Chapter 10

1. Which of the following is a *confrontational* approach the President can take with regard to Congress?

\*a. Veto threats

b. Cross-party coalitions

c. Sending Congress draft administration bills

d. State of the Union address

2. Which of the following is an example of the President’s power to persuade?

a. Giving a televised speech asking voters to call their Senator

\*b. Meeting with members privately to negotiate a deal

c. Signing an executive order

d. Naming a loyal appointee to head the State Department

3. Which of the following is an example of the “rhetorical president”?

a. Using the rule-making process to achieve an outcome blocked by Congress

b. Hosting a private dinner with select members of Congress

\*c. Appearing on a late night television program to communicate his views

d. Promising a Senator campaign support in exchange for a vote on an important bill

4. Which of the following is an example of the administrative president?

a. Maintaining informal contacts with members of Congress

b. Appearing on an aircraft carrier to bolster support for a military strategy

c. Giving the State of the Union address

\*d. Signing an executive order

5. What are the “two presidencies”?

\*a. Domestic affairs versus foreign affairs and national defense

b. Administrative versus legislative

c. Power of persuasion versus going public

d. Informal versus formal

6. Which of the following is an example of a line item veto?

a. Issuing a signing statement that declares part of a law unconstitutional

b. Waiting to sign a law for more than 10 days, so it is automatically vetoed

\*c. Vetoing some spending items in a bill while signing the rest into law

d. Making a veto threat that draws a bright line describing which legislation the President will veto

7. How can a bill become law if the President vetoes it?

a. A ruling by the Supreme Court

\*b. Two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress

c. Executive order

d. Reintroduction into Congress after waiting 180 days

8. Which of the following is *not* an action the President can take on receiving a bill from Congress?

a. Veto the bill

b. Sign the bill

\*c. Veto part of the bill but sign the rest into law

d. Take no action, and the bill will become law without his signature

9. Which of the following is a common interest that might cause the President and Congress to cooperate?

a. The pocket veto

b. The bully pulpit

c. Veto bargaining

\*d. Shaping public policy

10. In recent years, bargaining and compromise between the President and Congress has grown much more difficult. Which of the following factors helps account for this change?

a. Decreased use of the filibuster

\*b. Intense party competition for control of national institutions

c. Increase in the number of signing statements

d. Gerrymandering

11. In which of the following areas would the “two presidencies” theory predict that the President would have the most power?

a. Passing a law to regulate the financial industry

b. Raising taxes on high earners

\*c. Sending troops to Syria

d. Changing the way agriculture subsidies are distributed

12. A President’s persuasive skills are typically seen as the most important factor in determining votes in the Senate.

a. True

\*b. False

13. About half of all administrative agencies established between WWII and 1995 were unilaterally created by presidents.

\*a. True

b. False

14. Compared to former Presidents, Obama has been unusually successful in moving public opinion through his public speeches and appearances.

a. True

\*b. False

15. Executive orders allow presidents to achieve objectives not explicitly authorized by Congress.

\*a. True

b. False

16. The veto power is the result of congressional rule making rather than being required by the Constitution.

a. True

\*b. False

17. Veto overrides are a rare occurrence.

\*a. True

b. False

18. Most presidents never use their veto power to block congressional legislation.

a. True

\*b. False

19. The President is constitutionally required to issue a signing statement for each bill he signs into law.

a. True

\*b. False

20. The Constitution allocates all powers related to legislation solely to Congress.

a. True

\*b. False

21. The President and his party in Congress tend to be judged together by voters.

\*a. True

b. False

22. The President’s powers under the Constitution are largely implicit.

\*a. True

b. False

23. The balance of power between the executive and legislative branches is essentially a zero-sum game.

a. True

\*b. False

24. Why do Presidents choose to veto legislation? Provide three distinct reasons and clearly explain the justification for each.

\*a. Answers Vary

@Answers could include the following: the bill is unconstitutional, it encroaches on the President’s independence, it is unwise public policy, it would be too unwieldy to administer, it is too expensive, it allows him/her to emphasize partisan differences.

25. Why is the President sometimes called the “chief legislator”?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Despite lacking formal legislative powers in the Constitution, the President does play a significant role in congressional decision making. This role includes the State of the Union and other messages/reports to Congress, sending draft administration bills for introduction on his behalf, the President’s public persona that can be deployed on behalf of (or against) legislation. The President’s veto power also means members of Congress may need to bargain with him in order to secure his signature on legislation.

26. What is the difference between the independent model and the partnership model of presidential style?

\*a. Answers Vary

@These models come from political scientist Charles O. Jones and describe the styles a president might adopt in approaching his/her relationship with Congress. Under the partnership model, a president would consult regularly with members of Congress and directly involve them in policy and political affairs of the White House. In contrast, presidents preferring the independent model would minimize their involvement with Congress and focus on accomplishing their own priorities.

