

Chapter 01: One Republic--Two Americas?

Multiple Choice

1. The struggle over power or influence within organizations that can grant benefits or privileges best defines which of the following?

- a. National government
- b. A state government
- c. Elections
- d. Politics
- e. Political science

ANSWER: d

2. Which of the following is the best description of capitalism?

- a. An economic system in which the means of production are owned by the state
- b. A system in which a small group of people owns the majority of the wealth
- c. A system in which the use of property is controlled by majority will
- d. An economic system in which production and property are privately owned, with a minimum of government interference
- e. A good idea in theory but not practically applicable

ANSWER: d

3. Which of the following purposes of government is best defined as "a state of peace and security"?

- a. Politics
- b. Legitimacy
- c. Authority
- d. Liberty
- e. Order

ANSWER: e

4. Which of the following is the best description of the political value known as liberty?

- a. Freedom to do whatever you want
- b. Available only in the United States
- c. The greatest freedom of the individual consistent with the freedom of other individuals
- d. Incompatible with government authority
- e. A uniquely American value

ANSWER: c

5. Which of the following best describes the government of the United States?

- a. A direct democracy
- b. A republic
- c. A confederation
- d. A constitutional monarchy
- e. An anarchy

ANSWER: b

6. Which of the following is the oldest purpose of government?
- a. To maintain order by protecting members of society from violence and criminal activity
 - b. To print money and control the economy
 - c. To guarantee freedom and liberty for all people
 - d. To act to protect the rights of the minority
 - e. To establish benefits for the most wealthy individuals in society

ANSWER: a

7. As a political value, how is equality defined?
- a. All people should make the same amount of money.
 - b. All people should be in a position to succeed economically.
 - c. All people should have equal access to their elected representatives.
 - d. All people have access to the courts to enforce their rights.
 - e. All people are of equal worth.

ANSWER: e

8. Which of the following is an example of direct democracy?
- a. Louisiana's use of the parish
 - b. New England town meetings
 - c. The Soviet Union in the 1980s
 - d. Voting in party primaries
 - e. The electoral college system

ANSWER: b

9. The framers of the Constitution chose to form what type of government?
- a. Republic
 - b. Limited constitutional monarchy
 - c. Totalitarian regime
 - d. Authoritarian regime
 - e. Oligarchical regime

ANSWER: a

10. Which of the following is absent in a republic?
- a. Legislative body
 - b. Rule of law
 - c. Separation of powers
 - d. Bureaucracy
 - e. Monarch

ANSWER: e

11. Which of the following is a significant issue that the U.S. government is facing today?
- a. A decrease in the national debt
 - b. A decrease in global competition and foreign trade

- c. An increasing gap in the income and wealth of individuals
- d. A shortage of homes available for purchase
- e. An overabundance of available social welfare funding

ANSWER: c

12. Which of the following is one of the most enduring shared American political values?

- a. A belief in wealth distribution
- b. A belief in the right to privacy
- c. A belief in the appropriate size and scope of government
- d. A belief in the rule of law
- e. A belief in monarchical rule

ANSWER: d

13. The theory that individuals form communities by mutual consent, giving up some of their individual liberty in order to gain the protection of government, is known as which of the following?

- a. Divine right
- b. Social contract
- c. A Leviathan
- d. Communitarianism
- e. Elitism

ANSWER: b

14. What is the basis for power and legitimacy in American government?

- a. Consent of the governed
- b. Universal suffrage
- c. One man, one vote
- d. Rights to life and liberty
- e. Majority rule

ANSWER: a

15. The set of ideas, values, and ways of thinking about government and politics that are shared by all citizens is known as which of the following?

- a. Politics
- b. Political culture
- c. Political socialization
- d. Socialism
- e. A social contract

ANSWER: b

16. Why didn't the framers of the Constitution create a direct democracy?

- a. It wasn't the best way to resist manipulative politicians.
- b. Direct democracy had never been used before.
- c. The people had expressed support for a government similar to a monarchy.
- d. They were worried about the efficiency of ballot-counting mechanisms.

e. They believed the rights of the minority would be suppressed by the dominating majority.

ANSWER: e

17. The United States tends to favor an economic system in which business enterprises and key industries are privately owned. This is known as which of the following?

