

CHAPTER 2: Majoritarian or Pluralist Democracy?

Student: _____

1. *Please define the following term.*

autocracy

2. *Please define the following term.*

oligarchy

3. *Please define the following term.*

democracy

4. *Please define the following term.*

procedural democratic theory

5. *Please define the following term.*

universal participation

6. *Please define the following term.*

political equality

7. *Please define the following term.*

majority rule

8. *Please define the following term.*

participatory democracy

9. *Please define the following term.*

e-government

10. *Please define the following term.*

representative democracy

11. *Please define the following term.*

responsiveness

12. *Please define the following term.*

substantive democratic theory

13. *Please define the following term.*

minority rights

14. *Please define the following term.*

majoritarian model of democracy

15. *Please define the following term.*

interest group

16. *Please define the following term.*

pluralist model of democracy

17. *Please define the following term.*

elite theory

18. *Please define the following term.*

democratization

19. The primary issue that Occupy Wall Street protestors pushed was

- A. income inequality.
- B. high unemployment.
- C. corruption in the housing industry.
- D. media bias.
- E. student college loan reform.

20. Public opinion polls show that a majority of Americans
- A. want the wealthier taxed about the same.
 - B. want the wealthier taxed more.
 - C. want the wealthier taxed less.
 - D. distinguish between deserving and undeserving wealthy Americans.
 - E. do not care very much about the taxation of wealth.
21. The Occupy Wall Street movement stalled in momentum because
- A. media coverage swiftly turned against the movement.
 - B. public opinion shifted against the organizer's increasingly radical tactics.
 - C. its organizers ran out of money.
 - D. both leading Democrats and Republicans criticized it.
 - E. it made little effort to build organizations and a leadership structure.
22. The ancient Greeks classified governments as autocracies, oligarchies, or democracies based on
- A. the fundamental purposes for which the government was instituted.
 - B. the extent of government power.
 - C. the types of elected officeholders.
 - D. the kinds of decisions the government was responsible for.
 - E. the number of citizens involved in governing.
23. An autocracy is a political system ruled by
- A. a few.
 - B. one individual.
 - C. the military.
 - D. a majority.
 - E. a few powerful, wealthy individuals.
24. The concept of democracy was initially defined centuries ago in ancient
- A. Syria.
 - B. Egypt.
 - C. Greece.
 - D. Rome.
 - E. India.

25. Although many countries openly advocate “rule by the people,” much disagreement remains over

- A. whether such a system could ever exist in the real world.
- B. how “the people” is defined, and how those individuals should rule.
- C. whether “the people” are actually better decision makers than the elite.
- D. whether such systems are outdated and becoming less common.
- E. whether non-participatory citizens are included in the definition.

26. The Greek word *demos*, which is the root of the term *democracy*, means

- A. common people.
- B. power.
- C. participation.
- D. foundation or base.
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27. The Greek word *kratos*, one of the roots of the word *democracy*, means

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28. A politician who appeals to and often deceives the masses by manipulating their emotions and prejudices is a(n)

- A. politico.
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29. The procedural view of democracy is *most* concerned with

- A. the level of popular participation in decision making.
- B. the equality of government decisions.
- C. minority protections.
- D. the impact of government decisions.
- E. how government decisions are made.

30. Which of the following is *not* a question asked by procedural democratic theory?

- A. Who should participate in decision making?
- B. What democratic outcomes violate the rights of minorities?
- C. How much should each participant's vote count?
- D. How many votes are needed to reach a decision?
- E. Options B and D are true.

31. The idea that all adults within the boundaries of a political community should be allowed to vote is known as

- A. universal participation.
- B. political equality.
- C. majority rule.
- D. plurality rule.
- E. suffrage.

32. A country abiding by the principle "one man, one vote" is practicing

- A. representative democracy.
- B. political equality.
- C. equal suffrage.
- D. substantive democracy.
- E. a "free and fair" election system.

33. Whereas majority rule is defined as decision making by 50 percent plus one person, _____ is defined as decision making by most participants.

