



Examination Preparation Booklet

Contemporary Government and Social Problems

Booklet No. 16



CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, INC.
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Booklet #16

Contemporary Government and Social Problems

Prepared for CSEA LEAP

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Introduction

Purpose

This booklet is designed to help you prepare for specific New York State civil service exams. The 70 practice questions that follow are examples of the kinds of questions you're likely to encounter in several actual exams designed to test your familiarity with contemporary government and social issues. We have no way of predicting exactly what topics these exams will cover, but we are sure that they will include many of the issues presented in this booklet. We have included questions on a range of issues that concern our society, New York State government, its agencies, and its workforce.

Study Guide Contents

The first part of this study guide is composed of 70 multiple choice questions. An answer key is located on page 18, followed by explanations of the correct answers, beginning on page 19.

How to Use This Booklet

Complete these questions four or five at a time and then review your answers in the back of the booklet. Keep in mind that test makers often like to pose questions that force you to read very carefully. For example, although several questions in this booklet ask you to choose the most accurate response, some ask you to choose the *least* accurate answer! Unless you read these questions carefully, you may misinterpret them and choose the wrong answer.

Recommendation

In addition to completing the exercises in this study guide and reading the explanations for the correct answers in the back, you should also try to keep current on social issues and problems, particularly those that affect the residents of New York State. Good sources of information are newspapers, television news, and news magazines. CSEA's newspaper, *The Public Sector*, the weekly tabloid, *The Legislative Gazette*, and the monthly magazine *The Empire State Reporter* are also fine sources of information.

Good luck!

Note: This booklet is designed for practice purposes only and its content may not conform to that of any particular Civil Service Examination.

Contemporary Government and Social Issues

For each of the following questions, select the letter (a, b, c, d) that represents the best choice of the four possible answers.

1. If New York State held a constitutional convention, which of the following could happen?
 - a. The convention could change the state constitution without the approval of voters.
 - b. The convention could cancel rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
 - c. The convention could propose changes to the state constitution that would then need to be approved by the voters.
 - d. The convention could change the number of senators that New York State sends to the U.S. Senate.

2. Of the following, which is most accurate?
 - a. For most people with developmental disabilities, independent living is an impossibility.
 - b. In New York State, most people with developmental disabilities live in large institutions.
 - c. In New York State, group homes have largely replaced institutional living for people with developmental disabilities.
 - d. In New York State, all group homes for people with developmental disabilities are operated by the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

3. Which of the following state agencies regulates hunting?
 - a. Department of Taxation and Finance.
 - b. Department of Environmental Conservation.
 - c. Office of the State Comptroller.
 - d. Office of General Services.

4. What is the purpose of full value assessment?
 - a. To allow homeowners to pay lower real estate taxes than business owners.
 - b. To reduce the tax burden on senior citizens.
 - c. To replace income taxes with property taxes.
 - d. To ensure that property owners pay taxes based on the real value of their property.

5. Which of the following receives the greatest share of revenue generated by the New York State lottery?
 - a. Schools.
 - b. Prisons.
 - c. Small businesses.
 - d. Homeless shelters.

6. Which of the following would not be favored by the Right to Life Party?
 - a. A law requiring doctors to notify a minor's parents before performing an abortion.
 - b. A law prohibiting demonstrations within 100 feet of an abortion clinic.
 - c. A law requiring doctors to suggest other options before performing an abortion.
 - d. A law prohibiting the use of state funds for abortions.

7. Which of the following would be favored by the American Civil Liberties Union?
 - a. Fewer chances for people convicted of capital crimes to appeal their sentences.
 - b. Fewer restrictions on the authority of police to search private property.
 - c. Less emphasis on the rights of defendants in criminal cases.
 - d. Preservation of the rights of the accused in criminal cases.

8. All of the following are provided for in the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution except:
 - a. The right to gainful employment.
 - b. The right to a speedy and fair trial.
 - c. The right to assemble publicly.
 - d. The guarantee of due process of law.

