Chapter 15

1. Which of these institutions or branches of government tends to take the lead in foreign policy and military action?

\*a. The President  
b. Congress

c. The Supreme Court

d. State governments

2. Which of the following foreign policy-related powers is *not* granted to the President in the Constitution?

a. Negotiating treaties

\*b. Declaring war

c. Serving as commander-in-chief of the armed forces

d. Receiving ambassadors

3. In which of the following situations would Presidential power tend to be *strongest?*

a. Passage of a new health care initiative

b. Implementation of environmental standards

\*c. Response to an international terrorist attack

d. Social Security reform

4. Which of the following foreign policy-related powers is *not* granted to Congress in the Constitution?

a. Declaring war

b. Regulating foreign commerce

c. Funding the military

\*d. Negotiating treaties

5. Which of the following is an example of a *structural* policy?

\*a. Selecting a specific weapons system

b. Deciding on troop levels

c. Allocation of military aid to a foreign country

d. The U.S. response to Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor

6. Which of the following is an example of a *strategic* policy?

a. Declaring war

\*b. Responding to human rights abuses abroad

c. A hostage rescue operation

d. Signing a contract with a private supplier

7. Which of the following is an example of a *crisis* policy?

a. A trade bill that impacts domestic industries

b. Selecting the location of a military installation

\*c. The special forces mission to kill Osama Bin Laden

d. Selling arms to a foreign government

8. What are BRACs meant to accomplish?

\*a. Military base closures

b. Escalation of troop levels

c. Transfer of arms to foreign governments

d. Easing diplomatic relations

9. Which of the following views would be most likely supported by a *trade skeptic*?

a. Open markets encourage innovation and ultimately benefit the U.S. economy.

b. The United States should not enter into trade agreements with nations engaging in human rights abuses.

c. Chinese firms are at an unfair advantage because of their lower labor costs.

\*d. Free trade hurts small businesses and American workers.

10. What is the nature of “fast-track” trade negotiations (also called trade promotion authority)?

\*a. Trade pacts negotiated by the President are subject to an up-or-down vote in both houses of Congress within 90 days.

b. Trade agreements that open markets are subject to fewer restrictions than those that seek to implement tariffs and other protectionist measures.

c. Congress has more authority in trade agreements than in other types of international policies.

d. The Senate does not allow filibusters on any trade-related bills.

11. Which of the following is an example of “legislative prodding”?

a. Declining to approve a treaty negotiated by the President

\*b. Introducing a bill to require congressional review of nuclear agreements with Iran

c. Closing multiple military bases through the BRAC procedure

d. Bringing a case against the President or other executive officials in the Supreme Court

12. Which of the following is required by the War Powers Resolution?

a. The Senate must approve executive agreements with a two-thirds vote before they have force of law

b. A declaration of war is required before any U.S. troops are deployed

\*c. The President must consult with Congress before introducing U.S. troops into hostilities

d. Pentagon funding must be reauthorized by Congress every six months

13. U.S. military forces have been deployed abroad in over 300 instances without a formal declaration of war from Congress.

\*a. True

b. False

14. Presidents typically take the lead in international crises, while Congress tends to be more reactive.

\*a. True

b. False

15. The last sixty years have seen a growing imbalance in the military versus nonmilitary elements of foreign policy.

\*a. True

b. False

16. Historically, the United States has long considered itself deeply involved in worldwide conflicts and has engaged in extensive international military involvement.

a. True

\*b. False

17. Foreign policy powers are allocated exclusively to the President, with Congress playing almost no significant role.

a. True

\*b. False

18. The Senate tends to lean more toward free trade policies, while the House tends to take a more protectionist stance.

\*a. True

b. False

19. Spending on international affairs and foreign aid through the State Department far outpaces military spending.

a. True

\*b. False

20. The majority of U.S. spending on foreign aid goes to strategic allies and partners in counterterrorism efforts in the Middle East.

