**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The Impact of Public Opinion Exam**

Matching. Answers may be used more than once.

\_\_\_\_\_1. The judge may lean on this if a similar issue has been ruled on before.

\_\_\_\_\_2. Passes laws that may affect the way courts function.

\_\_\_\_\_3. What the majority of the public thinks about a topic.

\_\_\_\_\_4. These are elected positions for each county; the ones who make the ultimate decision about whether to prosecute someone or how they should prosecute.

\_\_\_\_\_5. Determines what is or isn’t a crime, thus determining what cases the court gets to decide on.

\_\_\_\_\_6. People who are paid by companies or organizations to represent their interests to lawmakers and influence the way lawmakers vote.

\_\_\_\_\_7. These may not want to face scrutiny for their decisions, especially if they had already prejudged the case or know how their friends and family members would think about the case.

\_\_\_\_\_8. The branch of government that makes laws on which the court system rules.

Answers:

a. Public opinion

b. The legislature

c. District Attorneys

d. Lobbyists

e. Jury members

f. Precedent

\_\_\_\_\_9. How is public opinion measured?

a. Polls

b. Elections

c. Surveys

d. All of the above

\_\_\_\_\_10. Who are or can be elected officials that must vote or decide a certain way to keep their constituents happy so they can be reelected?

a. Lawmakers

b. Newspaper reporters

c. Judges

d. A and C only

\_\_\_\_\_11. Suggested sentencing is an effective way for the legislature to affect the way courts function.

a. True

b. False

\_\_\_\_\_12. Classifying a crime as a misdemeanor or felony is an effective way for the legislature to effect the way courts function.

a. True

b. False

\_\_\_\_\_13. Crime has always been prosecuted in a public manner.

a. True

b. False

\_\_\_\_\_14. More emphasis in our society is being place on a. The individual

b. The community

\_\_\_\_\_15. Who focuses on self-control in individual privacy matters?

a. Liberals

b. Conservatives

\_\_\_\_\_16. Who values self-expression?

a. Liberals

b. Conservatives

\_\_\_\_\_17. Who demands social control in the commercial sphere?

a. Liberals

b. Conservatives

\_\_\_\_\_18. Who opposes government restrictions on the marketplace?

a. Liberals

b. Conservatives

\_\_\_\_\_19. Who defends untempered self-expression in the commercial sphere for employers and producers?

a. Liberals

b. Conservatives

\_\_\_\_\_20. Who values individual privacy, such as matters of religious or sexual preferences?

a. Liberals

b. Conservatives

The following answers are descriptions of the factors of influence that are listed below.

Each answer may be used more than once.

a. The type of crime or issue

b. The type of victim or suspect

c. The media

d. Lobbyist

e. Religion

f. Public’s knowledge about the issue

\_\_\_\_\_21. The public may want harsher penalties on crimes that statistically are not as bad as the media claims

\_\_\_\_\_22. Social class, sex, race, age, celebrity status

\_\_\_\_\_23. Sometimes the producers have a bias and are trying to appeal to people’s emotions about the topic while not including all of the facts

\_\_\_\_\_24. If the reporter has a bias for or against the topic, they may cover the topic a certain way but not include certain facts, and try to influence what the public thinks about it

\_\_\_\_\_25. Because of someone’s past he or she may react to it in a way that others would not have otherwise

\_\_\_\_\_26. Belief that prisoners do not do anything in prison but watch television and don’t serve their whole prison sentence

\_\_\_\_\_27. Producers and actors are in the business to make money and are more concerned about the entertainment value instead of making sure all of the facts are right

\_\_\_\_\_28. The more money an effort has, the better representation and influence they have with lawmakers

\_\_\_\_\_29. Many people form their beliefs about issues based on this

\_\_\_\_\_30. The public may not realize the impact certain laws will have even on their own way of life until after they are passed

\_\_\_\_\_31. Those who know these may have an opinion about how the case should be handled

\_\_\_\_\_32. A lot of these types have common beliefs on the same issues

\_\_\_\_\_33. The public has the tendency to see itself as a potential victim instead of a potential suspect of a crime