

Chapter 01: The Study of American Government

True / False

1. Under the Articles of Confederation, the state governments paid very little of the monies requisitioned by the federal government.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

2. The interest on the national debt will soon be well over \$300 billion a year.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

3. Senator Jones felt strongly that closing American military bases overseas would weaken the military, while Senator Smith felt it was absolutely necessary to close those bases in order to reduce spending. According to the text, closing these military bases would be considered an *issue*.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

4. Young Americans are closer to being “political dropouts” than they are to being “engaged citizens.”

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

5. Most young Americans regularly read or closely follow political news.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

6. Increasingly, matters once thought to be private are becoming objects of governmental action.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

7. Political power is the right to act in a certain way that is conferred by a law or constitution.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

8. One can have political power even if one does not possess formal authority.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

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9. None of the Founders was particularly concerned about the government being too democratic.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

10. In the Greek city-state, only property holders were allowed to be citizens.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

11. A modern example of the Aristotelian ideal of the rule of the many is a New England town meeting.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

12. Representative democracy is sometimes referred to as the "elitist theory of democracy."

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

13. One argument against representative democracy is that it is not practical to expect people to make reasonable choices among competing leadership groups.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

14. The Constitution uses the term "republican form of government," which we would call a representative democracy.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

15. Marx argued that governments were basically dominated by business owners.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

16. The power elite view argues that American democracy is controlled by elected officeholders.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

17. Max Weber argued that the modern state is controlled by appointed bureaucrats.

- a. True
- b. False

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ANSWER: True

18. The political agenda is composed solely of issue that elites believe require government action.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

19. News organizations are one of the groups that can place new matters on the political agenda.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

20. A policy in which almost everybody benefits and almost everybody pays is called majoritarian politics.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

21. Safety requirements for automobiles are an example of client politics.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

22. Log-rolling is when a legislator supports a proposal favored by another in return for support of his or hers.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

23. Most people won't complain about air pollution until they begin to have physical symptoms as a result. That is when they are most likely to expect the government to intervene. This is an example of pork-barrel legislation.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

24. Political scientists are interested in how preferences are formed, especially for services, such as national defense or pollution control, that cannot be evaluated chiefly in terms of monetary costs.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

25. Political change is always accompanied by changes in public laws.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

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Multiple Choice

26. The financial position of the state and national governments under the Articles of Confederation could be best described as

- a. sound, strong, and based on a large surplus of revenue.
- b. sound, strong, but at risk.
- c. uniformly stable at the state level, but the national government struggled with debt.
- d. stable at the national level with cause for concern in many of the states.
- e. growing debt at the national level and several states with financial crises.

ANSWER: e

27. Patrick Henry was a critic of the proposed Constitution, and he predicted that if the Constitution were ratified,

- a. England would once again gain the upper hand.
- b. the states would suffer greatly.
- c. the executive office would have unprecedented power.
- d. taxes would rise considerably over time.
- e. lawlessness would prevail.

ANSWER: d

28. The textbook refers to the activity by which an issue is agitated or settled as

- a. government.
- b. policy.
- c. politics.
- d. participation.
- e. resolution.

ANSWER: c

29. Individuals have power when they are able to

- a. get elected to office.
- b. be present at behind-the-scenes political meetings.
- c. serve their fellow human beings.
- d. get others to do what they want them to do.
- e. vote without being influenced by outside forces.

ANSWER: d

30. The text notes a tendency for issues that once were _____ to become _____ when they become objects of governmental action.

- a. simple; complicated
- b. public; secret
- c. social; political
- d. private; public
- e. economic; social

ANSWER: d

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31. According to the text, the term "authority" means the

- a. right to use power.
- b. manner in which power is spread.
- c. use of power for good causes.
- d. desire to have power.
- e. desire to give power to others.

ANSWER:

a

32. Today, a primary source of legitimate political authority in the United States is the

- a. Articles of Confederation.
- b. will of the people.
- c. U.S. Constitution.
- d. concept of civil liberty.
- e. notion of civil rights.

