

Chapter 01: Gateways to American Democracy

1. Which of the following are obstacles to influence that may limit access to participation?

- a. Public policies
- b. Problems
- c. Solutions
- d. Gates
- e. Gateways

ANSWER:

d

2. Which of the following is true regarding evaluation of the American political system?

- a. Poverty is declining in the United States.
- b. The public trust of public institutions is low.
- c. Political institutions are generally unstable.
- d. Political polarization is declining in the United States.
- e. Voter turnout is higher in the United States than in most other democracies.

ANSWER:

b

3. Which of the following statements represents something that the United States has not been able to accomplish even though it has a high level of citizen involvement?

- a. The nation and institutions are remarkably stable.
- b. Citizens are able to petition government and criticize it.
- c. Americans enjoy substantial freedom and are protected from abuses of power by the government.
- d. A society has been created with high voter turnout.
- e. Americans show more tolerance of different political views than most other democracies

ANSWER:

d

4. Actions by the government to achieve a goal are known as which of the following?

- a. Politics
- b. Government
- c. Public policy
- d. Policy agenda
- e. Factional decisions

ANSWER:

c

5. Which of the following is another term for an avenue for participation in the political process?

- a. Gateway
- b. Solution
- c. Gate
- d. Public trust
- e. Institutional participation

ANSWER:

a

6. In order to achieve a "more perfect union" and solve America's problems, Americans must be which of the following?

- a. Cautious and careful

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- b. Wild and unpredictable
- c. Cold and calculating
- d. Happy and trusting
- e. Vigilant and engaged

ANSWER:

e

7. Which of the following is the first step in the policy-making process?

- a. Formulating a solution
- b. Placing the problem on the agenda of the policy makers
- c. Identifying the problem
- d. Evaluating the effectiveness of the solution
- e. Discussing whether the problem needs to be addressed

ANSWER:

c

8. Which of the following is a problem with American democracy?

- a. The government always responds to public opinion.
- b. The U.S. national debt is the lowest it's ever been.
- c. Political polarization is decreasing.
- d. The rate of turnout in elections is at an all-time high.
- e. Racial tensions persist across the country.

ANSWER:

e

9. Who works together to determine public policies?

- a. The public, the media, and interest groups
- b. Interest groups, Congress, and the Justice Department
- c. Individuals, organizations, and political institutions
- d. The U.S. Supreme Court, the NRA, and the public
- e. The president, local police, and educational institutions

ANSWER:

c

10. Which of the following is not part of the policy-making process?

- a. Identifying the problem
- b. Formulating a situation
- c. Placing the problem on the agenda of the policy makers
- d. Informing the media of possible solutions
- e. Enacting and implementing the solution

ANSWER:

d

11. 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.

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

ANSWER:

e

12. 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:

c

13. 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

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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

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17. 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

18. 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

19. 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

20. What ancient British legal principle holds that all people are equal before the law, all are subject to it, and no one is above it?

- a. *Stare decisis*
- b. Rule of law
- c. Positivism
- d. Human rights
- e. *Habeus corpus*

ANSWER:

b

21. Madison and the other Framers realized that the role of the new Constitution was to do which of the following?

- a. Spell out the natural rights of citizens
- b. Serve as a gatekeeper to power
- c. Strictly limit the power of government
- d. Define what is meant by "citizen" and "rights"
- e. Create access to power for government officials

ANSWER:

b

22. Unlike Athens, the early United States had a population of nearly 4 million people, which made direct democracy impractical. Instead, the Framers created which of the following?

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- a. Dictatorship
- b. Direct democracy
- c. Representative democracy
- d. Socialist government
- e. Constitutional monarchy

ANSWER:

c

23. A republic is a form of government in which power derives from which of the following?

- a. A supreme mandate from the masses, rather than from divine right
- b. Sectarian violence
- c. The majoritarian consensus of elites
- d. The citizens, but their representatives make policy and govern
- e. The benevolence of the leaders

ANSWER:

d

24. According to the U.S. Constitution, power is channeled into what three branches of the government?

- a. Executive, economic, legislative
- b. Judicial, domestic, foreign
- c. Legislative, judicial, executive
- d. Judicial, legislative, military
- e. Executive, legislative, federal

ANSWER:

c

25. 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

26. 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

27. 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.

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- 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

28. 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

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

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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

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37. 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

38. 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

39. 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

40. 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

41. 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

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ANSWER:

b

42. 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

43. "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

44. Which of the following is a partnership that is a psychological attachment to a particular party that relates to political ideology but is more personal than philosophical?

- a. Party identification
- b. Political theory
- c. Political culture
- d. Party faction
- e. Political capital

ANSWER:

a

45. Which of the following groups favors government efforts to increase equality, which includes higher taxes on the wealthy and greater provision of social benefits to those in need?

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

ANSWER:

b

46. With regard to political ideology, most Americans are considered to be which of the following?

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

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ANSWER:

e

47. American political culture as a whole generally favors which of the following over communal approaches to property and poverty?

