5. The Supreme Court’s _______________ jurisdiction is its authority to review cases that have already been heard in lower courts.

6. The _______________ serves as the federal government’s lawyer in Supreme Court cases.

7. Supreme Court justices on the losing side of a case can write a(n) _______________ opinion to explain their reasons for disagreeing with the majority position.

8. In the film Taking on the Kennedys, Kevin Vigilante’s occupation prior to his run for Congress was _______________.

9. The power of the Supreme Court to declare laws unconstitutional is called _______________.

10. T/F. House races typically require candidates to raise and spend more money to get elected than Senate races.


12. In a(n) _______________ primary, participation is limited to voters who are registered members of the party whose primary is being held.

13. _______________ is money contributed to political parties rather than directly to candidates.

14. Name one of the powers granted to the President in the constitution.
15. __________________ refers to rules, regulations, and procedures that bureaucratic organizations must follow.

16. T/F. For a case to be heard before the Supreme Court, four justices must agree to take the case.

17. The __________________ refers to the practice of giving government jobs to one’s political supporters.

18. In the court case __________________, the Supreme Court struck down limits on what a candidate can spend on his/her own campaign.

19. Recent reforms in campaign finance law have led to the growth of ________________, or independent groups that don’t directly campaign for candidates, but still seek to influence election outcomes. One well-known example is MoveOn.Org.

20. The federal agency in charge of implementing campaign finance laws is called the ____________________.

21. _________________ are meetings of party members to select presidential nominees. Among the few states that have these meetings are Iowa and Washington.

22. If no presidential candidate wins a majority of the Electoral College votes, the election goes to the ____________________.

23. _________________ is a judicial philosophy based on the idea that courts should be able to develop new legal principles to accommodate changing issues and needs.

24. T/F. The presidential nominating process is becoming longer as many states decided to hold their primaries earlier.


Part II. Short answer: 10 points each. Pick 5 to answer. The first 5 answers will be graded. Please put an “x” over the 2 questions you are not answering.

1. How is it possible for a presidential candidate to win the popular vote, but lose the Electoral College vote?
2. Most modern election campaigns involve at least some negative campaigning on the part of the candidates. If so many people despise negative campaigning, why do candidates continue to use it?

3. Describe Kernell’s theory of “going public.” What is “going public,” and under what circumstances do presidents rely on this strategy? Name one real-world example of going public.

4. Explain the judicial philosophy of original intent. What are the major considerations or questions that justices ask in crafting opinions based on this philosophy?
5. There have been numerous proposals to reform the presidential nominating process. Choose one of the proposals discussed in your POV reader. Explain what the proposal is and what problem(s) it fixes.

6. There have been numerous proposals to reform the current campaign finance system. Choose one of the proposals discussed in your POV reader. Explain what the proposal is and what problem(s) it fixes.

7. Political scientists have long debated just how powerful the judiciary is in relation to the other branches of government. Why might someone say the judiciary is the most powerful branch? On the other hand, why might someone say the judiciary is the least powerful branch?