

CHAPTER 1 Introducing Comparative Politics

Multiple Choice

One thing highlighted in relation to the countries studied in this text is _____, which are important historical moments when political actors make decisions that shape institutions and future outcomes.

1. One thing highlighted in relation to the countries studied in this text are _____.
- a. precipitating events
 - b. critical junctures
 - c. catastrophic moments
 - d. crucial points
 - e. critical crossroads

ANSWER: b

2. 2014 can be considered a critical juncture because
- a. there was a spike in terrorist incidents targeting the United States.
 - b. China supplanted the United States as the country with the highest Gross National Product.
 - c. Russia annexed Crimea and threatened Ukrainian sovereignty.
 - d. the United States held congressional elections.
 - e. a number of European regional governments held referendums calling for independence.

ANSWER: c

3. Which of the following statements about collective identities is INCORRECT?
- a. It refers to groups with which people identify.
 - b. It can be based upon gender, race, class, nationality, or religion.
 - c. It provides the building blocks upon which social and political action is based.
 - d. It is nonexistent as a factor in homogenous societies like Britain, France, and Germany.
 - e. It involves issues of inclusion, political recognition, representation, resource allocation, and the ability to shape public policies.

ANSWER: d

4. Comparative politics as a type of methodology
- a. dates to the time of Aristotle.
 - b. was developed only after the Enlightenment.
 - c. was developed after World War II.
 - d. first appeared during the Renaissance.
 - e. is a non-scientific method of analysis.

ANSWER: a

5. The difference between comparative politics and international relations can BEST be described as

- a. the study of comparative politics involves comparing political parties between countries, whereas the study of international relations involves the examination of why wars occur.
- b. the study of comparative politics refers only to domestic politics, whereas the study of international relations refers to globalization.
- c. the study of comparative politics involves comparing domestic political institutions, processes, and politics in different countries; whereas the study of international relations involves examining the foreign policy of and interactions among different countries.
- d. the study of comparative politics involves comparing nations, whereas the study of international relations involves examining international organizations, such as the United Nations or the International Monetary Fund.
- e. There is no difference between the two.

ANSWER: c

6. Globalization

- a. blurs the line between the subfields of American politics and comparative politics.
- b. is of concern only to those who study international relations.
- c. is of no concern to comparativists.
- d. makes it easy to distinguish between domestic and international politics.
- e. blurs the line between comparative politics and international relations.

ANSWER: e

7. According to your text, globalization includes all of the following EXCEPT

- a. increased speed and magnitude of cross-border trade.
- b. increased speed and magnitude of cross-border communications.
- c. increased cultural diffusion.
- d. increased migration of peoples.
- e. the global spread of democracy.

ANSWER: e

8. Keynesianism

- a. has been the dominant economic approach used by advanced capitalist countries since the 1980s.
- b. is a strain of neoliberal economic theory.
- c. emphasizes competition and market-friendly economic policies.
- d. emphasizes government regulation of the economy.
- e. suggests that governments erect trade barriers.

ANSWER: d

9. In comparative politics, the term state refers to

- a. subnational units of government like Missouri.
- b. the total area of a country.
- c. the key political institutions in a country.
- d. the government in power in a country.
- e. a group of people with a common ethnicity.

ANSWER: c

10. A country's executive may include

- a. the president.
- b. the prime minister.
- c. the cabinet.
- d. a religious supreme leader.
- e. all of these.

ANSWER: e

11. Political legitimacy exists

- a. when the broad citizenry believes that the state exercises rightful authority.
- b. when the United Nations recognizes a state.
- c. only in democratic political systems.
- d. only in consolidated democracies.
- e. when voter turnout is particularly high.

ANSWER: a

12. The process of _____ refers to the historical development of a state.

- a. nation building
- b. state development
- c. state building
- d. state formation
- e. state creation

ANSWER: d

13. When we say "if X happens, then Y will result," we are

- a. engaging in scientific analysis.
- b. utilizing causal theory.
- c. stating a hypothesis.
- d. stating a relationship between a dependent variable and an independent variable.
- e. all of these.

ANSWER: e

There is a general consensus among comparativists about the value of _____, which focuses on specific features of the political world.

14. There is a general consensus among comparativists about the value of...

- a. middle-level theory
- b. rational choice theory
- c. grand theories
- d. fundamental theories
- e. constructivist theories

ANSWER: a

15. Democratic transitions describe a process in which
- a. the president of a country resigns from office and is replaced by the vice president.
 - b. there are elections involving the peaceful transfer of power between political administrations.
 - c. a democratic country becomes a dictatorship.
 - d. two countries resolve a conflict by peaceful means rather than by military force.
 - e. authoritarian governments develop into more participatory and democratic regimes.

ANSWER: e

16. Institutional design refers to
- a. arrangements that define relationships between the various parts of government and between different levels of government.
 - b. how states are formed.
 - c. arrangements that define relationships between states and international organizations.
 - d. different conceptualizations of states used by comparativists.
 - e. the relationship between markets and the state.

