

CHAPTER 2: The Texas Constitution

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which of the following is a function of a state constitution?
 - a. to ensure the safety of its citizens by building a wall along the U.S.–Mexico border
 - b. to concentrate power in the executive branch
 - c. to set the proper tax rates for state and county authorities
 - d. to forbid certain government actions by establishing civil liberties

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: The Role of a State Constitution
 OBJ: Identify the main functions of state constitutions MSC: Applying

2. Which of the following ideas does NOT unite the U.S. and Texas constitutional experiences?
 - a. Political power in both the United States and Texas is derived from the people.
 - b. Political power is divided by both the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Constitutions into three separate parts and placed in separate branches of government.
 - c. The idea of individual rights.
 - d. The subordinate role that Texas has in the federal system.

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: The Role of a State Constitution
 OBJ: Identify the main functions of state constitutions MSC: Understanding

3. What does the Texas Constitution contain that the U.S. Constitution does not?
 - a. Bill of Rights
 - b. separation of powers
 - c. supremacy clause
 - d. equal rights amendment

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: The Role of a State Constitution
 OBJ: Identify the main functions of state constitutions MSC: Understanding

4. The system of distributing powers between states and a central government is called
 - a. federalism.
 - b. separation of powers.
 - c. constitutionalism.
 - d. filtration.

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: The Role of a State Constitution
 OBJ: Identify the main functions of state constitutions MSC: Remembering

5. Article VI of the U.S. Constitution contains the
 - a. supremacy clause.
 - b. separation of powers clause.
 - c. necessary and proper clause.
 - d. delegate powers.

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: The Role of a State Constitution
 OBJ: Identify the main functions of state constitutions MSC: Understanding

6. Which is a true statement about the powers of the national government?
 - a. The only powers of the national government are those specifically stated.
 - b. The amount of power the national government has exercised has grown over the last 200 years as a result of the “necessary and proper clause.”
 - c. Powers are determined by the supremacy clause.
 - d. Powers of the national government are equal to the powers of the state governments.

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: The Role of a State Constitution
 OBJ: Identify the main functions of state constitutions MSC: Remembering

7. Texas has operated under how many constitutions?
- a. 5
 - b. 6
 - c. 7
 - d. 8

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Understanding

8. The current Texas Constitution borrowed all of the following from the Constitution of 1827 EXCEPT
- a. the establishment of Catholicism as the state religion.
 - b. a guarantee of citizens' rights to liberty, security, property, and equality.
 - c. the curtailment of the spread of slavery.
 - d. the legislature's order to promote education.

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Analyzing

9. Which provision of the 1836 Constitution was the most important adaptation of Spanish-American Law for the Texas Republic?
- a. the idea of community property
 - b. a bicameral legislature
 - c. a four-tiered judicial system
 - d. a system of checks and balances

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Understanding

10. Texas became an independent republic in _____ and became part of the United States in _____.
- a. 1827; 1861
 - b. 1827; 1869
 - c. 1836; 1845
 - d. 1845; 1876

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Understanding

11. The main problem that stalled the admission of Texas into the United States was
- a. the lack of enough people in Texas.
 - b. Texas's overly large debt, which would have to be assumed by the federal government.
 - c. that Texas would be a proslavery state.
 - d. that foreign nations had refused to recognize an independent Texas.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Applying

12. Which of the following was NOT part of the annexation agreement between Texas and the United States?
- a. Texas could divide itself into as many as five separate states.
 - b. Texas was responsible for paying all foreign debts it incurred while independent.
 - c. Texas could maintain its own army and navy for 25 years.
 - d. Texas would retain title to its public lands.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life

MSC: Analyzing

13. _____ dominated the secession convention of 1861.
- Landowners and cattlemen
 - Lawyers and slaveholders
 - Supporters of Governor Sam Houston
 - Supporters of the Union

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Analyzing

14. Which of the following statements about the Texas Constitutional Convention of 1865 is FALSE?
- Texas had to accept the abolition of slavery.
 - Texas had to repudiate the war debt incurred by the state.
 - Texas had to return to the federal government parts of Oklahoma seized by Texas Confederate soldiers.
 - The state had to formally reject the right of secession.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Evaluating

15. Who were the Radical Republicans?
- those Republicans who proposed to write a new U.S. constitution in the late 1990s
 - those Republicans after the Civil War who controlled Reconstruction policy in the former Confederate states
 - the first Republicans since Reconstruction in Texas to win elected office during the 1960s
 - followers of the pro-Union governor Sam Houston

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Analyzing

16. The Texas Constitution of 1869 was created
- because Texas needed a new constitution when it joined the Confederacy.
 - by members of the Texas Republican Party.
 - in order to limit the power of state government.
 - as a reaction against Reconstruction.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Understanding

17. The Constitution of Reconstruction created
- a strong governor's office.
 - strong local government.
 - a unicameral legislature.
 - the election of judges.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Understanding

18. Which statement best describes the post–Civil War governorship of E. J. Davis?
- Davis was a Democratic Confederate sympathizer who frequently clashed with the federal Congress.

