Chapter 1 Introducing the Policy Process

Multiple Choice

1   Birkland's book is most closely associated with which tradition in policy studies?
   a.   Case studies
   b.   Policy analysis
   c.   *Policy process studies
   d.   All of the above

2   When newspapers and other media talk about "playing politics" with an issue, they usually mean that
   a.   A policy issue is undergoing careful scientific analysis.
   b.   *Various interests are competing, often in seemingly self-interested ways, to gain their goals at the expense of others.
   c.   An election is being held.
   d.   The president recommends a new policy initiative.

3   Which of the following *is not* a feature of most definitions of public policy?
   a.   Policy is made in response to some sort of problem that requires attention.
   b.   Policy is made on the "public's" behalf.
   c.   *Public policy is made by individuals acting in a free market.
   d.   Policy is oriented toward a goal or desired state, such as the solution of a problem.
   e.   Policy is what the government chooses to do or not to do.

4   Why doesn't everyone engage major issues of public policy all the time?
   a.   *No one can be concerned about all issues all the time.
   b.   Public policy study is boring.
   c.   Public policies are too confusing or citizens to understand.
   d.   Public policies don't really affect most people.

5   People study the policy process because
   a.   They are interested in theories of how policy comes to be.
   b.   They want to be more effective advocates for particular policies.
   c.   They may be called upon to address policy matters that directly affect their communities and professions.
   d.   *All of these are reasons to study the policy process.

6   Anecdotal evidence is based on
   a.   Careful scientific analysis of public problems and solutions.
   b.   *Individual stories and examples of problems and solutions.
   c.   Evidence collected in scientific laboratories.
   d.   The accumulated knowledge of an academic discipline.

7   The DARE program lost federal funding, and many school districts dropped it, because
   a.   *There is extensive scientific evidence of its ineffectiveness.
   b.   Because a competing group put together a better national program.
   c.   Because the government doesn't agree that there's a drug problem.
   d.   Because parents and students didn't like the program.
   e.   .

Short Answer

1   Define the term "public policy." Explain your definition.

2   Give two reasons to explain why people study public policy.

3   Explain why theories of the public policy are as important as knowing about the substance of public policy.

4   What is classical liberalism and how does it constitute the ideological foundation of the U.S. onstitution?

5   Explain why "politics," as defined by social scientists, is central to the study of public policy.

6   What is a policy?

7   Why do many scholars also define public policy as what the government chooses *not* to do?

8   Explain what another academic discipline other than political science, contribute to the study and understanding of public policy.

9   Explain why anecdotal evidence or "stories" can be useful in policy debate, despite their weak foundation in science.

10   What arguments do defenders of the DARE program use to justify the program's potential effectiveness, despite the scientific evidence that suggests that it is ineffective?

True False

1   (T)Decisions made by courts are statements of public policy.

2   (T)In policy debates, the position backed by the best scientific evidence does not always "win" the debate.

3   (F)Harold Laswell defines politics as "who gets what, how they get it, and why they get it"

4   (T)Public policy is whatever government chooses to do or not to do.

5   (T)The central approach of this textbook is in policy process studies based primarily in political science.

6   (T)The social sciences is the branch of science that studies the actions and behaviors of people, groups, and institutions.

7   (T)The study of public policy is firmly grounded in the study of politics.

8   (T)There is no one shared sense of the "public interest" in most policy debates.

9   (F)Evidence is always necessary in policy debates

10   (F)Anecdotal evidence is the product of rigorous scientific analysis.

11   (F)The central approach of this textbook is in policy analysis focusing on the rigorous application of economic analysis.

12   (F)The *Federalist Papers* were written to promote the Declaration of Independence.

13   (F)Theories of public policy making ignore real-world policies and processes.

14   (F)There is one distinct and clear set of principles that govern the study of public policy.

15   (F)There is one true definition of public policy.

Chapter 2 An Overview of the Policy Process

Multiple Choice

1   In the mid-1960s, David Easton first pioneered a model that states that the public policy process is a product of a system. The public policy process is influenced by and influences the environment in which it operates. This model is known as the
    a.   bi-linear model.
    b.   *systems model.
    c.   linear model.
    d.   Dave's model.
    e.   analysis model.

2   Power in the United States is said to be fragmented because
    a.   there are 50 states.
    b.   there are three branches of government.

    c.   there are a large number of units of government at all levels.
    d.   * all of the above.
    e.   none of the above.

3   In a systems model of the policy process, the demands on the policy making system to do something about a problem are called
    a.   outputs.
    b.   *inputs.
    c.   initiatives.
    d.   demographics.

4   Which of the following is not a part of the policy environment in the systems model?
    a.   social environment
    b.   political environment
    c.   structural environment
    d.   *public environment
    e.   All of the above are part of the policy environment.