- a. Capitalism
- b. Communism
- c. Socialism
- d. Populism
- e. Libertarianism

ANSWER: a

18. To whom do most democracies give power to make laws?

- a. Business leaders
- b. Political parties
- c. Expatriates
- d. Representatives
- e. All citizens

ANSWER: d

19. If top political jobs for both political parties are filled only from an inner circle of top corporate leaders, this would be evidence for which of the following?

- a. Elite theory
- b. Substantive democracy
- c. Pluralist theory
- d. The interest group model
- e. Authoritarianism

ANSWER: a

20. Political leaders in the United States initially extended equal treatment to which of the following groups?

- a. Men who owned property
- b. Men who had been born in one of the 13 original colonies
- c. White men and women
- d. All men, regardless of race
- e. All citizens

ANSWER: a

21. Initiative, referendum, and recall are examples of which of the following?

- a. Oligarchy
- b. Representative democracy
- c. Anarchy
- d. Direct democracy
- e. Direct egalitarianism

ANSWER: d

22. Which of the following is the type of government found in the original U.S. Constitution?

- a. Republic
- b. Limited constitutional monarchy
- c. Totalitarian regime
- d. Authoritarian regime
- e. Oligarchy

ANSWER: a

23. Why didn't the Framers of the Constitution create a direct democracy?

- a. It wasn't the best way to deal with manipulative politicians.
- b. Direct democracy had never been tried before.
- c. The people had expressed support for a government similar to a monarchy.
- d. They were worried about the accuracy of ballot-counting mechanisms.
- e. They believed that the rights of the minority would be suppressed by the majority.

ANSWER: e

24. The concept in which the Constitution provides the fundamental structure of government and describes what the national government can and cannot do is called which of the following?

- a. Limited government
- b. Popular sovereignty
- c. Representative democracy
- d. Majority rule
- e. Majoritarianism

ANSWER: a

25. North Korea is known for its lack of freedom of speech, press, and assembly. The needs of the ruler and regime are paramount, and dissent often means imprisonment or death. These are the characteristics of which of the following?

- a. Democratic republic
- b. Majoritarian democracy
- c. Totalitarian
- d. Republic
- e. Direct democracy

ANSWER: c

26. If the people hold the power over the government through elections, but policy decisions are made by the people's elected representatives, we can say that the government is which of the following?

- a. Autocracy
- b. Communist utopia
- c. Representational oligarchy

- d. Socialist monarchy
- e. Democratic republic

ANSWER: e

27. Pluralist theory proposes that people's interests are protected by which of the following?

- a. Interest groups
- b. Political parties
- c. The majority
- d. Elected representatives
- e. Elites

ANSWER: a

28. Which of the following is a characteristic of elite theory?

- a. It implies that the president must come from the party that holds the majority in Congress.
- b. It emphasizes governmental control over economic policy, but not social institutions.
- c. It is viewed by political scientists as a theory that works well as a description of both how democracies should function and how democracies actually do function.
- d. It indicates that a single ruler controls all aspects of the government, but not economic and social institutions.
- e. It is the perspective that society is ruled by a small number of people who exercise power to further their self-interests.

ANSWER: e

29. The comprehensive set of beliefs about the nature of people and the role of government is known as which of the following?

- a. Ideology
- b. Value system
- c. Political science
- d. Political socialization
- e. Political culture

ANSWER: a

30. Which of the following political philosophies holds the belief that individuals are responsible for their well-being, proposes a limited role of government, and supports policies favoring traditional values?

- a. Libertarianism
- b. Conservatism
- c. Liberalism
- d. Totalitarianism
- e. Socialism

ANSWER: a

31. Which of the following political groups strongly supports property rights and opposes

attempts to regulate personal behavior and moral values?

- a. Liberals
- b. Conservatives
- c. Traditionalists
- d. Anarchists
- e. Libertarians

ANSWER: e

32. Which of the following perspectives holds that society is really ruled by a small number of people who exercise power to further their self-interest?

- a. Majoritarian theory
- b. Personality theory
- c. Elite theory
- d. Pluralistic theory
- e. Interest group theory

ANSWER: c

33. When people have a fairly consistent view over a range of policy choices, they are said to have which of the following?