- b. Davis tried to return Texas to independence rather than reenter the Union after the Civil War.
- c. Davis was a Republican who used the centralized powers of the governorship to maintain control over his regime.
- d. Davis sought to decentralize government in Texas, moving toward a policy of home rule.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
 OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
 MSC: Remembering

19. The Reconstruction governor who initially refused to leave office after being ousted by voters was
- a. Richard Coke.
 - b. Edmund J. Davis.
 - c. John S. “Rip” Ford.
 - d. A. J. Hamilton.

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
 OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
 MSC: Remembering

20. The domination of Texas politics by Republicans after the Civil War ended
- a. with the election of governor Richard Coke in 1873.
 - b. with the victory of the Populist Party in 1892.
 - c. in 1888, with violent riots by farmers in Houston, Dallas, and Austin.
 - d. through a peaceful transfer of power in 1900.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
 OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
 MSC: Remembering

21. What was Texas’s most progressive constitution in terms of power and organization?
- a. the Constitution of the Republic of Texas
 - b. the “statehood constitution” of 1845
 - c. the Civil War Constitution of 1861
 - d. the Constitution of 1869

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
 OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
 MSC: Understanding

22. Who made up the Grange, and what effect did they have on the writing of the Texas Constitution?
- a. They were a consortium of railroad entrepreneurs who wanted a constitution that would aid business interests.
 - b. They were a group of pro-Union Republicans who controlled the state after the Civil War.
 - c. They were an agricultural group who wanted a government that would improve the plight of farmers.
 - d. They were early wildcatters who wanted land grants from the state so they could explore for oil.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
 OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
 MSC: Remembering

23. In what year was Texas’s current constitution ratified?
- a. 1828
 - b. 1845
 - c. 1876
 - d. 1846

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876

OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Understanding

24. Which principle of government is the key to understanding the drafting of the Texas Constitution of 1876?
- the need for governmental subsidy and regulation of economic growth
 - the importance of civil right protections for African Americans and Latinos
 - the necessity of strong limitations on the authority of state officials
 - the value of states' rights

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Analyzing

25. The Mexican War of Independence against _____ grew out of the _____.
- Spain; Napoleonic Wars
 - France; French Revolution
 - Spain; U.S. War of Independence
 - the United States; U.S. War of Independence

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Remembering

26. Which statement best describes the structure of the Texas legislature?
- Since independence from Mexico, Texas has had a bicameral legislature.
 - Texas's first unicameral legislature was established while the state was a member of the Confederacy.
 - Texas has always had a unicameral legislature.
 - Texas created the idea of a unicameral legislature.

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Applying

27. The Texas Constitution of 1876 was written to
- prevent a direct reflection of the difference in its framers' underlying goals.
 - overcome the liabilities of the Articles of Confederation.
 - create a government that could act effectively in the public welfare in a variety of policy areas.
 - prevent the expansion of governmental authority that was perceived as acting against the interest of the people.

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Remembering

28. Which of the following was NOT a goal for those writing the Texas Constitution of 1876?
- to restrict the government's ability to get into debt
 - to limit the ability of the government to impose taxes
 - to check the powers of the governor
 - to give independence to the judiciary by making all judges appointed instead of elected

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life

MSC: Understanding

29. What is the major difference between the bill of rights in the Texas Constitution and the U.S. Bill of Rights?
- There is no bill of rights in the Texas Constitution.
 - The Texas Constitution grants Texans rights that are not found in the U.S. Constitution.
 - The Texas bill of rights is far less detailed than the federal Bill of Rights.
 - The Texas Constitution has no specific rights for those accused of crimes.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: The Constitution of Texas Today
OBJ: Analyze the major provisions of the Texas Constitution today
MSC: Applying

30. Which of the following statements about republican government is INCORRECT?
- The right to republican government is not guaranteed in the Texas bill of rights.
 - Republican government is part of a system of representative democracy.
 - Under a representative government, power derives from the people.
 - The Texas Constitution gives the people a right to reform or to abolish their government.