27. What are the potential benefits and risks of “going public”?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Going public is the use of mass media or other public forums to appeal to the American public in support of Congressional action. The biggest potential benefit is the opportunity to produce an outpouring of public support encouraging lawmakers to support his/her proposals. Risks include alienating legislators, raising expectations that cannot be met, and stiffening opposition to the proposal.

28. How did 9/11 affect Bush’s policy-making dynamic with Congress?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Bush’s presidency can effectively be described by two periods—pre-9/11, focused on a largely domestic agenda, and post-9/11, with a strong focus on defense and national security. Pre-9/11, Bush experienced declining popularity and an increasingly difficult-to-work-with Congress. However, after 9/11, Bush’s approval rose sharply and Congress was quick to cooperate with him and let him take the lead on policies relating to national security.

29. Why has the politics of brinksmanship become more common in recent years?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should discuss/describe two major reasons: party polarization and intense party competition for national political institutions.

30. What are signing statements and why do presidents issue them?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Signing statements are proclamations issued by the President to accompany bills they sign into law. They may simply clarify how the President will interpret the law but in the modern era tend to be used for the President to assert that some portion of the law is unconstitutional (in particular that it infringes on the President’s executive power), and thus he will not enforce portions of the law.

31. What is the “two presidencies” theory and what are its implications for the success of presidential proposals?

\*a. Answers Vary

@This theory states that the role of the President is very different in domestic affairs and in foreign policy or national defense. Presidential proposals are more likely to be successful in the foreign policy realm, in part because Congress tends to more actively assert itself in domestic affairs. Some critics have argued, however, that issues are not so easily categorized as “domestic” or “international” in our current globalized world.

32. How might differing constituencies lead to conflict between the President and Congress?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Presidents and legislators tend to view policies from different perspectives because they serve very different constituencies. While Presidents must put together a broad and diverse national coalition to win office, legislators are focused on satisfying constituents in a more limited geographic area with more specific concerns.

33. What are veto threats and why do Presidents issue them?

\*a. Answers Vary

@A veto threat is a statement by the President (sometimes but not always public) to veto a piece of legislation if it comes to his desk. Reasons for doing so include protecting administration priorities, defining party positions/differences, and encouraging negotiations/concessions. Measures prompting veto threats are actually highly likely to eventually become law in some form.

34. What is the difference between a pocket veto and a regular/typical veto?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Vetoes typically occur when the President formally vetoes the bill and then returns it to the originating house of Congress along with a veto message. However, if Congress adjourns before the President’s 10 days to sign the bill are up, the bill cannot become law without the President’s signature and it is considered a “pocket veto.”

35. How has President Obama attempted to foster *informal* ties with members of Congress and how successful have these efforts been?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Obama meets periodically with congressional leadership but has outsourced much of the congressional liaison work to Vice President Biden. Because of his long tenure in the Senate, he has close ties to many members and has helped create bipartisan compromises on various issues. Although Obama has been criticized for his informal relationship, the use of the Vice President to form these ties has met with some success.

36. What types of duties fall under the “administrative” presidency?

\*a. Answers Vary

@The administrative presidency encompasses a variety of managerial and organization techniques that the president can use to accomplish his policy goals. This might involve naming loyal appointees to monitor agencies, reorganizing executive departments, using the budget process to influence which programs grow or shrink, and the use of executive orders or rule-making processes to circumvent Congress entirely in the policy process.

37. What are the four main theories of the presidency, and which do you think best explains the Obama presidency?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should outline and explain the persuasion, rhetoric, administrative, and “two presidencies” theories, providing examples as appropriate. They should then make a clear argument about which one theory (or combination of theories) best helps describe the Obama presidency and provide clear evidence from the text for this argument.

38. What are the arguments for and against the line item veto from a political perspective, and why did the Supreme Court declare it unconstitutional? In your view, should Congress try to pass a new line item veto law or constitutional amendment?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should define the line item veto and then describe the political arguments for and against it—including budgetary flexibility, deficit reduction, and Presidential encroachment on congressional power/undermining the power of the purse. The Supreme Court ruled that the law was unconstitutional because it gave the President unilateral authority to change the text of legislation, which is not a power granted to the President by the Constitution. Congress cannot alter interbranch constitutional arrangements with legislation; they would need to do so with an amendment. Students should then make a clear argument about whether the line item veto is a good idea.

39. What are the three major sources of legislative-executive conflict? Describe each and give a specific example to illustrate. Which do you believe plays the largest role in today’s interbranch conflicts?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should identify and describe constitutional ambiguities, different constituencies, and different time perspectives. They should give a specific example of each from the text or lecture. Finally, they should make a clear argument of which they believe is most important/significant to the modern Congress and President.

40. Identify a recent bill that was signed into law. How did various aspects of interbranch conflict and/or cooperation factor into the passage of this piece of legislation.

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should use news sources, government sources, and sources such as CQ to identify and research a recently passed law. They might identify aspects of interbranch conflict/cooperation such as the President going public, the President bargaining and/or using informal channels of communication, veto bargaining/threats, use of a veto/veto override, a signing statement, and so forth.