ANSWER:

c

33. "Formal authority" refers to a right to exercise power that is derived from a(n)

- a. official ceremony.
- b. majority vote.
- c. consensus.
- d. popular consensus.
- e. governmental office.

ANSWER:

e

34. In the United States, a person is said to have political _____ if he or she acts in a certain way that is conferred by a law or by a state or national constitution.

- a. legitimacy
- b. control
- c. power
- d. influence
- e. legality

ANSWER:

a

35. The text suggests that in the United States, no government at any level would be considered legitimate if it were not in some sense

- a. democratic.
- b. altruistic.
- c. humanitarian.
- d. elitist.
- e. aristocratic.

ANSWER:

a

36. The term *participatory democracy* applies most accurately to which of the following societies?

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- a. Greece in the fourth century B.C.
- b. modern China
- c. the United States since 1787
- d. the Soviet Union between 1917 and 1990
- e. the southeastern United States before the Civil War

ANSWER:

a

37. In 1787, as the Constitution was being debated, _____ worried that the new government he helped create might be too democratic, while _____ who refused to sign the Constitution, worried that it was not democratic enough.

- a. John Adams; James Madison
- b. George Washington; George Mason
- c. Alexander Hamilton; George Mason
- d. Thomas Jefferson; Alexander Hamilton
- e. Patrick Henry; Samuel Adams

ANSWER:

c

38. In our political system, Aristotle's ideal of direct democracy has been *most* closely approximated by the

- a. AFL-CIO.
- b. U.S. House of Representatives.
- c. New England town meeting.
- d. Constitutional Convention.
- e. southeastern United States before the Civil War.

ANSWER:

c

39. How did Aristotle define democracy?

- a. rule of the few
- b. rule of one
- c. rule of the powerful
- d. rule of the many
- e. rule of the elite

ANSWER:

d

40. For representative democracy to work, all of the following must take place EXCEPT

- a. opportunities for genuine leadership competition.
- b. individuals and parties must be free to run for office.
- c. genuine freedom of speech and press.
- d. voters must perceive that a meaningful choice exists.
- e. most of the money for campaigning must come from the government.

ANSWER:

e

41. Who defined democracy as "The democratic method is that institutional arrangement for arriving at political decisions in which individuals [that is, leaders] acquire the power to decide by means of a competitive struggle for the people's vote"?

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- a. Joseph Stalin
- b. Joseph Schumpeter
- c. Max Weber
- d. Karl Marx
- e. Søren Kierkegaard

ANSWER:

b

42. Representative democracy is sometimes disapprovingly referred to as the _____ theory of democracy.

- a. limited
- b. aristocratic
- c. economic
- d. authoritarian
- e. elitist

ANSWER:

e

43. Direct democracy can lead to bad decisions because

- a. one must be elected to be involved in politics full time.
- b. elected officials do not have enough information or policy expertise.
- c. the opinion of a single person is not relevant to democracy.
- d. people often decide large issues based on fleeting passions.
- e. public policy is not a democratic institution.

ANSWER:

d

44. Representative democracy allows individuals to gain political power through

- a. media campaigns.
- b. quadrennial elections.
- c. nonpartisan elections.
- d. reciprocal elections.
- e. competitive elections.

ANSWER:

e

45. The Framers' concerns about direct democracy are well illustrated by the fact that the Constitution

- a. uses the word *democracy* only once, in the Preamble.
- b. uses the word *democracy* only in reference to Congress.
- c. does not feature the word *democracy* at all.
- d. uses only the word *democratic*.
- e. frequently uses the word *democracy*, but never in reference to the enumeration of a formal power.

ANSWER:

c

46. When the Framers of the Constitution wrote "republican form of government," they were referring to what we call

- a. direct democracy.
- b. democratic centralism.
- c. mob rule.