9. If the stock market goes up, what is likely to happen?
 - a. State tax revenues will go down.
 - b. State tax revenues will go up.
 - c. State tax revenues will not be affected.
 - d. More businesses will go bankrupt.

10. Which of the following statements is most accurate?
 - a. It is illegal for public school teachers in New York State to go on strike.
 - b. Most New York State employees are not represented by unions.
 - c. In New York State, it is illegal for police officers to belong to a union.
 - d. Unions that represent New York State employees are not allowed to lobby state legislators.

11. Much of the Adirondack region of New York State is designated “forever wild.” What does this mean?
 - a. There are no restrictions on hunting and fishing in this area.
 - b. No development of any kind is permitted in this area.
 - c. No new residents are allowed to move into this area.
 - d. New developments in this area are strictly controlled.

12. Which of the following is a major cause of acid rain?
 - a. pesticides
 - b. emissions from power plants
 - c. fertilizers
 - d. asbestos

13. For several years, there has been some controversy over what to do about PCBs in the Hudson River. Which of the following is not an option being discussed?
 - a. Leaving the PCBs in place.
 - b. Allowing the PCBs to biodegrade or be covered with silt.
 - c. Dredging the river.
 - d. Using explosives to destroy the PCBs.

14. What is one of the goals of welfare reform?
 - a. Moving people from welfare to work.
 - b. Cutting benefits for senior citizens.
 - c. Forcing older children to work to support their families.
 - d. Encouraging welfare recipients to move to other states.

15. What is one of the drawbacks of electric cars that have been developed to date?
 - a. They use less energy.
 - b. The batteries they use are heavy and need to be recharged frequently.
 - c. They emit less carbon monoxide.
 - d. They require very long cords.

16. Which of the following statements is most accurate?
 - a. Rent control laws have been declared unconstitutional.
 - b. Rent control laws are favored by most landlords.
 - c. Rent control laws are prevalent throughout New York State.
 - d. Rent control laws affect more people in New York City than in other parts of the state.

17. Sex education in high school
 - a. Is protected by the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
 - b. Is controversial in many communities.
 - c. Is not offered in most communities in New York State.
 - d. Has been prohibited by the State Education Department.

18. What does “Gulf War Syndrome” refer to?
- The tendency of the U.S. to become involved in conflicts far from home.
 - The unwillingness of the U.S. to support the United Nations.
 - Price wars launched by big oil companies.
 - A collection of illnesses that affect many veterans of the Gulf War.
19. Which of the following types of information must be made available to the public?
- The salaries of government officials.
 - The medical records of the governor and the lieutenant governor.
 - The medical records of public school teachers .
 - The medical records of anyone receiving public assistance of any kind.
20. Which of the following is not true?
- The Public Service Commission regulates utilities in New York State.
 - The Office of General Services provides supplies and support to New York State agencies.
 - The New York State Office of Parks and Recreation also administers state historical sites.
 - The New York State Higher Education Services Corporation licenses professionals.
21. Which of the following is a major source of revenue for public schools in New York State?
- Federal income taxes.
 - Federal excise taxes.
 - Federal taxes on tobacco products.
 - Local property taxes.
22. Which of the following statements is most accurate?
- AIDS attacks the body’s immune system.
 - AIDS can be spread by casual contact such as shaking hands.
 - AIDS is confined almost exclusively to the homosexual population.
 - AIDS cannot be treated with any known drugs.