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: The Constitution of Texas Today
OBJ: Analyze the major provisions of the Texas Constitution today
MSC: Applying

31. In addition to the preamble and appendix, how many articles are contained in the Texas Constitution?
- | | |
|-------|-------|
| a. 10 | c. 27 |
| b. 17 | d. 24 |

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: The Constitution of Texas Today
OBJ: Analyze the major provisions of the Texas Constitution today
MSC: Remembering

32. Which of the following is NOT found in the Texas bill of rights?
- guarantees of equal treatment under law
 - guarantees of no religious tests for officeholders
 - the right to employment
 - the right to trial by jury

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: The Constitution of Texas Today
OBJ: Analyze the major provisions of the Texas Constitution today
MSC: Remembering

33. Which article of the Texas Constitution discusses free public education?
- | | |
|------|------|
| a. 3 | c. 5 |
| b. 4 | d. 7 |

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: The Constitution of Texas Today
OBJ: Analyze the major provisions of the Texas Constitution today
MSC: Remembering

34. Discussion of the judicial department is in Article _____ of the Texas Constitution.
- | | |
|------|------|
| a. 2 | c. 4 |
| b. 3 | d. 5 |

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: The Constitution of Texas Today
OBJ: Analyze the major provisions of the Texas Constitution today

MSC: Remembering

35. Under the Texas Constitution, who has the power of impeachment?
- The House of Representatives has the power to impeach, while the Senate has the power to try and convict.
 - The Senate has the power to both impeach and convict.
 - The House of Representatives has the power to impeach, while the state supreme court has the power to try and convict.
 - Texas has no constitutional provisions for impeachment.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: The Constitution of Texas Today

OBJ: Analyze the major provisions of the Texas Constitution today

MSC: Understanding

36. The Texas Constitution requires which of the following for amendment?
- a two-thirds vote in both houses of the state legislature and a majority vote from the voters of Texas
 - only a majority vote from the voters of Texas
 - the governor's signature
 - a two-thirds vote in county conventions convened for the purpose of amending the constitution

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: The Constitution of Texas Today

OBJ: Analyze the major provisions of the Texas Constitution today

MSC: Understanding

37. The Texas Constitution is
- a tightly argued, brief document of general principles.
 - a long, complex, and detailed document.
 - difficult to amend, compared to the U.S. Constitution.
 - an economic treatise disguised as a blueprint for government.

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Recent Attempts to Rewrite the Texas Constitution

OBJ: Describe modern efforts to change the Texas Constitution

MSC: Evaluating

38. The Texas Constitutional Convention of 1974
- had delegates selected from the public by popular vote.
 - was composed of members of the Texas House and Legislative Council.
 - adopted a proposed constitution by a two-thirds vote.
 - failed to agree on a proposed constitution.

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: Recent Attempts to Rewrite the Texas Constitution

OBJ: Describe modern efforts to change the Texas Constitution

MSC: Analyzing

39. The drive to rewrite the Texas Constitution in the 1970s grew out of
- a major stock fraud involving bribery of several elected officials, state party officials, and bankers.
 - bitter politics coupled with the intense demands of highly mobilized special interests.
 - Sharpstown State Bank swindling National Bankers Life Insurance Corporation for millions of dollars.
 - Sharpstown State Bank's involvement in the bribery of several state judges.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Recent Attempts to Rewrite the Texas Constitution

OBJ: Describe modern efforts to change the Texas Constitution

MSC: Understanding

40. Which of the following is NOT a reason for low voter turnout for constitutional amendments?
- Most amendments are relatively insignificant for most voters.
 - Many amendments are not controversial.
 - Negative advertising in the media has had the effect of alienating possible voters.
 - Elections for amendments are held in “off” years, when no candidates are on the ballot.

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: Recent Attempts to Rewrite the Texas Constitution

OBJ: Describe modern efforts to change the Texas Constitution

MSC: Evaluating

TRUE/FALSE

1. There are rights guaranteed to Texans in Article 1 of the Texas Constitution that go far beyond those of the U.S. Constitution.

ANS: T DIF: Easy REF: The Role of a State Constitution

OBJ: Identify the main functions of state constitutions MSC: Understanding

2. One of the most important differences between the Texas Constitution and the U.S. Constitution is the need for voter approval for amendments to the Texas Constitution to take effect.

