

## Chapter 1: Introduction

### Test Bank

#### Multiple Choice

1. As measured by gross domestic product (GDP), California's economy \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. is the largest in the world
- B. is not much different than an average U.S. state
- C. ranks among the 10 largest countries in the world
- D. ranks among the 10 smallest countries in the world

Ans: C

Answer Location: Introduction

2. "A process through which people with differing goals and values try to manage their conflicts by working together to allocate values for society" is a definition of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. communism
- B. politics
- C. political culture
- D. hybrid democracy

Ans: B

Answer Location: Introduction

3. The definition of a "hybrid democracy" is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a citizenry whose rights are guaranteed by both a national and a state constitution
- B. a state that was once a territory but was admitted to the union without a waiting period
- C. a state with a combination of representative and direct democracy
- D. a Progressive state where electric and alternative fuel vehicles are most popular

Ans: C

Answer Location: Introduction

4. Which of these best expresses a critical difference between politics at the state and federal levels?

- A. Direct democracy is not a feature of the federal political system.
- B. Direct democracy exists in every state, but not in the federal political system.
- C. Representatives at the federal levels tend to respond to the most organized and well-funded members of society, whereas state representatives do not favor these groups.
- D. Choice, political culture, institutions, collective action, rules, and history are concepts that explain state politics only, not federal politics.

Ans: A

Answer Location: Introduction

5. Approximately how many people in California are foreign-born?

- A. 1 out of 2 (50%)

- B. 1 in 4 (25%)
- C. 1 in 10 (10%)
- D. 1 out of 100 (1%)

Ans: B

Answer Location: Introduction

6. According to the book, \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) at the heart of politics.

- A. choices
- B. the constitution
- C. representatives
- D. incentives and disincentives

Ans: A

Answer Location: Principles for Understanding California Politics

7. One of the features that defines California's political culture is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. social and economic conservatism
- B. strong political party affiliation and a healthy and competitive two-party system
- C. strong trust in state government; government is seen as a positive force
- D. fondness for political reform, and general dislike of politicians

Ans: D

Answer Location: Principles for Understanding California Politics

8. What is the main function of a political institution?

- A. To provide a deliberative forum for elected representatives.
- B. To provide politicians a physical space, such as a building, in which to conduct their business.
- C. To enable citizens to bypass elected representatives and exercise self-governance.
- D. To facilitate compromises that lead to acceptable solutions or alternatives.

Ans: D

Answer Location: Principles for Understanding California Politics

9. A "norm" is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a formal statute prescribing how individuals should behave
- B. an unwritten rule that guides acceptable or expected behavior, and is enforced through daily interactions
- C. a goal that political actors are trying to achieve
- D. a court ruling about the state lawmakers

Ans: B

Answer Location: Principles for Understanding California Politics

10. Which of these is an example of collective action?

- A. neighbors form an association to watch for potential criminal activity in their area
- B. mayors and city council members from several cities agree to fund a new bus route
- C. county residents vote down a proposed tax increase
- D. all of these

Ans: D

Answer Location: Principles for Understanding California Politics

11. The largest city in California is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. San Francisco
- B. Los Angeles
- C. Fresno
- D. San Diego

Ans: B

Answer Location: Box 1.1 Comparative FAST FACTS on California

12. How many representatives represent California in Congress?

- A. 21 U.S. House representatives plus 2 senators
- B. 33 U.S. House representatives plus 2 senators
- C. 53 U.S. House representatives plus 2 senators
- D. 74 U.S. House representatives plus 2 senators

Ans: C

Answer Location: Box 1.1 Comparative FAST FACTS on California

13. How many counties are contained within California?

- A. 5
- B. 21
- C. 39
- D. 58

Ans: D

Answer Location: Box 1.1 Comparative FAST FACTS on California

14. How long has California been a U.S. state?

- A. about 50 years
- B. about 100 years
- C. more than 150 years
- D. more than 200 years

Ans: C

Answer Location: Box 1.1 Comparative FAST FACTS on California

15. Where is California's capital, where state elected officials conduct most of their legislative and executive business?