23. People who oppose raises in the minimum wage believe that:
- A higher minimum wage will reduce the number of employees that businesses can afford to hire.
 - A higher minimum wage will encourage more people to get jobs.
 - A higher minimum wage will encourage people to move from welfare to work.
 - A higher minimum wage will improve the standard of living of low-wage workers.
24. What is one of the goals of affirmative action programs?
- To eliminate the civil service system.
 - To use standardized test scores as the sole basis for admission to public universities.
 - To increase opportunities for groups that have been discriminated against in the past.
 - To penalize privileged groups for past injustices.
25. Which of the following is most accurate?
- The lieutenant governor in New York State is appointed by the State Senate.
 - The lieutenant governor in New York State appoints the State Comptroller.
 - The lieutenant governor in New York State must belong to the same political party as the governor.
 - The lieutenant governor in New York State is elected by the voters.
26. Why do some health officials favor needle exchange programs for drug users?
- They believe these programs will control the spread of drugs.
 - They believe these programs will reduce the spread of HIV.
 - They believe these programs will help drug users overcome their addictions.
 - They believe these programs will reduce the number of drug overdoses.
27. Which of the following statements is true?
- Child pornography is protected by the First Amendment.
 - Some opponents of pornography think it should be banned because it exploits women.
 - Local police have the ultimate authority in deciding what pornography is.
 - All criminal cases involving pornography must be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

28. Which of the following is true?
- a. Teenage pregnancy is no longer a serious problem in New York State.
 - b. Teenage pregnancy is confined mainly to large cities in New York State.
 - c. Teenage pregnancy often leads to poverty and dependence on the welfare system.
 - d. Teenage pregnancy is an important issue for the Department of Taxation and Finance.
29. What are the two main legislative bodies in New York State government?
- a. The Senate and the Common Council.
 - b. The House of Representatives and the House of Legislators.
 - c. The Senate and the Assembly.
 - d. The Executive Branch and the Office of General Services.
30. The New York State Lemon Law:
- a. Is designed to protect auto manufacturers from unscrupulous customers.
 - b. Refers to the use of unstated additives and sugars in food products.
 - c. Is designed to provide government subsidies to produce farmers.
 - d. Was enacted to protect automobile buyers.
31. Which of the following is not one of the major industries in New York State?
- a. Agriculture.
 - b. Tourism.
 - c. Finance.
 - d. Mining.
32. The State Comptroller is:
- a. Appointed by the Governor.
 - b. Elected by the voters.
 - c. Appointed by the Board of Regents.
 - d. Elected by the State Senate.

33. The Crime Victims Board might:
- Prosecute a defendant.
 - Help a crime victim pay medical bills.
 - Provide legal assistance to a defendant in a criminal case.
 - Overrule the verdict in a criminal case.
34. The New York State Department of Labor:
- Processes claims for unemployment insurance.
 - Collects taxes withheld from pay checks.
 - Rules on the validity of union elections.
 - Regulates the stock market.
35. What social issue has been raised by the rapid growth of the Internet?
- How to make the Internet more competitive.
 - How to establish licensing procedures for Internet users.
 - How to provide tax breaks to Internet users.
 - How to protect children from pornography on the Internet.
36. Private financial institutions assign ratings to bonds issued by the state government. Which of the following has a major impact on these ratings?
- The fiscal soundness of the state government.
 - The federal trade deficit.
 - The Consumer Price Index.
 - The federal budget deficit.

37. Which of the following has been an important trend in health care?
- Longer hospital stays for most patients.
 - Rapid decrease in the cost of health care.
 - Rapid growth of managed care programs.
 - Less emphasis on the cost of health care.
38. Why do some environmentalists favor development of electric cars?
- Because electric cars will reduce emissions.
 - Because electric cars will expand the market for nuclear power.
 - Because electric cars will cost less to manufacture.
 - Because electric cars will improve highway safety.
39. What is one of the goals of managed health care programs?
- To increase salaries for physicians.
 - To encourage the use of proprietary drugs.
 - To control health care costs by providing services more efficiently.
 - To replace government-funded health care programs.
40. Which of the following are not subject to state sales taxes?
- Computers.
 - Newspapers.
 - Books.
 - Automobiles.
41. Anorexia and bulimia are
- Computer viruses.
 - Types of cancer.
 - Toxic substances.
 - Eating disorders.