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- d. town meetings.
- e. representative democracy.

ANSWER:

e

47. One distinctive feature of many European democracies is that very few offices are

- a. independent.
- b. effective.
- c. elective.
- d. active.
- e. efficient.

ANSWER:

c

48. Variants of direct democracy include programs of citizen participation and

- a. interest group cooperation.
- b. guerrilla warfare.
- c. competitive elections.
- d. political party centralism.
- e. community control.

ANSWER:

e

49. A modern example of direct democracy would be citizens

- a. electing local boards to make decisions.
- b. running for political office.
- c. voting on referendum issues.
- d. writing elected officials to express opinions on policy.
- e. working for politicians.

ANSWER:

c

50. In a referendum, citizens express their opinions about issues by means of

- a. letters.
- b. the ballot.
- c. town meetings.
- d. petitions.
- e. protests.

ANSWER:

b

51. Which statement best reflects the views of the Framers of the Constitution?

- a. Elected officials should register majority sentiments.
- b. The will of the people was not synonymous with the public good.
- c. The views of the people are trustworthy because most are informed and can make reasonable choices.
- d. A government should be able to do a great deal of good as quickly and as efficiently as possible.
- e. Majority opinion matters above all.

ANSWER:

b

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52. Karl Marx is associated with the view that elites reflect a(n)
- a. dominant social class.
 - b. group of business, military, labor-union, and elected officials.
 - c. array of appointed bureaucrats.
 - d. large number of organized interests.
 - e. flexible alliance of religious and cultural leaders.

ANSWER: a

53. Karl Marx argued that governments were dominated by business owners, who he called the “_____”, until a revolution replaced them with rule by laborers, who he called the “_____”.
- a. proletariat; bourgeoisie
 - b. bourgeoisie; proletariat
 - c. power elite; middle class
 - d. working class; lower class
 - e. laborites; working class

ANSWER: b

54. Who argued that American democracy is dominated by a small “power elite”?
- a. C. Wright Mills
 - b. Karl Marx
 - c. David B. Truman
 - d. Max Weber
 - e. Samuel P. Huntington

ANSWER: a

55. The bureaucratic view of political elites, which argues that appointed officials dominate government, is associated with
- a. Karl Marx.
 - b. C. Wright Mills.
 - c. Max Weber.
 - d. David B. Truman.
 - e. Robert Dahl.

ANSWER: c

56. Who argued that political resources—such as money, prestige, expertise, and access to the mass media—have become so widely distributed that no single elite, no social class, no bureaucratic arrangement, can control them.
- a. Samuel P. Huntington
 - b. Max Weber
 - c. C. Wright Mills
 - d. Karl Marx
 - e. David B. Truman

ANSWER: e

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57. The pluralist view of power focuses on

- a. a dominant social class.
- b. a group of business, military, labor-union, and elected officials.
- c. an array of appointed bureaucrats.
- d. no single group dominating the political process.
- e. a flexible alliance of religious and cultural leaders.

ANSWER:

d

58. The view that morally impassioned elites drive important political changes is associated with

- a. Karl Marx.
- b. Max Weber.
- c. Samuel P. Huntington.
- d. Robert Dahl.
- e. David B. Truman.

ANSWER:

c

59. The creedal passion view recognizes that

- a. the self-interest of individuals is usually a complete guide to their actions.
- b. economic self-interest may be important but is usually not the only guide to people's actions.
- c. organizational self-interest rather than economic self-interest is usually the best guide to people's actions.
- d. political preferences can be predicted invariably by knowing an individual's economic or organizational position.
- e. self-interest is rarely an important factor in understanding political attitudes and behavior.

ANSWER:

b

60. Today, the U.S. federal payroll tax takes an average of about _____ of taxpayers' incomes.

- a. 10 percent
- b. 15 percent
- c. 20 percent
- d. 43 percent
- e. 45 percent

ANSWER:

c

61. In 1935, _____ of American families paid no federal income tax.

- a. 4 percent
- b. 50 percent
- c. 96 percent
- d. 80 percent
- e. 1 percent

ANSWER:

c

62. According to the text, today most people holding national political office are all of the following EXCEPT

- a. upper-class.