- a. Socialism
- b. Marxism
- c. Strict equality
- d. Individualism
- e. Communism

ANSWER:

d

48. 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

49. In monarchies, autocracies, and oligarchies, a single person or small elite rules society. These systems are by definition which of the following?

- a. Democratic
- b. Undemocratic
- c. Fascist
- d. Responsive
- e. Anarchist

ANSWER:

b

50. According to the preamble to the U.S. Constitution, the functions of government do not include which of the following?

- a. Establish justice
- b. Promote economic security
- c. Provide for the common defense
- d. Promote the general welfare
- e. Ensure domestic tranquility

ANSWER:

b

51. Clean air is an example of which of the following that no one can be excluded from and that benefits all citizens?

- a. Private goods
- b. General welfare
- c. Public goods
- d. Self-interest
- e. Public policy

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ANSWER:

c

52. Which of the following provides the most common way to remove elected officials from office and can be the primary mechanisms for forging responsiveness?

- a. Elections
- b. Impeachment
- c. Interest groups
- d. Political parties
- e. Indictments

ANSWER:

a

53. The idea that each citizen must have a chance to have his or her voice heard in government is the root of which of the following?

- a. Political economy
- b. Self-determination
- c. Political culture
- d. Political equality
- e. Civil society

ANSWER:

d

54. Equality of opportunity can be understood to mean which of the following?

- a. All citizens have the right to vote.
- b. All citizens will be both happy and free.
- c. All citizens will experience the same standard of living.
- d. All citizens must equally participate in government.
- e. All citizens will be treated equally before the law.

ANSWER:

e

55. In an autocracy, leaders typically rely on which of the following to maintain order?

- a. Free and fair elections
- b. A popularly elected group of sheriffs
- c. A strong army or secret police force
- d. Reappointment by the national legislature
- e. A team of problem solvers that listen to the people and their needs

ANSWER:

c

56. The process by which the people determine how government will respond to the needs and opinions of the people is known as which of the following?

- a. Politics
- b. Self-interest
- c. Political culture
- d. Political participation
- e. Popular sovereignty

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ANSWER:

a

57. The expectation that incomes will level out or that standards of living will be roughly the same for all citizens is known as which of the following?

- a. Equality of opportunity
- b. Political equality
- c. The leveling effect
- d. Welfare equality
- e. Equality of outcome

ANSWER:

e

58. The idea that citizens get involved in the political process because they want to be part of the voluntary organizations of society that enable communities to flourish is known as which of the following?

- a. Civic interest
- b. Self-interest
- c. Community interest
- d. Political interest
- e. Pluralist interest

ANSWER:

a

59. Gains in civic interest lead to broader public involvement, which in turn leads to which of the following?

- a. A decrease in the size of government
- b. Highlighted interest group agendas
- c. Advances in equality
- d. Less partisanship
- e. Income equality

ANSWER:

c

60. If you were born between 1982 and 2003, you are part of the generation that social scientists have identified as which of the following?

- a. Baby boomers
- b. Generation X
- c. Generation Y
- d. Millennials
- e. Idealists

ANSWER:

d

61. College students who want lower college loan interest rates, baby boomers who want increases in Social Security payments, and parents who want more money spent on public education are all looking out for which of the following?

- a. Their political participation
- b. Their civic interest
- c. Their self-interest
- d. Their partisanship

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- e. Their political socialization

ANSWER:

c

62. Which of the following is true regarding college costs?

- a. The costs of both public and private colleges have decreased in recent years.
- b. College affordability is a concern for almost all college students.
- c. Congress has done nothing to fund financial aid for college students.
- d. College affordability is the most talked-about subject on today's political agenda.
- e. Both public and private college costs have remained stable over the last decade.

ANSWER:

b

63. The Tea Party movement has aligned itself for the most part with which of the following political parties?

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

ANSWER:

e

64. As Madison and the other Founders noted, the best check on excesses of power that threaten a fair and just government is which of the following?

- a. An activist Supreme Court
- b. A powerful executive
- c. An engaged public
- d. A bipartisan Congress
- e. Knowledgeable bureaucrats

ANSWER:

c

65. Participating in the public sphere obviously includes voting, but it also includes which of the following other activities?

- a. Writing letters to your representatives in Congress
- b. Volunteering for a political campaign
- c. Attending political rallies
- d. Social networking in support of a candidate
- e. All of these are correct.

ANSWER:

e

66. The ways that the federal government helps support individuals in their efforts to attend college include which of the following?

- a. Pell Grants
- b. Work-study programs
- c. Low-interest college loans
- d. Tax breaks for education

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- e. All of these are correct.

ANSWER:

e

67. Describe public policies that encourage you to participate in American democracy.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

68. Define *social contract*.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

69. Why are monarchies, autocracies, and oligarchies inherently undemocratic?

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

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

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

71. 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.

72. 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.

73. 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.

74. 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.

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

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

76. 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.

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

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

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

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

79. To what extent are economic inequality and democratic forms of government compatible? Make an argument in

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which you answer this question, keeping in mind other key issues, such as order and liberty.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

80. Discuss the ways that civic interest and self-interest can influence government and society.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

81. Detail the policy formation process, and discuss the various groups that are involved along the way.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.