42. Which of the following would probably be favored by the National Organization for Women?
- a. Repeal of affirmative action laws.
 - b. Stricter limits on abortions.
 - c. Stricter limits on sex education in schools.
 - d. Greater penalties for sexual harassment in the workplace.
43. The purpose of a primary election is to:
- a. Pass the state budget.
 - b. Determine which candidate will receive a political party's nomination.
 - c. Elect judges to the state Supreme Court.
 - d. Pass bond acts.
44. Which of the following would probably be favored by the New York State United Teachers?
- a. Issuing vouchers to parents to help pay private school tuition.
 - b. Repealing the requirement that public schools hire only certified teachers.
 - c. Abolishing the tenure system for public school teachers.
 - d. Passing a bond act to pay for renovation of public schools.
45. Why do some people oppose state-sponsored gambling, such as the New York State Lottery?
- a. Because most of the money raised is used for administrative expenses.
 - b. Because it is unconstitutional.
 - c. Because it takes money from poor people who cannot afford to lose it.
 - d. Because it violates the principle of separation of church and state.

46. A few conservatives have spoken out in favor of legalizing drugs. Why would they take this position?
- Because they believe that drugs are harmless.
 - Because they believe that drug laws represent an unwarranted intrusion on the rights of the individual.
 - Because they think that legalizing drugs can strengthen the U.S. economy.
 - Because they think that legalizing drugs can increase tax revenues.
47. Which of the following would probably be favored by the National Rifle Association?
- Repeal of the ban on assault weapons.
 - Tighter restrictions of gun ownership.
 - A ban on all handguns.
 - Raising the legal age for owning a gun.
48. Who has the ultimate authority to rule on the constitutionality of a law?
- The president.
 - The U.S. Senate.
 - The Speaker of the House.
 - The U.S. Supreme Court.
49. Which of the following has increased the number of people in prisons in New York State?
- Capital punishment.
 - The spread of illegal drugs.
 - A strong economy.
 - Changes in tax laws.
50. Why are many people concerned about second-hand smoke?
- Because it may harm the health of non-smokers.
 - Because it is addictive.
 - Because it may spread communicable diseases.
 - Because it reduces taxes collected on tobacco products.

51. In New York State, where is it legal to smoke in public schools?
- a. In lavatories.
 - b. In faculty lounges.
 - c. In parking lots.
 - d. Nowhere.
52. What is the purpose of anti-trust laws?
- a. To prevent wealthy people from sheltering their assets in trust accounts.
 - b. To prevent companies from forming monopolies.
 - c. To discourage legal agreements based on trust.
 - d. To prevent credit unions from establishing trust accounts.
53. What does the Freedom on Information Act require?
- a. Public disclosure of most government records.
 - b. Free access to the Internet.
 - c. Separation of church and state.
 - d. Free public schooling for all New York State residents.
54. How does the state government support children in private schools?
- a. It pays part of their teachers' salaries.
 - b. It pays for their books.
 - c. It pays for them to take SAT's.
 - d. It pays for school uniforms.
55. What does privatization mean?
- a. Passing new laws to protect the right to privacy.
 - b. Using private companies to do work previously done by government agencies.
 - c. Establishing regulations to keep medical records confidential.
 - d. Permitting private companies to contribute to political campaigns.

56. Those opposed to random drug testing at the workplace often base their opposition on:
- a. The right of employees to use drugs in the workplace.
 - b. The civil rights of employees.
 - c. The right of employees to use drugs on their own time.
 - d. The right of employees to use drugs, as long as that use does not interfere with the quality of their work.
57. People who favor public financing of political campaigns usually do so because:
- a. They are concerned about reducing budget deficits.
 - b. They hope to reduce the influence of special interest groups.
 - c. They wish to ease the financial burden on the taxpayer.
 - d. They do not want individual candidates to incur large personal debts.
58. Why do some people favor term limits for elected officials?
- a. Because they think that elected officials make too much money.
 - b. Because they think that elected officials become less responsive to voters if they are in office for a long time.
 - c. Because they think that term limits will reduce the cost of elections.
 - d. Because they think that term limits are required by the Constitution.
59. Welfare reform brings with it certain costs, including:
- a. The cost of having more people on welfare.
 - b. The cost of providing child care for welfare recipients so that they can go to work.
 - c. The cost of providing benefits to illegal immigrants.
 - d. The cost of providing a free elementary school education, regardless of need.