5   Which of the following is one of the stages in the Stages Model of the policy process?
    a.   evaluation
    b.   enactment
    c.   issue emergence
    d.   alternative selection
    e.   *All of the above are stages in this model.

6   Which of the following is *not* one of the stages in the Stages Model of the policy process?
    a.   evaluation
    b.   *public approval
    c.   enactment
    d.   issue emergence
    e.   alternative selection

7   The main critique of the "stages" model of the policy process is that it
    a.   is too complicated .
    b.   *assumes a linear and orderly policy process.
    c.   ignores politics.
    d.   fails to account for the shortcomings of Congress.

8   The largest broad racial or ethnic category into which Americans are classified is
    a.   African American
    b.   Hispanic
    c.   Asian
    d.   *Caucasian

9   The fastest growing racial or ethnic category into which Americans are classified is
    a.   African American
    b.   *Hispanic
    c.   Asian
    d.   Caucasian

10   Which category of family has the highest median household income in the United States?
    a.   Married couple families
    b.   *Married, wife in paid labor force
    c.   Female householder with no husband present
    d.   Wife not in paid labor force

11   Which category of family has the *lowest* median household income in the United States?
    a.   Married couple families
    b.   Married, wife in paid labor force
    c.   *Female householder with no husband present

d.   Wife not in paid labor force

12   Since the mid-1960s, the most important issue cited by respondents to opinion polls has been:
    a.   Defense
    b.   *The Economy
    c.   Energy
    d.   Health care
    e.   International relations

13   What pattern best characterizes the relationship between public approval of Congress and of the president?
    a.   *When approval for one branch is relatively low, approval of the other branch is relatively higher.
    b.   Americans approve or disapprove of both branches equally.
    c.   High approval for one branch equals high approval of the other branch.
    d.   There is no relationship between approval of Congress and the president.

14   In constant dollar terms since 1945, the Gross Domestic Product of the United States has generally
    a.   Grown.
    b.   *Declined.
    c.   Remained flat.
    d.   Wildly swung between growth and contraction.

15   From 2008 to 2011, the federal budget deficit as a proportion of GDP
    a.   *Sharply grew.
    b.   Gradually grew
    c.   Declined.
    d.   Remained flat.
    e.   Wildly changed as economic problems have come and gone.

16   The top 20 percent of Americans earned approximately what proportion of national income in 2006?
    a.   20 percent.
    b.   40 percent.
    c.   90 percent.
    d.   *50 percent.

17   The Administrative Procedure Act requires regulatory agencies to follow certain procedures in rulemaking such as
    a.   Public comment periods.
    b.   Publishing rulemaking activity in the *Federal Registry.*
    c.   Public notice of new rules.
    d.   *All of the above.

18   The news media
    a.   Have little role in the policy process because they simply cover celebrity news and fluff.
    b.   *Are important for highlighting issues and problems, but do not generally provide policy solutions.
    c.   Are central to the policy process.
    d.   Are ignored by policy makers because they have their own source of expertise and information.

19   The policy environment
    a.   Contains the structural, social, and economic, environments where policy making takes place.
    b.   Contains the political system in which public policy takes place.
    c.   Is influenced by and influences its environment.
    d.   *All of the above.

20   Inputs into the systems model of politics and policy include

a. Laws, regulations and decisions.
b. *Election results, public opinion, communication to elected officials, and personal experiences of decision makers.
c. Rules developed by administrative agencies.
d. None of the above.

21 Outputs from the systems model of politics and policy include
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d. None of the above.

22 The most common measure of economic activity is
a. Inflation rates
b. *Gross domestic product (GDP)
c. Unemployment rate
d. Stock market fluctuations

23 An economic depression is characterized by
a. *extremely high unemployment and significant reduction in the GDP that is deeper and longer than a typical recession.
b. a period of economic contraction when the value of the GDP shrinks for two consecutive quarters.
c. a crisis in the stock market.
d. a rise in the national gross product.

24 All of the following are policy process inputs except
a. Public opinion
b. Election results
c. *Regulations
d. Interest group activity

Short Answer

1 List two inputs in the systems model of the policy process, and why they are important
2 What is a recession? A depression? What, if any, is the difference between these two economic phenomena?
3 Explain the difference between a statute law and a regulation
4 What is systems thinking?
5 What is a "black box" and why is it a major criticism of Easton's systems model?
6 List two outputs of the systems model of the policy process, and why they are important
7 Provide one critique of the stages model of the policy process, and explain why it remains a useful tool for students of the policy process
8 Choose one element of the policy environment and explain its importance
9 Explain why demographic changes matter in public policy
10 What does unequal distribution of wealth matter in terms of public policy? Does it matter at all? Why or why not?
11 How and why do policymakers use public opinion polling data?
12 All states use the initiative and referendum processes as inputs into policy making
13 The public's preferences for particular policies cannot be determined from the results of an election
14 How do interest groups provide inputs to the policy process?
15 How do the news media matter in the policy process?