\*a. True

b. False

21. The President has the sole authority to negotiate, agree to, and sign treaties with foreign powers.

a. True

\*b. False

22. The Supreme Court has held that executive agreements are unconstitutional because they do not follow the treaty procedures laid out in the Constitution.

a. True

\*b. False

23. Partisanship is frequently a major factor in modern oversight investigations.

\*a. True

b. False

24. Congress often includes legislative restrictions on executive power in foreign affairs in appropriations or authorizations bills.

\*a. True

b. False

25. Congress is rarely consulted in the immediate aftermath of international crises.

\*a. True

b. False

26. What is the difference between a treaty and an executive agreement?

\*a. Answers Vary

@A treaty is a negotiated agreement with a foreign power that must be approved by the Senate through a two-thirds vote. Because this vote is sometimes difficult to obtain, the President will sometimes sign executive agreements with foreign powers instead. Executive agreements are international accords that are not submitted to the Senate for its advice and consent. While this process is faster and more efficient than the treaty process, some have been challenged in court as being unconstitutional; but the Court has thus far declined to rule on this issue.

27. What are the major rationales for spending on foreign aid?

\*a. Answers Vary

@The text lists three rationales; students should identify and explain two for full credit. These are: promoting national security by strengthening global prosperity, democracy, rule of law; expanding markets for U.S. exports; and providing humanitarian assistance to countries and people in need.

28. Why is congressional oversight during times of war or crisis particularly difficult?

\*a. Answers Vary

@During these periods, the President may be especially likely to resist intrusions and insist on the need for secrecy. And Congress may be especially reluctant to engage in vigorous oversight for fear of appearing unpatriotic.

29. How is the Food for Peace initiative a type of distributive policy?

\*a. Answers Vary

@This policy dispenses food assistance to needy nations. It is distributive in the sense that American farmers benefit from an additional market for the crops they grow, and they receive significant federal dollars for these crops.

30. How does the appropriations process give Congress an advantage over the President in the foreign policy arena?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Congress has an advantage over the President in the appropriations process because all spending authorizations must come from Congress; the President has no spending power under the Constitution. Members of Congress can be as vague or detailed as it wishes in developing spending priorities. Omnibus appropriations measures specifically advantage Congress because the President must veto or sign the bill as a whole.

31. What are the key differences between trade liberalizers, believers in fair trade, and trade skeptics?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Trade liberalizers believe in lowering trade barriers both in the United States and abroad and favor open markets. The biggest proponents tend to be Republicans and members of the business community. In contrast, many Democrats are proponents of the fair trade view who believe that poor labor, human rights conditions, and environmental conditions in foreign countries make open markets unfair to the U.S. Fair traders believe that trade agreements should include provisions outlining minimum standards in these areas. Finally, trade skeptics argue that trade agreements undermine U.S. sovereignty and largely benefit multinational corporations over small businesses, farmers, and workers. The most common supporters of this view are labor union allies and Tea Partiers.

32. How did George W. Bush’s and Barack Obama’s approaches to national security policies differ?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Bush took a more “quick-to-act” approach, calling himself “the decider” and pushing for swift military action in response to international events. He tended to take a more unilateral approach. In contrast, Obama has tended to make decisions more slowly and with significantly more consultation with various stakeholders. He has tended to prefer multilateral action in coordination with foreign powers.

33. How does the military-industrial-congressional complex relate to the idea of “two Congresses”?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Business firms, labor unions, and local communities seek a variety of federal funds for various military-related expenditures. These include contracts, military bases, and other projects. Lawmakers can provide distributive benefits to their constituents for earmarking these funds for local projects that benefit their constituents and may help their reelection bids. On the other hand, as an institution this approach of doling out contracts and funds may not be the most efficient. This can make it very difficult to cut even very expensive and ineffective programs.