- A. rule by the people
- B. acquiescence
- C. political equality
- D. universal participation
- E. plurality rule

34. All of the following are principles of procedural democracy *except*

- A. government responsiveness to public opinion.
- B. minority rights.
- C. universal participation.
- D. majority rule.
- E. political equality.

35. Participatory democracy today

- A. is rare in the United States but commonly practiced in Europe.
- B. is common in the United States and in other democracies.
- C. is common in the United States but rare in other democracies.
- D. is common in the United States and Europe, but rare in other democracies.
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36. New England town meetings are an example of

- A. substantive democracy.
- B. oligarchies.
- C. representative democracy.
- D. civil democracy.
- E. participatory democracy.

37. A recent study of neighborhood councils found that _____ of residents took part in at least one meeting during a two-year period.

- A. less than 20 percent
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38. _____ allows a person to acquire information and documents online, and also provides a medium to register opinions and complaints to government officials.

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- A. Bringing large numbers of citizens together for discussions and votes is difficult.
- B. Decisions may require specialized knowledge not possessed by the average citizen.
- C. Discussion of political issues consumes more time than most people are willing to spend.
- D. Options A, B, and C are true.
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40. If an amendment to require Bible reading in public schools was passed by Congress and ratified by the states, this would be an example of

- A. substantive democracy.
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- A. follow the general contours of public opinion.
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- C. pay especial attention to groups that are highly organized.
- D. support public opinion in all matters related to electoral politics.
- E. consider the views of their fellow legislators more than the views of constituents.

42. The Bill of Rights is at the core of our

- A. procedural theories of democracy.
- B. majoritarian theories.
- C. participatory theories of democracy.
- D. substantive theories of democracy.
- E. representative theories of democracy.

43. The basic standard of substantive democracy is that government must guarantee

- A. economic rights.
- B. civil rights and liberties.
- C. social equality.
- D. Options A, B, C, and D are true.
- E. None of the above is true.

44. Agreement among substantive theorists breaks down when the discussion moves from civil rights to

- A. freedom of expression.
- B. social rights.
- C. religious rights.
- D. economic rights.
- E. Options B and D are true.

45. Suppose a majority of Congress passes a law to permit organized prayer in public schools and the Supreme Court declares that the Constitution forbids this rule; this would be an example of
- A. procedural democracy.
 - B. substantive democracy.
 - C. the majoritarian model.
 - D. participatory democracy.
 - E. constitutional democracy.
46. In August of 2010, a federal judge overturned a decision by the voters of California that had banned gay marriage. This judicial decision is an example of
- A. majoritarian theory.
 - B. the interest group model.
 - C. elite theory.
 - D. substantive democracy.
 - E. None of the above is true.
47. Americans tend to define democracy in terms of
- A. democratic processes.
 - B. institutions and organizations.
 - C. social benefits.
 - D. political parties.
 - E. freedoms, rights, or liberties.
48. One weakness of the substantive model of democracy is that
- A. not everyone participates in decision making.
 - B. there is no agreement regarding which policies are democratic.
 - C. the government is less responsive to its people.
 - D. terrible inequities occur in the wealthiest class.
 - E. minority groups are easily defeated.
49. One of the weaknesses of the procedural model of democracy is that
- A. it does not provide clear criteria on which to judge whether a government is democratic.
 - B. its reliance on rules may lead to rigidity and inefficiency.
 - C. it neglects the standards of classic Greek democracy.
 - D. it permits policies that violate standards of substantive democracy.
 - E. too much attention is paid to protecting minority rights.