60. Which of the following would probably be favored by the American Association of Retired Persons?
- a. Raising the age of eligibility for Social Security benefits.
 - b. Requiring all Medicare recipients to use health maintenance organizations.
 - c. Forcing wealthy Medicare recipients to pay a greater share of their medical bills.
 - d. Strengthening the Social Security system to avoid cuts in benefits.
61. Which of the following statements is true?
- a. Home schooling is illegal in New York State.
 - b. Some parents choose to school their children at home for religious reasons.
 - c. Home schooling violates the separation of church and state.
 - d. Parents who choose to school their children at home receive no support from the public schools.
62. Many scientists believe that global warming is caused by:
- a. Nuclear power plants.
 - b. Asteroids.
 - c. Greenhouse gases.
 - d. Space exploration.
63. Which of the following statement is true?
- a. There is a growing movement in the state toward setting higher standards for students.
 - b. The State Education Department is moving away from the concept of statewide standards.
 - c. It is unconstitutional to force all public school students to meet statewide standards.
 - d. Statewide testing of public school students is a very recent development.

64. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is caused by:
- Complications at birth.
 - A history of abortions.
 - Heavy drinking before conception.
 - Heavy drinking during pregnancy.
65. Crack cocaine:
- Is a derivative of marijuana.
 - Can have harmful effects on health.
 - Has no known health effects.
 - Is sold as a prescription drug.
66. When the state budget is not passed by the April 1 deadline:
- School districts may have to borrow money to pay bills.
 - State Police operations may be suspended.
 - School districts may suspend classes until the budget is passed.
 - The governor may declare a State of Emergency.
67. People who oppose new environmental regulations often feel that:
- Preserving the environment is not important.
 - Environmental regulations have done more harm than good to the environment.
 - New regulations may impose unreasonable and unnecessary costs on property owners.
 - Protecting the environment is not an appropriate job for the state.
68. When the voters approve a bond act, they are:
- Authorizing the state to borrow money.
 - Approving the state budget.
 - Amending the state constitution.
 - Eliminating agricultural subsidies.

69. When a school district is operating under an austerity budget:
- a. It cannot provide textbooks for students.
 - b. It cannot offer music or art classes.
 - c. It cannot purchase furniture.
 - d. It cannot hire additional teachers.
70. Who receives revenue from sales taxes?
- a. The federal government.
 - b. County and state government.
 - c. The Internal Revenue Service.
 - d. Banks.

Answer Key

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 25. d | 49. b |
| 2. c | 26. b | 50. a |
| 3. b | 27. b | 51. d |
| 4. d | 28. c | 52. b |
| 5. a | 29. c | 53. a |
| 6. b | 30. d | 54. b |
| 7. d | 31. d | 55. b |
| 8. a | 32. b | 56. b |
| 9. b | 33. b | 57. b |
| 10. a | 34. a | 58. b |
| 11. d | 35. d | 59. b |
| 12. b | 36. a | 60. d |
| 13. d | 37. c | 61. b |
| 14. a | 38. a | 62. c |
| 15. b | 39. c | 63. a |
| 16. d | 40. b | 64. d |
| 17. b | 41. d | 65. b |
| 18. d | 42. d | 66. a |
| 19. a | 43. b | 67. c |
| 20. d | 44. d | 68. a |
| 21. d | 45. c | 69. c |
| 22. a | 46. b | 70. b |
| 23. a | 47. a | |
| 24. c | 48. d | |