- A. Sacramento
- B. San Francisco
- C. Los Angeles
- D. Eureka

Ans: A

Answer Location: Box 1.1 Comparative FAST FACTS on California | Photo Caption 1.1

16. The capital of California is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. San Francisco
- B. San Diego

- C. Los Angeles
- D. Sacramento

Ans: D

Answer Location: Box 1.1 Comparative FAST FACTS on California | Photo Caption 1.1

17. What is the approximate total population of California?

- A. 5 million
- B. 10 million
- C. 20 million
- D. 40 million

Ans: D

Answer Location: Box 1.1 Comparative FAST FACTS on California

### **True/False**

1. One reason for California's "crazy quilt" of governing institutions, rules, and processes is that citizens can bypass the legislature by using the initiative process.

Ans: T

Answer Location: Introduction

2. A high percentage of Californians (one of every four persons) is foreign-born.

Ans: T

Answer Location: Introduction

3. California has about the same percentage of non-Hispanic Whites as the rest of the United States.

Ans: F

Answer Location: Introduction

4. As recently as 1970, the California state legislature was generally considered one of the best in the nation.

Ans: T

Answer Location: Introduction

5. Compared to New York, another large state, California has a lower percentage of foreign-born residents.

Ans: F

Answer Location: Introduction

6. Because California is such a large state, fluctuations in the global or national economies have almost no effect on the state's economy.

Ans: F

Answer Location: Introduction

7. The size of the criminal population in California exceeds that of every other state.

Ans: F

Answer Location: Introduction

8. When a drought ends, the public policy consequences of that drought also end.

Ans: F

Answer Location: Introduction

9. The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta estuary is a critical source of drinking water for Southern Californians.

Ans: T

Answer Location: Introduction

10. California considers itself a “sanctuary” for undocumented immigrants because state officials, including law enforcement, are generally prohibited from cooperating with federal law enforcement agents in deporting nonviolent undocumented immigrants.

Ans: T

Answer Location: Introduction

11. As a “sanctuary” state, California laws cannot be used to prosecute undocumented persons for crimes committed in the state.

Ans: F

Answer Location: Introduction

### **Short Answer**

1. The capital of California is \_\_\_\_\_.

Ans: Sacramento

Answer Location: Box 1.1 Comparative FAST FACTS on California

2. To understand politics, it is also important to understand the rules, because rules create \_\_\_\_\_.

Ans: incentives (for action and inaction)

Answer Location: Box 1.1 Comparative FAST FACTS on California

3. Six fundamental concepts for understanding politics include choice, political culture, institutions, rules, history, and \_\_\_\_\_ (working together for mutual benefit).

Ans: collective action

Answer Location: Principles for Understanding California Politics

### **Essay**

1. Define the term “politics.”

Ans: Varies. Politics may be defined as “a process through which people with differing goals and values try to manage their conflicts by working together to allocate values for society.” Most definitions emphasize that it is a process of managing conflict, often through bargaining and compromise. Harold Lasswell defines politics as “who gets what, when, and how.”

Answer Location: Introduction

2. Explain what a political institution is, and provide an example.

Ans: Varies. A political institution is an organization designed to manage conflict that often arises over the process of allocating goods and values for a society. Institutions organize action that leads to acceptable solutions or alternatives, and define the roles and rules for those who participate in them. Institutions enable the official use of power and authority. In short, they are practices or formal organizations in which people come together to solve problems for a society, or achieve collective action. Examples might include political parties (the Green Party, the Republican Party), the legislature (Congress at the federal level), the executive branch (the Presidency at the federal level), the courts, elections, or the tools of direct democracy (recall, referendum, initiative, which are types of elections).

Answer Location: Principles for Understanding California Politics

3. Provide an example of a political institution in California.

Ans: Varies. As defined in the book, institutions are “organizations built to manage conflict by defining particular roles and rules for those who participate in them. They bring people together to solve problems on behalf of society, enabling the official use of power and authority.” Therefore, an institution includes virtually any local, county, or state office, agency, department, or governmental branch; it could also be a formal process, group, or organization that has been established by the state and exists to solve conflicts for society. Examples: the Republican Party, the Democratic Party (and any named political party, or political parties generally), elections, the legislature (including the Assembly or the state Senate), the governor’s office, the executive branch, the courts, traffic court (superior court), the Supreme Court of CA, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and so on.

Answer Location: Principles for Understanding California Politics

4. With respect to politics, why do rules matter?

Ans: Varies. Rules define who has power and how they may legitimately use it. Rules also create incentives for action and inaction. An average answer would suggest the organizational benefits of having rules, or alternatively, might allude to the fact that without rules anarchy would arise. A good answer would explain the function rules perform in a political system (as defined above), or suggest an example of a rule that creates an incentive or disincentive for action, such as a local ordinance that rewards those who conserve water or a fine placed on those who waste it. The example in the book concerned supermajority rules, which help a minority gain power.