50. A popular election is the primary mechanism for democratic government in which model?
- A. Substantive democracy
 - B. Procedural democracy
 - C. The majoritarian model
 - D. The pluralist model
 - E. The integrated model
51. A referendum is best described as a(n)
- A. statement of legislative goals.
 - B. do-over of a previous election.
 - C. ballot without true competition for offices.
 - D. election on a policy issue.
 - E. decision that resolves a legal issue.
52. A citizen's group gathers enough signatures on a petition to force a popular vote on a statewide lottery proposal. This proposal would represent a(n)
- A. recall election.
 - B. referendum.
 - C. initiative.
 - D. popular law.
 - E. citizen's proposal.
53. In 2011 the state of Ohio approved an initiative to
- A. teach creationism in public schools.
 - B. increase the minimum wage.
 - C. restrict abortion.
 - D. create a school voucher program.
 - E. overturn a law that had weakened unions.
54. Although they are instruments of majoritarian democracy, initiatives are often sponsored by
- A. government officials.
 - B. interest groups.
 - C. members of the judiciary.
 - D. foreign multi-national corporations.
 - E. small numbers of average citizens.

55. What rules govern the use of referenda at the federal level?

- A. They can only be used to propose constitutional amendments.
- B. They require a two-thirds vote of all Americans.
- C. They must be approved by a two-thirds vote of Congress.
- D. They can only be used for a declaration of war.
- E. No provisions exist for the use of referenda at the federal level.

56. An alleged weakness of the majoritarian democratic model is its

- A. reliance on public opinion polls, which tends to fluctuate over time.
- B. reliance on the American public to be knowledgeable and participatory.
- C. insistence that political parties represent the true opinion of the public.
- D. failure to require elected officials to follow voters' wishes.
- E. exclusion of interest groups from issue formation.

57. An organized group that seeks to influence government policy is called a(n)

- A. interest group.
- B. pluralist group.
- C. elite group.
- D. oligarchy.
- E. substantive group.

58. Compared with majoritarian thought, the pluralist model of democracy shifts the focus of democratic decision making from _____ to _____.

- A. organized groups; the mass electorate
- B. representatives; voters
- C. procedures; substance
- D. substance; procedures
- E. the mass electorate; organized groups

59. The division of authority in the U.S. Constitution among competing branches and levels of government has encouraged the development of

- A. elitism.
- B. majoritarian democracy.
- C. indirect democracy.
- D. pluralism.
- E. divided government institutions.

60. The pluralist model assumes

- A. the existence of interest groups.
- B. a decentralized structure of government.
- C. ready access to public officials.
- D. openness to arguments for or against government policies.
- E. All of the above are true.

61. Cohesive political parties with well-defined programs contribute to the

- A. pluralist model of democracy.
- B. majoritarian model of democracy.
- C. republican theory of democracy.
- D. elite theory of democracy.
- E. substantive theory of democracy.

62. For some years our two congressional parties have been increasingly polarized, working less together to fashion compromise legislation. This is consistent with the _____ of democracy.

- A. pluralist model
- B. substantive theory
- C. procedural theory
- D. elite theory
- E. majoritarian model

63. Which theorist argues that a fundamental component of pluralist democracies is multiple centers of power without a sovereign?

- A. Robert Putnam
- B. John Locke
- C. John Stuart Mill
- D. C.J. Chivers
- E. Robert Dahl

64. A sign that pluralist democracy might *not* be working well in the United States is the

- A. discovery that the best represented sectors in Washington are business and professional groups.
- B. declining number of interest groups in Washington.
- C. decentralization of the American government.
- D. increased representation for low income Americans.
- E. generally low levels of political knowledge among Americans.

65. According to pluralist theory, group struggle is democratic if

- A. the outcomes of the struggle are in the popular interest.
- B. certain larger groups are provided with more representation than smaller groups.
- C. all citizens are organized into groups.
- D. all groups win a fair share of decisions.
- E. all groups are allowed to participate.

66. The idea that the most important government decisions are made by an identifiable and stable minority that shares certain characteristics is called

- A. substantive democracy.
- B. elite theory.
- C. pluralist theory.
- D. the interest group model.
- E. aristocracy.

67. Those who support elite theory claim that the United States is governed by a relatively small class of people whose power is based on

- A. democratic election.
- B. interest group membership.
- C. control of wealth and corporations.
- D. hereditary titles.
- E. market share domination.