ANS: T DIF: Easy REF: The Role of a State Constitution

OBJ: Identify the main functions of state constitutions MSC: Remembering

3. Texas has a bill of rights containing more liberties than those found in the U.S. Bill of Rights.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate REF: The Role of a State Constitution

OBJ: Identify the main functions of state constitutions MSC: Understanding

4. One of the major issues of the Civil War was how the federal system was to be understood.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876

OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life

MSC: Evaluating

5. The state of Texas has had three constitutions in the course of its history.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876

OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life

MSC: Understanding

6. The first federal constitution that Texas operated under was the British constitution.

ANS: F DIF: Easy REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876

OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life

MSC: Evaluating

7. The Constitution of 1866 did not exclude former secessionists from voting.

ANS: T DIF: Easy REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Remembering

8. The Constitution of 1866 granted the governor a line-item veto on appropriations.

ANS: T DIF: Easy REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Remembering

9. The Texas Constitution of 1869 was written by members of the Republican Party, including ten African Americans.

ANS: T DIF: Easy REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Understanding

10. The U.S. Supreme Court in *Texas v. White et al.* (1869) ruled that Texas did secede from the union.

ANS: F DIF: Easy REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Remembering

11. The Texas Constitution of 1876 was designed to limit the power of government, especially of the governor's office.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Remembering

12. Under the Texas Constitution, it is unconstitutional to impeach elected officeholders.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876
OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life
MSC: Applying

13. The Texas Constitution created a plural executive, consisting of multiple elected executive officers.

ANS: T DIF: Easy REF: The Constitution of Texas Today
OBJ: Analyze the major provisions of the Texas Constitution today
MSC: Evaluating

14. The Texas Constitution creates two top appellate courts, one for civil cases and one for criminal cases.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate REF: The Constitution of Texas Today
OBJ: Analyze the major provisions of the Texas Constitution today
MSC: Understanding

15. Conservative rancher/banker Dolph Briscoe was the first governor in the history of the state not to receive a majority of the popular vote.

ANS: T DIF: Easy REF: The Constitution of Texas Today
OBJ: Analyze the major provisions of the Texas Constitution today
MSC: Remembering

16. There have been no serious attempts in recent years to change the Texas Constitution.

ANS: F DIF: Easy REF: The Constitution of Texas Today
OBJ: Analyze the major provisions of the Texas Constitution today
MSC: Remembering

17. The current Texas Constitution has been amended more than 400 times.

ANS: T DIF: Easy REF: The Constitution of Texas Today
OBJ: Analyze the major provisions of the Texas Constitution today
MSC: Remembering

18. There are rights guaranteed to Texans in Article 1 of the Texas Constitution that go far beyond those of the U.S. Constitution.

ANS: T DIF: Easy REF: Recent Attempts to Rewrite the Texas
Constitution
OBJ: Describe modern efforts to change the Texas Constitution
MSC: Remembering

19. The Texas Constitution created a unicameral legislature.

ANS: F DIF: Easy REF: Recent Attempts to Rewrite the Texas
Constitution
OBJ: Describe modern efforts to change the Texas Constitution
MSC: Analyzing

20. The Texas Constitution became a place where special interests could seek to promote and protect their own agendas.

ANS: T DIF: Moderate REF: Recent Attempts to Rewrite the Texas
Constitution
OBJ: Describe modern efforts to change the Texas Constitution
MSC: Analyzing

21. The Texas Constitution makes no requirements for the establishment and upkeep of a public school system.

ANS: F DIF: Difficult REF: Recent Attempts to Rewrite the Texas
Constitution
OBJ: Describe modern efforts to change the Texas Constitution
MSC: Evaluating

22. The drive to rewrite the Texas Constitution grew out of a major stock fraud that broke in the early 1970s involving the Sharpstown State Bankers Life Insurance Corporation.

ANS: T DIF: Easy REF: Recent Attempts to Rewrite the Texas

Constitution

OBJ: Describe modern efforts to change the Texas Constitution

MSC: Remembering

ESSAY

1. What are some of the key similarities and differences between the Texas Constitution and the U.S. Constitution?

ANS:

- a. Functions of a state constitution: Legitimate state political institutions by explaining the source of power and authority; delegate powers; establish local governments; define limits of powers.
- b. Five ideas that unite the Texas Constitution and the U.S. Constitution: Political power is derived from the people; separation of powers; checks and balances; the idea of individual rights; federalism.
- c. Differences: Significance of including a bill of rights; supremacy clause; necessary and proper clause. Amendment process: the amending processes differ between the Texas Constitution and the U.S. Constitution; voter approval is necessary for a state constitution; the difference in length of the two constitutions is extreme, with the Texas constitution being the second longest of any state.