ANSWER: a

17. To say that we live in a globalized world of states is to say that
- a. the United Nations is a world government.
 - b. there is an interaction between the national and international levels in shaping the politics of states.
 - c. countries are becoming more alike.
 - d. international processes are more important than domestic processes in explaining state behavior.
 - e. there are more countries today than ever before.

ANSWER: b

18. Removing trade barriers is a key goal of
- a. the International Monetary Fund.
 - b. the World Trade Organization.
 - c. the World Bank.
 - d. the United Nations.
 - e. non-governmental organizations.

ANSWER: b

19. The term political economy refers to
- a. how much a country spends on elections.
 - b. how a country promotes ecologically sound ways to modernize the economy and raise the standard of living.
 - c. how states and political processes affect the economy and how the economy in turn affects a country's political processes.
 - d. the global economic system.
 - e. the ratio of GDP compared to the percentage of voting citizens.

ANSWER: c

20. Which of the following statements about GDP per capita is CORRECT?

- a. It is a good measure for determining which countries are rich (developed) and which are poor (developing).
- b. It is the same as GDP according to purchasing power parity.
- c. It is the best way to determine the overall size of a country's economy relative to other countries.
- d. It is not a factor taken into account in determining the Human Development Index.
- e. It is a good measure for determining how environmentally sustainable a country's economy is.

ANSWER: a

21. All of the following are ways to measure a country's economic development EXCEPT

- a. Gross National Product.
- b. Gross Domestic Product.
- c. Purchasing Parity Power.
- d. the Social Progress Index.
- e. the Environmental Performance Index.

ANSWER: e

22. The Social Progress Index is

- a. calculated by adding a country's Gross National Product and its Freedom House ranking.
- b. a composite index that takes into account measures for meeting basic needs, environmental sustainability, freedom, and tolerance.
- c. calculated by adding a country's Gross National Product and its Corruption Perception Index.
- d. a composite index developed by the United Nations.
- e. a measurement of how technologically advanced a country is.

ANSWER: b

23. The spread of democracy has

- a. consistently increased over the years.
- b. consistently decreased over the years.
- c. been consistently static over the years.
- d. achieved the status of being taken as generally right.
- e. been most affected by the shift of Russia from "partly free" to "free."

ANSWER: d

24. Classifying states according to their level of democracy is an example of

- a. a typology.
- b. a causal theory.
- c. a model.
- d. levels of analysis.
- e. a hypothesis.

ANSWER: a

25. For a country to be considered to be democratic,
- a. its leaders must be elected in free and fair elections.
 - b. there must be a respect for the rule of law.
 - c. there must be a degree of gender equality.
 - d. there must be some leveling of the economic playing field.
 - e. all of these must be present.

ANSWER: e

26. When we say that a political system is a mixed system, we are saying that
- a. it exhibits some democratic and some authoritarian features.
 - b. it has multiple collective identities within it.
 - c. it utilizes a combination of market and non-market economic policies.
 - d. it is in transition from a democratic political system to an authoritarian one.
 - e. it combines elements of a presidential political system and a parliamentary political system.

ANSWER: a

27. Authoritarian regimes are characterized by all of the following EXCEPT
- a. power (or authority) is highly concentrated in a single individual, small group of people, single party, or institution.
 - b. they do not include any democratic values and practices within their governing systems.
 - c. those in power claim an exclusive right to govern and use various means, including force, to impose their will on their citizens.
 - d. they have few institutional procedures for holding political leaders accountable.
 - e. political and personal freedoms are limited in such regimes.

ANSWER: b

28. The term hegemony refers to
- a. the ability of a particular state to dominate world affairs.
 - b. the ability of a particular branch of government to dominate other branches.
 - c. the dependency of one country's economy on another country's economy.
 - d. the ability of international organizations to influence the domestic policies of countries.
 - e. the spread of democracy worldwide.

ANSWER: a

29. Which of the following statements about the Human Development Index is CORRECT?
- a. It is compiled by the World Bank.
 - b. It includes measures for sustainable development.
 - c. It is used to measure and compare levels of achievement in health, knowledge, and the standard of living.
 - d. The countries with the lowest HDI rankings were the United States, New Zealand, and Norway.

e. It assesses the level of interaction between people in a political system.

ANSWER: c

Someone interested in comparing how well different countries meet certain pollution control benchmarks might consult the

30. Someone interested in comparing how well different countries meet certain pollution control ...

- a. Environmental Protection Index.
- b. Environmental Transparency Index.
- c. Environmental Performance Index.
- d. Environmental Governance Indicators Index.
- e. Environmental Sustainability Index.

ANSWER: c

Essay

31. Briefly describe the key differences between: authoritarian political systems, democratic political systems, mixed political systems, consolidated democracies, and transitional democracies.

ANSWER: Student answers may vary.

32. List and evaluate the conditions that the authors argue must be present for a country to be considered democratic. Why do they contend these conditions are important? Do you agree with the authors on each of these?

ANSWER: Student answers may vary.

33. Explain several ways in which comparative politics is limited as a scientific approach.

ANSWER: Student answers may vary.

34. Explain what is meant by middle-level theory and assess the advantages of its use in comparative politics.

ANSWER: Student answers may vary.

35. Describe some ways in which economic development can be measured.

ANSWER: Student answers may vary.