- a. An alliance
- b. A faction
- c. A political party
- d. A political ideology
- e. A democratic ideal

ANSWER: d

34. Which of the following groups would favor government efforts to increase equality, including higher taxes on the wealthy and more support for those in need?

- a. Moderates
- b. Populists
- c. Libertarians
- d. Conservatives
- e. Liberals

ANSWER: e

35. Which of the following groups believes that lower taxes will prompt greater economic growth that will ultimately benefit everyone, including the poor?

- a. Liberals
- b. Conservatives
- c. Democrats
- d. Anarchists
- e. Moderates

ANSWER: b

36. Which of the following groups believes that the government should not interfere in

economic or social matters?

- a. Conservatives
- b. Moderates
- c. Libertarians
- d. Populists
- e. Liberals

ANSWER: c

37. An American who supports the creation of election districts that are likely to vote for minority candidates for public office and wants more restrictions on business is likely to be of what political ideology?

- a. Libertarianism
- b. Conservatism
- c. Liberalism
- d. Majoritarianism
- e. Socialism

ANSWER: c

38. The idea that most important government decisions are made by an identifiable and stable minority that shares certain characteristics—especially wealth and business connections—is known as which of the following?

- a. Oligarchy
- b. Elite theory
- c. Pluralist theory
- d. The interest group model
- e. Aristocracy

ANSWER: b

39. Which of the following pairs of terms best completes the statement? _____ theorists have a narrower view of social and economic rights that should be guaranteed by a democratic government than do _____ theorists.

- a. Liberal, conservative
- b. Conservative, liberal
- c. Majoritarian, pluralist
- d. Progressive, pluralist
- e. Socialist, conservative

ANSWER: b

40. What is the political theory that holds that government should do what most of the people want it to do?

- a. Pluralism
- b. Majoritarianism
- c. Elite theory
- d. Proportionalism
- e. Democratic centralism

ANSWER: b

41. "The government should act to create jobs during an economic crisis." Which of the following ideologies is most compatible with this quote?

- a. Liberal
- b. Anarchist
- c. Conservative
- d. Libertarian
- e. Extreme conservative

ANSWER: a

42. Which of the following is the comprehensive set of beliefs about the nature of people and the role of government?

- a. Political socialization
- b. Political participation
- c. Value system
- d. Ideology
- e. Political science

ANSWER: d

43. Which of the following is a flaw with majoritarianism that can be harmful?

- a. The majority can make decisions that are harmful to the minority.
- b. The decisions are difficult to enforce.
- c. A group of elites can end up with all the decision-making power.
- d. Interest groups can become the decision makers.
- e. It doesn't take into account the beliefs of ordinary citizens.

ANSWER: a

44. The belief in individuals being responsible for their well-being, a limited role of government, and a support for policies favoring traditional values are characteristics of which of the following?

- a. Liberals
- b. Conservatives
- c. Traditionalists
- d. Activists
- e. Libertarians

ANSWER: b

45. Which of the following is the belief that government should take an active role in reducing poverty and regulating the economy, support civil rights, and have a tolerance for social change?

- a. Liberalism
- b. Conservatism
- c. Authoritarianism
- d. Libertarianism
- e. Traditionalism

ANSWER: a

46. A socialist would likely be in favor of which of the following?

- a. Prohibition of workers' organizations and trade unions
- b. Elimination of Social Security and Medicare programs
- c. Government taking over the oil industry in order to control oil and gas prices
- d. Privatization of the national park system
- e. Elimination of the federal national minimum wage

ANSWER: c

47. The concept that in a democracy the government should listen to what most people want is known as which of the following?