Answer Location: Principles for Understanding California Politics

5. What are some of the conditions that make governing California difficult and possibly “exceptional?”

Ans: Although this question is addressed throughout the book, the short answer is that California’s problems exist on a massive scale: it is “hyper-diverse” with respect to demographics, geography, society, politics, and economics. In other words, among the U.S. states California contains the largest population, largest economy, most diverse

landscapes and land uses, and tremendous racial and ethnic diversity. (Students might provide some details about the state's characteristics here.) These conditions combine to create complex issues that require long-range solutions, careful planning, and sometimes consensus and compromise, yet these are difficult to achieve in a state where citizens fundamentally distrust politicians and have the means to take matters into their own hands (i.e., through direct democracy). Some of the issues that respondents might mention are immigration, climate change, budgetary issues (taxation, balancing budgets), economic conditions (unemployment, recession or relative prosperity), prison populations or prison population reduction (realignment), and infrastructure needs. The state's Democratic Party leanings also distinguish it from other states: 61.7% of Californians voted for Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton in 2016, and Democrats possessed supermajority status in both houses of the legislature as of 2016.

Answer Location: Introduction

6. Weather events have political dimensions. Describe how changes in the climate create problems and issues that require a response from California governing officials.  
Ans: Varies. Whether short- or long-term, extreme weather events can have devastating effects on infrastructure (such as through subsidence, or sinking of land because of drought and over-pumping of underground aquifers), availability of water and electricity, biodiversity, transportation systems, commerce and industry, and the economy generally. Most of these lead to higher costs for governments that must respond to emergencies or longer term effects on people, businesses, and the environment. Some of the impacts of prolonged drought have been on water availability and quality, economic losses in the tourism and agricultural industries in particular, and costs related to damaged infrastructure (broken pipes, bridges, sewer lines, roads) because of sinking land (subsidence). Water scarcity calls into question the proper balance of water rights, and proposals to ensure drinking water for Southern California, such as the "Twin Tunnels" WaterFix, would cost billions of dollars to implement. Excessive drought is also related to more frequent wildfires and potential loss of wildlife. An abundance of water brought by heavy rains places similar stresses on people, the environment, and the economy: mudslides and flooding create emergency situations that require costly repairs and responses from the state.

Answer Location: Introduction

7. What principles are important for understanding California politics?

Ans: 1. Choices: choices are at the heart of politics. To elaborate, everyone makes choices in a political system; successful political system provides a process for narrowing choices to a manageable number and allows many participants to reconcile their differences as they make choices together. 2. Political culture: every system has a distinct culture that reflects the decisions that emerge from a political process, decisions that together express a political community's customs, values, and beliefs about government. 3. Institutions: institutions bring people together to solve problems on behalf of society. They are arrangements that manage conflict, define roles and rules for those who participate in them, and organize action by facilitating compromises, trade-offs, or bargains that lead to acceptable solutions or alternatives. 4. Collective action:

the concept of working together to solve problems and allocating goods or values for a society. 5. Rules: rules matter, because they define who has power and how they may legitimately use it; rules create incentives for action or inaction. 6. History: history shapes the opportunities and incentives for political action (decisions often build on prior ones).

Answer Location: Principles for Understanding California Politics

8. Briefly describe how California's official policies counteract or defy the Trump administration in the areas of immigration policy and/or environmental policy.

Ans: Varies. Whereas the Trump administration continues to deny the importance of climate change, Governor Jerry Brown has signed onto subnational agreements such as Under2MOU, an agreement by regional leaders to keep global climate change under 2°C. On immigration, lawmakers have denounced the proposed (federal) border wall, provided state funds to defend undocumented immigrants in deportation proceedings, and declared the state a "sanctuary" for nonviolent immigrants, meaning that officials are prohibited from spending their resources to help federal agents enforce deportations of nonviolent undocumented persons.

Answer Location: Introduction

9. How does California define itself as a "sanctuary state?"

Ans: Varies. As a "sanctuary" for nonviolent immigrants, California state officials (including law enforcement agents) are prohibited from expending their resources to help federal agents enforce deportations of nonviolent undocumented persons.

Answer Location: Introduction