DIF: Moderate REF: The Role of a State Constitution

OBJ: Identify the main functions of state constitutions MSC: Evaluating

2. Describe the particular historical condition under which the Constitution of 1876 was drafted. What were some of the main principles behind the Constitution of 1876? What are some of the most important aspects of the constitution that reflect the political philosophy of its framers?

ANS:

- a. Historical reasons for the Constitution of 1876: Prevent another Edmund J. Davis; diffuse state powers; Reconstruction Constitution of 1869; Radical Republicans; Richard Cokes election; Grange movement; establish regulations curtailing government power.
- b. Main principles behind the Constitution of 1876: To establish strong, popular control of state government; to develop a constitution that limits the power of the state government; to seek economy in the government; to promote agrarian interests.
- c. Political philosophy of framers: Decentralize the executive branch and expose state judiciaries to popular election; the state was concerned with direct democracy.
- d. Aspects of political philosophy: Executive authority was diffused among numerous officeholders rather than concentrated in the hands of the governor; constitutional amendments must be voted on by a majority of citizens; bill of rights was included.

DIF: Moderate REF: The Role of a State Constitution

OBJ: Identify the main functions of state constitutions MSC: Understanding

3. Explain the historical influences, similarities, and differences among Texas's first six constitutions.

ANS:

- a. Seven Constitutions: The Constitution of Coahuila y Texas (1827); The Constitution of the Republic of Texas (1836); the Constitution of 1845; the Civil War Constitution (1861); the Constitution of 1866; the Constitution of Reconstruction (1869); and the Constitution of 1876.

- b. How the current constitution differs from the previous constitutions: Idea of popular sovereignty; limited government; direct democracy; social contract theory; and separation of powers.
- c. Constitutions prior to 1876: Detailed limitations on the governor, the legislature, and other governmental institutions; the decentralization of governmental authority limited the ability of state and local governments to adapt effectively to economic and demographic changes.
- d. Influences of the Mexican constitution: Separate institutions (e.g., legislative, judicial, executive); state religion; community property; homestead exemptions and protections; and debtor relief.

DIF: Difficult REF: The Texas Constitutions: 1836–1876

OBJ: Describe the six Texas constitutions and their role in Texas political life

MSC: Analyzing

4. There have been several calls to revamp the Texas Constitution. What has been the rationale for significant changes to the Texas Constitution? Describe the attempt in the mid-1970s to change it. Why did the attempt fail?

ANS:

- a. Scandals or policy needs are reasons for changes to the Texas Constitution: The state has continuously amended the document on a piecemeal basis to address specific needs or political priorities; the Sharpstown State Bank and the National Bankers Life Insurance Corporation scandal brought a need for change.
- b. Group involvement against changing the constitution: The Tea Party and anti-tax groups have attempted to protect their interests through constitutional amendments; it is easier to mobilize against something than to try to change something.
- c. Reasons why changes to the constitution fail: Some changes are attempted in an off year election cycle; voter turnout for most constitutional amendment elections is low; the interests of a small segment of the population have a disproportionate influence over the amendment process; it is easier to mobilize public opinion against rather than for major change.
- d. Political culture reflected in the constitution: The Texas constitution reflects the values of conservative political culture (traditionalist-individualist); Article 17 of the Texas Constitution delineates the amending process as arduous (e.g., requiring a majority of state voter approval).

DIF: Moderate REF: The Constitution of Texas Today

OBJ: Analyze the major provisions of the Texas Constitution today

MSC: Applying

5. How does Texas's mistrust of government and resistance to change manifest itself in the current constitution? How does this conflict with the political preferences for limited government?

ANS:

- a. Historical influences: The Mexican constitution; Edmund J. Davis; the issue of slavery; the Ordinance of Secession; the Grange movement.
- b. Philosophy of framers: Control of state government through popular sovereignty; plural executive; Conservative political culture; rigid and lengthy constitution.
- c. Control political interest to change the constitution: Less active role for political parties to get out the vote; no candidates to generate voter turnout; the Federalist Papers, nos. 10, 47, and 51.
- d. Traditionalist-individualist cultural influences: Article 17 of the Texas Constitution

indicates that the amending process is very detailed and arduous; socially conservative groups such as the Tea Party and anti-tax groups; low voter interest and turnout.

DIF: Difficult REF: Recent Attempts to Rewrite the Texas Constitution
OBJ: Describe modern efforts to change the Texas Constitution
MSC: Understanding