Answers and Explanations

1. The answer is choice c. Choice a is incorrect because the voters would have to approve any changes proposed by a state constitutional convention. Choices b and d are incorrect because a state constitutional convention could not change rights and procedures established by the U.S. Constitution or the Bill of Rights.
2. The answer is choice c. Choice a is incorrect because many people with developmental disability live independently. Choice b is incorrect because most people with developmental disabilities no longer live in large institutions. Choice d is incorrect because many group homes for people with developmental disabilities are operated by local not-for-profit organizations.
3. The answer is choice b.
4. The answer is choice d. Choice a is incorrect. In some communities, home owners and business owners are taxed at different rates, but this has nothing to do with full value assessment. Choice b is also incorrect. In some communities, senior citizens pay lower taxes than other property owners, but this has nothing to do with full assessment. Choice c is incorrect because full value assessment is unrelated to the idea of replacing property taxes with income taxes. This is a difficult question because all the choices sound possible at first. This type of question requires careful reading and consideration.
5. The answer is choice a.
6. The answer is choice b. This is a tricky question. It asks you to decide which of the choices would not be favored by the Right to Life Party. To answer this question, you would have to know that the Right to Life Party is opposed to abortion. Choices a, c, and d are incorrect because the Right to Life Party would favor all three laws. Choice b is correct because the Right to Life Party would not favor a law prohibiting demonstrations within 100 feet of an abortion clinic.
7. The answer is choice d. To answer this question, you would have to know that one of the primary goals of the American Civil Liberties Union is the preservation of civil rights, including the rights of the accused in criminal cases. Choices a, b, and c are incorrect because they all represent limitations on these rights.
8. The answer is choice a.
9. The answer is choice b. To answer this question, you would have to know that when the stock market goes up, investors who sell their stock make a profit. This profit (called capital gains) is considered income and is subject to income taxes. Therefore, when the stock market goes up, state income tax revenues go up as well.
10. The answer is choice a. The Taylor Law makes it illegal for public school teachers in New York State to go on strike. Choice b is incorrect because most New York State employees are represented by unions. Choice c is incorrect because it is not illegal for police officers to belong to a union. Choice d is incorrect because public unions do have the right to lobby state legislators.

11. The answer is choice d. Choice a is incorrect because state regulations on hunting and fishing are enforced in the Adirondacks. Choice b is incorrect because new developments are permitted in the Adirondacks as long as they do not harm the essential character of the region. Choice c is incorrect because there is no restriction on new residents moving into the Adirondacks.
12. The answer is choice b.
13. The answer is choice d. This is another tricky question because it asks you which option has not been considered as a way of dealing with PCBs in the Hudson River. Choices a, b, and c are incorrect because all three have been considered as options for dealing with this problem.
14. The answer is choice a.
15. The answer is choice b. Choices a and c are incorrect because they are advantage, not drawbacks.
16. The answer is choice d.
17. The answer is choice b. Choice a is incorrect because the Second Amendment says nothing about sex education. Choices c and d are incorrect because the State Education Department requires some form of sex education throughout the state.
18. The answer is choice d.
19. The answer is choice a. The other choices are incorrect because Freedom of Information laws do not require the publication of anyone's medical records.
20. The answer is choice d. The New York State Higher Education Services Corporation administers student loan programs. It does not license professionals.
21. The answer is choice d. The other choices are incorrect because public schools in New York State receive a relatively small amount of their funds from federal sources.
22. The answer is choice a. Choice b is incorrect because AIDS cannot be spread by casual contact such as shaking hands. Choice c is incorrect because AIDS also affects the heterosexual population. Choice d is incorrect because, even though no cure for AIDS has been developed yet, several drugs are being used to treat the disease.
23. The answer is choice a. The other choices are incorrect because they are reasons why someone would favor, rather than oppose, raising the minimum wage.
24. The answer is choice c.
25. The answer is choice d. Choice a is incorrect because the lieutenant governor is elected by the voters, not appointed by the State Senate. Choice b is incorrect because the State Comptroller is also elected by the voters. Choice c is incorrect because there is no requirement that the lieutenant governor belong to the same political party as the governor, although he or she usually does.