68. Suppose that top government jobs for both political parties are filled only from an inner circle of top corporate leaders. This would be evidence for

- A. elite theory.
- B. substantive democracy.
- C. pluralist theory.
- D. the interest group model.
- E. aristocracy.

69. Studies on decision making concerning public policy issues suggest that much of the elite's power comes from the ability of elites to

- A. win seats in Congress.
- B. become governors of states.
- C. finance candidates for president of the United States.
- D. keep issues off the political agenda.
- E. None of the above is true.

70. Many protestors from the Occupy Wall Street movement argued that American government was best described by
- A. substantive democracy.
 - B. elite theory.
 - C. pluralist theory.
 - D. the interest group model.
 - E. majoritarian theory.
71. Elite theory is discredited as an explanation of American national politics because studies show that
- A. elitism cannot coexist with democratic elections.
 - B. there are too few power positions in the United States to constitute an elite.
 - C. government and business leaders generally do not cooperate with one another.
 - D. no one identifiable group regularly prevails on different issues.
 - E. citizens will rally to defend rights they believe are endangered by government policies.
72. Studies of the congressional agenda demonstrate that it is characterized by
- A. an emphasis on legislation concerned with the poor.
 - B. an emphasis on legislation concerned with immigration.
 - C. an emphasis on legislation concerned with increasing taxes on the wealthy.
 - D. an emphasis on business-related legislation.
 - E. None of the above is true.
73. Democratization is the
- A. process of moving from procedural to substantive democracy.
 - B. process of institutionalizing the rules of procedural democracy and establishing substantive democratic policies.
 - C. act of electing leaders in a way that conforms to the criteria of substantive democracy.
 - D. process of moving from a demand to a market economy.
 - E. requirement that freedoms and rights be protected by written covenant.
74. Whether a political system is “democratic” is chiefly defined by
- A. its amount of participation.
 - B. its political equality and majority rule.
 - C. government responsiveness to public opinion.
 - D. its tolerance for freedom of speech and association.
 - E. It cannot be simply defined by any of the above.

75. One primary challenge to democratization in Iraq after the overthrow of dictator Saddam Hussein is

- A. the lack of a functioning oil economy.
- B. religious conflict between Sunni and Shiite branches of Islam.
- C. the continued crackdown on open protest of the government.
- D. the resurgence of the Ba'ath Party as a democratic force.
- E. the failure to establish a free and independent press.

76. Ethnic and religious rivals are often more interested in achieving a form of government that

- A. oppresses their opponents.
- B. provides a separation of church and state.
- C. requires all citizens to attend religious services.
- D. requires all schools provide religious instruction.
- E. All of the above are true.

77. According to the text, it is difficult for a country with a market economy to remain _____ in its internal politics.

- A. democratic
- B. responsive
- C. decentralized
- D. undemocratic
- E. pluralistic

78. The text suggests that there are _____ forces that may be pushing authoritarian governments toward democratization.

- A. religious
- B. moral
- C. philosophical
- D. ethical
- E. economic

79. The text suggests that the United States fulfills the _____ model quite well.

- A. authoritarian
- B. majoritarian
- C. totalitarian
- D. pluralist
- E. egalitarian

80. Describe whether or not Occupy Wall Street should be considered a majoritarian movement.

81. Explain how Greek philosophers classified different governments, and what they thought about democracy.

82. Identify the three questions that are addressed by procedural democratic theory.

83. Explain the difference between procedural democratic theory and substantive democratic theory.

84. Describe some prominent examples of participatory democracy in both ancient and more recent history.

85. Identify some of the ways that e-government may expand public involvement in politics.

86. Identify some of the disagreements between substantive democratic theorists and the rights that government should protect.

87. Give two examples of government mechanisms that follow the majoritarian model.

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

89. Explain how the pluralist model of democracy may better reflect the knowledge levels of individual Americans.

90. Summarize the findings of political scientists who have researched the validity of elite theory, and the response of elite theorists to such findings.

