Federalism, State and Local Government Test Study Guide

CE 7a:

1. What is the lawmaking body of Virginia known as? General Assembly

2. What are the two houses of the legislature known as?
   - House of Delegates
   - Virginia Senate

3. What three positions exercise the executive powers for the state of Virginia?
   - Governor
   - Lieutenant Governor
   - Attorney General

4. How long is the term of office for these positions? 4 years

CE 7b:

5. What form of government is established by the U.S. Constitution in which the national government is supreme? federalism

6. What are reserved powers? Powers given to the state government, not given to national government

7. Which amendment grants these powers? 10th Amendment

8. What are the primary responsibilities of the national government?
   - Conduct foreign policy
   - Regulate commerce
   - Provide for the common defense

9. What are the primary responsibilities of the state government?
   - Public health and safety
   - Provide for public education
   - Regulate marriage, adoption and divorce

10. What are some concurrent (or shared) powers between the state and national government?
    - Levy and collect taxes
    - Enforce laws
    - Maintain and construct roads

CE 7c:

11. What are the steps of the lawmaking process in the Virginia General Assembly?
    - Introduce a bill in either house
• Working in committees
• Debating the bill on the floor of each house
• Voting on the bill in each house
• Sending the bill to the governor to sign or veto

12. What do elected officials write laws in response to? Problems or issues

13. What are the primary issues in the legislative process at the state level?
• Education
• Public health
• Environment
• State budget
• Revenue

CE 7d:

14. What are the roles of the governor of Virginia?
• Chief of state
• Chief legislator
• Chief administrator (executive)
• Party chief
• Commander-in-chief

15. What is the role of cabinet secretaries and departments, agencies, commissions and regulatory boards?
• Administer laws
• Enforce laws
• Regulate business and economy
• Provide services

CE 8a:

16. What are the units of local government in Virginia?
• Counties
• Cities
• Towns

17. What is the role of a county board of supervisors? Exercises legislative powers, enacting ordinances (local laws) and adopting an annual budget

18. What is the role of a county or city school board? Oversee the operation of the K-12 public schools

19. Who elects the mayor in a Virginia incorporated town? The voters or town council members

20. Who exercises the legislative powers in a Virginia city? City council

21. What is the role of a manager in a county, city or town? Oversee operations of the local government

22. What positions in every locality are elected by the voters?
• Sheriff
• Clerk of the Circuit Court
23. What powers are given to local governments?

- Enforce state and local laws
- Promote public health
- Protect public safety
- Educate children
- Protect the environment
- Regulate land use
- Levy and collect taxes

CE 8b:

24. Where do local governments get their power from? Constitution of Virginia and acts of the General Assembly

CE 8c:

25. Who is the local legislative body in a county? Board of supervisors

26. Who is the local legislative body in a city or town? Elected council

Short Answer: Use your Current Event #8.

27. Who is the current Secretary of Defense? Chuck Hagel

What budget changes is he proposing?

Decreasing the size of the military

28. Which political party currently controls the VA Executive Branch? Democrats

How is this different than the former administration? Republicans

29. Which political party currently controls the VA Senate? Why? Democrats because the Lieutenant Governor is the presiding officer of the Senate and can cast a vote in cases of a tie.

30. Why is the U.S. considered a federal system of government? Citizens are subject to federal, state, and local governments.

Essay: Answer should be written in paragraph form and include supporting details and examples.

31. Compare and contrast the structure and powers of the national and state governments.

- National legislature is bicameral. Congress is separated into the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- Virginia legislature is bicameral. The General Assembly is separated into the House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate.
- National executive is controlled by the President and contains a Vice President, cabinet, agencies and regulatory groups.
- Virginia executive is controlled by the Governor and contains the Lt. Governor, Attorney General, cabinet and agencies.
- Each of the members of the Virginia executive are elected separately and can come from different political parties.
• The National government can coin money, regulate a military conduct foreign policy and regulate commerce.

• The State government can regulate marriage, adoption and divorce, establish education and protect public safety.

• Together they can tax, make and enforce laws.

NOTE: Include legislative and executive branches at state and national level, and choose 2 powers each (expressed, reserved, concurrent), 2 points for paragraph.

32. Identify the structure of county, town and city government and the elected positions. Explain some scenarios where local government plays an impact on daily lives with regards to their powers.

• Counties are controlled by a Board of Supervisors and can hire a manager to work with the Board.

• Cities and Towns are controlled by a city or town council and an elected or appointed mayor.

• The Board of Supervisors and Councils act as the legislative bodies of local government and can create ordinances and budgets for the local areas.

• Cities and Counties also have elected school boards to oversee K-12 education.

• Each locality elects a Sheriff, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Commissioner of Revenue and Treasurer.

• Local governments have the power to levy taxes, provide for education, regulate land-use, protect public safety, promote public health, enforce state and local laws, and protect the environment.

NOTE: Include legislative and executive branches at county and city/town level, the 4 elected positions, and choose 2 local powers, 2 points for paragraph.