34. Why are military bases difficult to close, and how has Congress dealt with this problem?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Military bases are difficult to close because these closures can be extremely electorally damaging for members in whose districts the closures occur. This can be true even if the bases are unneeded and not benefitting national security. Congress has tried to deal with this issue through the bipartisan Base Realignment and Closing Commissions, which aimed to depoliticize the process and remove blame on individual members for base closures in their district. Although several rounds of BRACs were successful in closing many bases, the cost savings is contested and has delayed further progress on this issue.

35. What are some of the advantages the President holds in the arena of foreign policy?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should identify and describe some of these advantages: unified office (doesn’t have to deal with coordination/collective action problems), superior information sources, capacity for secrecy, explicit international powers in the Constitution, implied/emergency powers.

36. When is the President’s foreign policy power strongest, and when is it weakest? Why?

\*a. Answers Vary

@The President’s foreign policy powers tend to be strongest in times of war or emergency. Authority tends to be more centralized during these times, both practically and in terms of constitutional arrangements. This has been true of executive authority over the course of multiple wars in U.S. history. In contrast, presidential powers tend to be weaker and are subject to greater scrutiny when the United States is not in an international conflict or war or when public approval of international involvement has declined substantially.

37. What foreign policy and war powers are Congress granted by the Constitution, and which of these seems to be most significant/important?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should identify and describe some of the following powers: declaring war, regulating foreign commerce, raising and supporting military forces, and making rules governing military forces. The text argues that the power of the purse is the most significant of these powers, but students could of course make a case for one of the other powers.

38. When does Congress tend to be active and demonstrate leadership in foreign and defense affairs?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should identify and describe two of the three conditions: periods of weak presidential leadership, public groundswells of concern over America’s international role, and pressing domestic issues that impinge on international affairs.

39. How has the evolving nature of warfare in the modern age changed the way Congress and the President deal with these issues?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students could address a number of topics here, including cyberwar, drones, “wars” involving nonstate actors, nuclear threats, a global scope to modern warfare, and/or the need for integrated activities/networks.

40. What is sequestration, and how has the Pentagon dealt with budget cuts from the sequester?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Sequestration is automatic spending cuts in the Budget Control Act of 2011. Pentagon officials have tried to come to agreements with lawmakers to eliminate spending caps but thus far have failed. Instead, they have relied on the Overseas Contingency Operation, which is exempt from the Budget Control Act. Though it was initially intended to be used for the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, the Pentagon has been able to use it to cover budget shortfalls in a variety of areas.

41. Why does the Senate tend to lean more toward free trade policies, while the House tends to take a more protectionist stance?

\*a. Answers Vary

@The Senate tends to lean toward free trade because export-minded agricultural interests are overrepresented due to the two-senators-per-state apportionment rule. These low-population states get more representation in the Senate and thus supported policies are more likely to tilt toward their free trade views. In contrast, the House tends to take a more protectionist stance because of its constituency-attentive focus.

42. What are the major congressional committees that deal with foreign affairs and what are their duties? Does a proliferation of international relations-related committees seem to work effectively?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should identify and describe the House and Senate: Foreign Affairs Committees, Armed Services Committees, Appropriations subcommittees, Intelligence Committees, an Homeland Security Committees. They should then make an argument about whether this arrangement is effective/successful, with particular attention to interbranch conflict between the President and Congress.

43. What are the most common tools used by Congress to influence strategic policies related to international affairs and national defense? Which of these seems to be the most effective?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should identify and describe some of the following: power of the purse, informal advice, legislative prodding, policy oversight, legislative directives or restrictions, and structural or procedural changes. They should then make a clear argument for which of these is most effective, referencing evidence from the text.

44. Select an ongoing or historical international conflict, either military or diplomatic. What actions did the President take with regard to this conflict, and what actions did Congress take? Did these branches seem to cooperate in these actions or conflict? Which branch seemed to have the upper hand, and why this could vary at different points in the conflict?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should carefully research an ongoing or historical conflict and present evidence on both the President’s and Congress’s actions. They should incorporate concepts and evidence from the text as appropriate. The best essays will bring together their evidence under a unifying theme/thesis.