26. The answer is choice b. HIV can be communicated by sharing needles. Therefore, some health officials favor needle exchange programs, which provide drug users with clean, sterile needles. People who oppose needle exchange programs believe that these programs promote or condone the use of illegal drugs. The other choices are incorrect because needle exchange programs are not intended to control the spread of drugs, help addicts overcome their addiction, or reduce the number of drug overdoses.
27. The answer is choice b. Choice a is incorrect because the courts have ruled that child pornography is not protected by the Second Amendment. Choice c is incorrect because the courts, not the police, have ultimate authority in deciding what pornography is. Choice d is incorrect because most pornography cases are tried in county courts.
28. The answer is choice c. Choice a is incorrect because teenage pregnancy remains a serious problem in New York State. Choice b is incorrect because teenage pregnancy is not confined mainly to large cities. Choice d is incorrect because teenage pregnancy has no particular effect on the Department of Taxation and Finance.
29. The answer is choice c.
30. The answer is choice d. The Lemon Law was intended to protect consumers who unknowingly buy defective automobiles.
31. The answer is choice d. Although there are many mines in New York State, mining is not a major industry.
32. The answer is choice b.
33. The answer is choice b. The main function of the Crime Victims Board is to help the victims of crime recover from their physical injuries and financial losses.
34. The answer is choice a. Choice b is incorrect because the Department of Taxation and Finance collects taxes withheld from pay checks. Choice c is incorrect because the National Labor Relations Board rules on the validity of union elections. Choice d is incorrect because the Department of Labor has not authority over the stock market.
35. The answer is choice d. Choice a is incorrect because making the Internet more “competitive” is not a social issue. Choice b is incorrect because no one has proposed licensing Internet users. Choice c is incorrect because no one has proposed providing tax breaks to Internet users.
36. The answer is choice a. The fiscal soundness of the state government is the main factor that determines the rating of bonds issued by the state. The other choices are incorrect because they have no direct effect on bond ratings.
37. The answer is choice c. Choice a is incorrect because most hospital stays are becoming shorter rather than longer. Choice b is incorrect because health care costs have been increasing not decreasing. Choice d is incorrect because concern over the cost of health care has become a major social and political issue.
38. The answer is choice a. The other choices are incorrect because they do not represent reasons to favor the development of electric cars.

39. The answer is choice c. The other choices are incorrect because they are not goals of managed health care programs.
40. The answer is choice b.
41. The answer is choice d.
42. The answer is choice d. The National Organization for Women (NOW) promotes justice and equality for women. Therefore, NOW would probably favor greater penalties for sexual harassment in the workplace. Choice a is incorrect because NOW favors affirmative action laws designed to increase opportunities for women. Choice b is incorrect because NOW would not favor further limits on abortion rights. Choice c is incorrect because NOW is not opposed to sex education.
43. The answer is choice b.
44. The answer is choice d. Choice a is incorrect because the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) believes that voucher systems will weaken the public schools. Choice b is incorrect because NYSUT believes that hiring teachers who are not certified will reduce the quality of public education. Choice c is incorrect because NYSUT views the tenure system is a necessary protection for teachers.
45. The answer is choice c. Choice a is incorrect because only a small portion of the money raised by the New York State Lottery is used for administrative expenses. Choice b is incorrect because the constitution does not prohibit state-sponsored gambling. Choice d is incorrect because state-sponsored gambling has nothing to do with the separation of church and state.
46. The answer is choice b. While most conservatives oppose the legalization of drugs, a few prominent conservatives favor legalization because they believe that drug laws are an unwarranted intrusion on individual rights.
47. The answer is choice a. The other choices are incorrect because the National Rifle Association (NRA) would probably oppose any stronger restrictions on guns. The NRA favors less gun control, not more.
48. The answer is choice d.
49. The answer is choice b. The spread of illegal drugs has greatly increased the number of people in prisons. The other choices are incorrect because they have not increased the prison population.
50. The answer is choice a. Some health officials believe that second-hand smoke can be harmful even to people who do not smoke themselves. Second-hand smoke is not addictive, nor does it spread communicable diseases. It has no effect on taxes collected on tobacco products.
51. The answer is choice d.
52. The answer is choice b. The primary purpose of anti-trust laws is to prevent monopolies. The other choices are incorrect because anti-trust laws have nothing to do with them.
53. The answer is choice a.
54. The answer is choice b.