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- b. males.
- c. white.
- d. middle-class.
- e. Protestants

ANSWER:

a

63. A(n) _____ is a satisfaction that people believe they will enjoy if a policy is adopted.

- a. positive agenda
- b. ideological appeal
- c. benefit
- d. perception effect
- e. cost

ANSWER:

c

64. The first programs to provide financial assistance to women with dependent children were

- a. illegal.
- b. protested.
- c. noncontroversial.
- d. not passed.
- e. controversial.

ANSWER:

c

65. When the cost and benefits of a policy are *widely distributed*, they are

- a. limited to a relatively small number of citizens.
- b. spread over many, most, or even all citizens.
- c. enjoyed by only one demographic.
- d. limited to one geographic region.
- e. spread over a number of states.

ANSWER:

b

66. When the cost and benefits of a policy are *narrowly concentrated*, they are

- a. limited to a relatively small number of citizens.
- b. spread over many, most, or even all citizens.
- c. enjoyed by many demographics.
- d. limited to one geographic region.
- e. spread over a number of states.

ANSWER:

a

67. A form of politics which involves making appeals to large segments of voters in the hopes of finding a majority is _____ politics.

- a. interest group
- b. majoritarian
- c. client

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- d. entrepreneurial
- e. logrolling

ANSWER:

b

68. A city council representative faces an important vote on how much, if any, money to spend on a new school. The representative relies on a poll of her constituents to make a decision. This is in keeping with the form of politics known as _____ politics.

- a. participatory
- b. majoritarian
- c. pluralist
- d. elitist
- e. reciprocal

ANSWER:

b

69. A policy in which one small group benefits and another small group pays is _____ politics.

- a. interest group
- b. majoritarian
- c. client
- d. entrepreneurial
- e. logrolling

ANSWER:

a

70. _____ politics is a policy in which one small group benefits and almost everybody pays.

- a. Interest group
- b. Majoritarian
- c. Client
- d. Entrepreneurial
- e. Logrolling

ANSWER:

c

71. Pork-barrel legislation is an example of which type of politics?

- a. interest group
- b. majoritarian
- c. client
- d. entrepreneurial
- e. nepotism

ANSWER:

c

72. _____ politics is a policy in which almost everybody benefits and a small group pays.

- a. Interest group
- b. Majoritarian
- c. Client
- d. Entrepreneurial

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- e. Logrolling

ANSWER:

d

73. When a legislator supports a proposal in return for support of his or her proposal, is it called

- a. entrepreneurial politics.
- b. client politics.
- c. interest group politics.
- d. log-rolling.
- e. pork-barrel legislation.

ANSWER:

d

74. The text points out that although political change is not always accompanied by changes in public laws, _____ is arguably one of the best barometers of changes in who governs.

- a. the electoral process
- b. political financing
- c. interest group lobbying
- d. the policy process
- e. the bureaucratic process

ANSWER:

d

75. A burden that people believe they must bear if a policy is adopted is called a(n)

- a. benefit.
- b. perception.
- c. agenda.
- d. cost.
- e. negative effect.

ANSWER:

d

Essay

76. Explain what power involves and differentiate it from authority.

ANSWER: · Power is the ability of one person to get another to act in accordance with the first person's intentions. Power may be obvious, or subtle, and varies from time to time and from country to country. It may be found in all human relationships. Power is a key feature of the struggles throughout much of American history.
· Authority refers to the right to use power.

77. Explain what Aristotle's definition of democracy is and note some prominent examples of this form of government throughout history.

ANSWER: According to Aristotle's rule of the many, democracy is when all or most citizens participate directly in either holding office or making policy. Examples: Ancient Greece (4th century B.C.); New England town meetings.