- a. Limited government
- b. Majoritarianism
- c. Elitism
- d. Pluralism
- e. Totalitarianism

ANSWER: b

48. Demographically, the United States is becoming which of the following?

- a. An elderly nation with the bulk of its citizens over age 65
- b. A middle-aged nation with a growing population of elderly
- c. A middle-aged nation with a stagnant population
- d. A youth-oriented nation with rapidly rising birth rates
- e. A youth-oriented nation with the bulk of its citizens under age 30

ANSWER: b

49. Which of the following is one of the major challenges of globalization?

- a. The dual citizenship of many of those employed by multinational corporations
- b. That no single government can regulate multinational corporations
- c. The lack of an easy way to pay for goods and services in a global economy
- d. That multinational corporations are accountable only to the country where the business began
- e. That it drives up prices for all Western consumers

ANSWER: b

50. An increased demand on Social Security and Medicare in the United States can be linked to which of the following?

- a. A declining birth rate
- b. An increasing number of immigrants
- c. An increasing number of senior citizens
- d. The declining income of workers 20 to 35 years old
- e. An increased number of apathetic voters

ANSWER: c

51. A Hispanic is someone who claims heritage from which of the following?

- a. Both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking ancestors
- b. The island of Hispaniola
- c. Nations of the North American continent
- d. Spanish conquistadors
- e. A Spanish-speaking country other than Spain

ANSWER: e

52. Why is the growing Hispanic population politically important?

- a. Hispanics are more likely to vote on issues, rather than affiliate with a political party.
- b. Hispanics are more likely to affiliate with a political party than to vote on particular issues.
- c. Hispanics have the highest rate of new voter registration of any ethnic group.
- d. Hispanics have the highest rate of voter participation of any ethnic group.
- e. Hispanics give the majority of their support to Democratic candidates.

ANSWER: e

53. The challenges posed by environmental change include which of the following?

- a. Political, technological, and global
- b. Political expertise and monetary issues
- c. Political proficiency and fiscal issues
- d. Political, but limited to developed countries
- e. Political, but limited to developing countries

ANSWER: a

54. What consequence is global warming thought to have on the United States?

- a. Greater number of heat waves impacting the agricultural industry
- b. The increase in hurricanes and coastal damage to large populations on seacoasts
- c. The increasing deforestation throughout the Plains and Upper Midwest
- d. Crushing rains and flooding in the Great Lakes region
- e. More snow in areas such as the Great Lakes

ANSWER: b

55. Support for Barack Obama from the Hispanic, Black, and Asian American communities showed that balancing the needs of each group would be an ongoing challenge for which political party?

- a. Libertarian
- b. Democrat
- c. Republican
- d. Socialist
- e. Communist

ANSWER: b

56. Which of the following nations will challenge America as a global economic power as we approach the mid-twenty-first century?

- a. Great Britain
- b. France
- c. China
- d. South Africa
- e. Canada

ANSWER: c

57. With larger numbers of Americans aged 65 and over, what government programs will face difficult challenges as America approaches the mid-twenty-first century?

- a. NASA and food stamp programs
- b. Social Security and Medicare
- c. Medicaid and welfare programs
- d. National parks and environmental grants
- e. Arts and education programs

ANSWER: b

58. Which of the following is a major change the United States will face in the coming years?

- a. The possibility of revolts against state governments
- b. An increased number of nation-states in the world
- c. The continuing failure of small farmers and loss of food sources
- d. A dramatic increase in population growth
- e. A decline in economic dominance

ANSWER: e

Essay

59. Compare and contrast direct democracy with representative democracy, and explain why direct democracy is seldom used in governmental elections in the twenty-first century in the United States.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

60. Explain the concepts of equality of opportunity and equality of outcome. How do they differ?

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

61. Why does the mandate of equal treatment for all groups of Americans sometimes come into conflict with the concept of liberty?

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

62. Though democratic republic is the term most commonly applied to the U.S. form of government, apply what you know about one nondemocratic form of government

(totalitarianism, authoritarianism, oligarchy, aristocracy), and describe what politics would be like in the United States under that form of government.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

63. We often laud democracy as a form of government, but what are its weaknesses? Describe what you see as the weaknesses of democratic forms of government, and argue whether these weaknesses indicate a need to change our form of government.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

64. To what extent are economic inequality and democratic forms of government compatible? Make an argument in which you answer this question, keeping in mind other key issues, such as order and liberty.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

65. Explain the difference between the ideologies of liberals and libertarians.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

66. Explain how a liberal, a libertarian, and a conservative would respond to a government program used to promote traditional moral values.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

67. Explain the role that interest groups play in the pluralist democratic model.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

68. Do you believe that pluralism or elite theory is the more accurate description of American politics? Why?

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.