55. The answer is choice b. Privatization refers to the practice of using private businesses to do work previously done by public employees. People opposed to privatization believe that these businesses care more about profit than about the public good.
56. The answer is choice b. The other choices are incorrect because most opponents of random drug testing do not feel that employees have the right to take drugs.
57. The answer is choice b. People who favor public financing of political campaigns believe that it will reducing the power of special interest groups who make big contributions to candidates.
58. The answer is choice b. Most advocates of term limits believe that elected officials who stay in office a long time are likely to become unresponsive to voters. Choice a is incorrect because the salaries of elected officials usually do not enter into discussions of term limits. Choice c is incorrect because it is hard to predict what effect, if any, term limits will have on the cost of elections. Choice d is incorrect because term limits are not required by the Constitution. In fact, some people believe that term limits may be prohibited by the Constitution.
59. The answer is choice b. Welfare reform is intended to move people from welfare to work. One of the major costs involved in this process is providing child care so that parents can go to their jobs. Choice a is incorrect because the goal of reform is to have fewer people on welfare, not more. Choice c is incorrect because welfare reform does not provide additional benefits to illegal immigrants. Choice d is incorrect because free public education has nothing to do with welfare reform.
60. The answer is choice d. Choice d is correct because strengthening the Social Security system would be a benefit to retirees, and therefore the American Association of Retired Person (AARP) would favor it. The other choices are incorrect because they would all reduce or restrict benefits for retirees.
61. The answer is choice b. Many parents who choose home schooling for their children do so for religious reasons. Choice a is incorrect because home schooling is legal in New York State. Choice c is incorrect because no one contends that home schooling violates the separation of church and state. Choice d is incorrect because people who school their children at home receive free textbooks from public schools.
62. The answer is choice c. Greenhouse gases are emissions from cars, factories, and other sources. They create an insulating layer in the atmosphere that traps heat on earth.
63. The answer is choice a. The State Education Department and the Board of Regents favor greater use of standardized tests and better reporting of the results of these tests. Therefore, choice b is incorrect. Choice c is incorrect because the state constitution does not prohibit statewide standards. Choice d is incorrect because the State Education Department has conducted statewide tests for many years. These tests have received more attention in recent years, but they are not a new development.
64. The answer is choice d.
65. The answer is choice b. Choice a is incorrect because crack cocaine is not a derivative of marijuana. Choice c is incorrect because using crack cocaine causes serious health hazards. Choice d is incorrect because crack cocaine is not sold as a prescription drug.

66. The answer is choice a. One of the costs of late budgets is that school districts have to borrow money to pay their bills. Choice b is incorrect because the State Police do not suspend their operations because that budget has not been passed. Choice c is incorrect because school districts do not suspend classes for this reason. Choice d is incorrect because a late budget is not a reason for the governor to declare a state of emergency. The governor declares a state of emergency when a natural disaster or civil disturbance threatens the welfare of state residents.
67. The answer is choice c. Cost is the major concern for most opponents of new environmental regulations. The other choices are incorrect because people who opposed new environmental regulations do not usually take these positions.
68. The answer is choice a.
69. The answer is choice c. A school district operates under an austerity budget when the voters do not pass the budget proposed by the school board. Under an austerity budget, schools continue to function but they cannot purchase new furniture or offer interscholastic sports unless funding for these items is specifically approved by the voters.
70. The answer is choice b.