

CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS TODAY, 15TH ED.

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CHAPTER 1. CALIFORNIA POLITICS IN PERSPECTIVE

Chapter Summary

Chapter 1 gives a current overview of California's unique yet complex role as a state within the United States. California is unique in its diverse population, political party registration, and powerhouse economy, all of which have a tremendous impact nationally and internationally. explaining the state's status as number one in population relative to the other forty-nine states, the chapter explores California's political standing in the nation.

In addition, it explains the role of the federal government in relation to the states and introduces the terms *federalism* and *unitary powers*. Concepts such as *ballot initiative*, *globalization*, liberal, and conservative are introduced.

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the relationship between the federal and state governments. Which tasks are allocated to the states? What impact does federalism have on California?
2. Discuss population growth in California, including the history and the range of attitudes about population growth. Include in your discussion the "Debating the Issues" box on page 6. Express your personal views and substantiate them with evidence.
3. Explain how population, economic events, and federal policies have impacted Californians.
4. Discuss the ways in which the federal government's actions have impacted California's economy through the decades.
5. In looking at the "Compared to California" box on page 3, why is there a difference in the minimum wage among the states? Why is there a difference in the cost of living among the states?

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. California is number one in the nation in
 - a. social equity.
 - b. electoral votes.
 - c. members in the House of Representatives.
 - d. Both B and C are correct.

Answer: D; Page Reference:2-3; Bloom's Category: Understanding

2. How does California rank in population size when compared to the rest of the United States?
 - a. Tenth largest based on population
 - b. Third largest based on population
 - c. First based on population
 - d. Last based on population

Answer: C; Page Reference:2 ; Bloom's Category: Understanding

3. The definition of *federalism* is
 - a. total control of the states by the federal government.
 - b. allows state laws to override federal laws.
 - c. a political system in which power is distributed to the national and state governments thereby creating a system of dual authority.
 - d. allows California to become its own nation, via "Calexit".

Answer: C; Page Reference:4 ; Bloom's Category: Understanding

4. The term unitary refers to
 - a. a distribution of powers within a state.
 - b. local authority for cities, counties, and other local governmental units derived from the state government.
 - c. a concept that is not allowed by the U.S. Constitution.
 - d. Both A and B are correct.

Answer: D; Page Reference:5; Bloom's Category: Understanding, Application

5. The state determines the grounds for
 - a. divorce.
 - b. defense spending.
 - c. immigration law.
 - d. interstate commerce.

Answer: A; Page Reference:5; Bloom's Category: Understanding, Application

True or False

1. Each Californian lives in several election jurisdictions, including a congressional district, a state Senate district, an assembly district, a county supervisorial district, plus a city and a school and/or community college district.

Answer: True; Page Reference:6; Bloom's Category: Understanding

2. California has a Republican majority in its state legislature.

Answer: False; Page Reference:1; Bloom's Category: Understanding

3. California has the largest congressional delegation in the United States.

Answer: True; Page Reference: 2-3; Bloom's Category: Understanding, Application

4. California has often served as a model for new political ideas that then spread to other states.

Answer: True; Page Reference: 5; Bloom's Category: Application

5. The U.S. Constitution requires each state to honor the laws of other states.

Answer: True; Page Reference: 5; Bloom's Category: Understanding, Application