78. Discuss the differences between participatory democracy and representative democracy.

ANSWER: · Participatory or direct democracy is a government in which all or most citizens participate directly.

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- Representative democracy is a government in which leaders obtain authority to make decisions by winning a competitive struggle (election).

79. Explain the primary arguments for representative democracy.

ANSWER: Limits of time, information, energy, interest, and expertise make it impractical for the people to decide on policies. It is not impractical for them to choose between competing leadership groups. Direct democracy can lead to bad decisions because people often decide large issues on the basis of fleeting passions and in response to popular demagogues.

80. Identify the requirements for representative democracy to work.

ANSWER:

- There must be an opportunity for genuine competition of leadership.
- Individuals and parties must be free to run for office.
- There needs to be freedom of speech and press.
- Voters must perceive that a meaningful choice exists.

81. Identify, and briefly describe, the basic premises of the five viewpoints of political power discussed by the text.

ANSWER:

- **Class View:** Derived from the inspiration of Marx, governments are dominated by business interests, the "bourgeoisie."
- **Power Elite View:** American democracy is dominated by a few top leaders who do not hold elective office (military officers, labor union leaders, media executives, and so on).
- **Bureaucratic View:** Power is concentrated in the hands of appointed bureaucratic officials who manage the government.
- **Pluralist View:** Power is shared among many institutions and shared so widely, no single group can dominate politics.
- **Creedal Passion View:** Morally impassioned elites drive important political changes.

82. Define the term political agenda and explain how items may be added to the government's agenda even in the absence of public demand for them.

ANSWER: **Political agenda** is defined as issues that people believe require governmental action. When items are added to the government's agenda even in the absence of public demand, it is usually because of the behavior of groups, government institutions, the media, and/or actions by the states.

83. Politics produces both cost and benefits. Your text discusses four types of politics based on how cost and benefits are distributed. Explain the four types of politics covered in the text, who benefits and who pays.

ANSWER:

- **Majoritarian politics:** A policy in which almost everybody benefits and almost everybody pays the cost.
- **Interest group politics:** A policy in which one small group benefits and another small group pays the cost.
- **Client politics.** A policy in which one small group benefits and almost everybody pays the cost.
- **Entrepreneurial politics:** A policy in which almost everybody benefits and a small group pays the cost.

84. Explain what is meant by the "cost" and "benefit" of a policy. Give an example.

ANSWER: The **cost** is any burden, monetary or nonmonetary, that some people must bear, or believe they must bear, if the policy is adopted. The costs of a government spending program are the taxes it entails; the cost of a foreign policy initiative may be the increased chance of having the nation drawn into war.

The **benefit** is any satisfaction, monetary or nonmonetary, that people believe they will enjoy if the policy is adopted. The benefits of a government spending program are the payments, subsidies, or contracts received by some people; the benefits of a foreign policy initiative may include the enhanced security of the nation, the protection of a valued ally, or the vindication of some important principle such as human rights.

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85. Explain the terms *widely distributed* and *narrowly concentrated* within the context of costs and benefits of proposed policies. Give an example of each.

ANSWER: The costs and benefits of a policy may be *widely distributed* (spread over many, most, or even all citizens) or *narrowly concentrated* (limited to a relatively small number of citizens or to some identifiable, organized group). For instance, a widely distributed cost would include an income tax, a Social Security tax, or a high rate of crime; a widely distributed benefit might include retirement benefits for all citizens, clean air, national security, or low crime rates. Examples of narrowly concentrated costs include the expenditures by a factory to reduce its pollution, government regulations imposed on doctors and hospitals participating in the Medicare program, or restrictions on freedom of speech imposed on a dissident political group. Examples of narrowly concentrated benefits include subsidies to farmers or merchant ship companies, the enlarged freedom to speak and protest afforded a dissident group, or protection against competition given to an industry because of favorable government regulation.