91. Explain the key difference between elite and pluralist theory.

92. Discuss why democratization can be difficult to achieve in different parts of the world, and why there is a strong relationship between economic prosperity and democracy.

93. According to the text, does the United States better fit the pluralist model or the majoritarian model, and why?

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54. Although they are instruments of majoritarian democracy, initiatives are often sponsored by

- A. government officials.
- B.** interest groups.
- C. members of the judiciary.
- D. foreign multi-national corporations.
- E. small numbers of average citizens.

55. What rules govern the use of referenda at the federal level?

- A. They can only be used to propose constitutional amendments.
- B. They require a two-thirds vote of all Americans.
- C. They must be approved by a two-thirds vote of Congress.
- D. They can only be used for a declaration of war.
- E.** No provisions exist for the use of referenda at the federal level.

56. An alleged weakness of the majoritarian democratic model is its

- A. reliance on public opinion polls, which tends to fluctuate over time.
- B.** reliance on the American public to be knowledgeable and participatory.
- C. insistence that political parties represent the true opinion of the public.
- D. failure to require elected officials to follow voters' wishes.
- E. exclusion of interest groups from issue formation.

57. An organized group that seeks to influence government policy is called a(n)

- A.** interest group.
- B. pluralist group.
- C. elite group.
- D. oligarchy.
- E. substantive group.

58. Compared with majoritarian thought, the pluralist model of democracy shifts the focus of democratic decision making from _____ to _____.

- A. organized groups; the mass electorate
- B. representatives; voters
- C. procedures; substance
- D. substance; procedures
- E.** the mass electorate; organized groups

59. The division of authority in the U.S. Constitution among competing branches and levels of government has encouraged the development of

- A. elitism.
- B. majoritarian democracy.
- C. indirect democracy.
- D.** pluralism.
- E. divided government institutions.

60. The pluralist model assumes

- A. the existence of interest groups.
- B. a decentralized structure of government.
- C. ready access to public officials.
- D. openness to arguments for or against government policies.
- E.** All of the above are true.

61. Cohesive political parties with well-defined programs contribute to the

- A. pluralist model of democracy.
- B.** majoritarian model of democracy.
- C. republican theory of democracy.
- D. elite theory of democracy.
- E. substantive theory of democracy.

62. For some years our two congressional parties have been increasingly polarized, working less together to fashion compromise legislation. This is consistent with the _____ of democracy.

- A. pluralist model
- B. substantive theory
- C. procedural theory
- D. elite theory
- E.** majoritarian model

63. Which theorist argues that a fundamental component of pluralist democracies is multiple centers of power without a sovereign?
- A. Robert Putnam
 - B. John Locke
 - C. John Stuart Mill
 - D. C.J. Chivers
 - E. Robert Dahl**
64. A sign that pluralist democracy might *not* be working well in the United States is the
- A. discovery that the best represented sectors in Washington are business and professional groups.**
 - B. declining number of interest groups in Washington.
 - C. decentralization of the American government.
 - D. increased representation for low income Americans.
 - E. generally low levels of political knowledge among Americans.
65. According to pluralist theory, group struggle is democratic if
- A. the outcomes of the struggle are in the popular interest.
 - B. certain larger groups are provided with more representation than smaller groups.
 - C. all citizens are organized into groups.
 - D. all groups win a fair share of decisions.
 - E. all groups are allowed to participate.**
66. The idea that the most important government decisions are made by an identifiable and stable minority that shares certain characteristics is called
- A. substantive democracy.
 - B. elite theory.**
 - C. pluralist theory.
 - D. the interest group model.
 - E. aristocracy.
67. Those who support elite theory claim that the United States is governed by a relatively small class of people whose power is based on
- A. democratic election.
 - B. interest group membership.
 - C. control of wealth and corporations.**
 - D. hereditary titles.
 - E. market share domination.

68. Suppose that top government jobs for both political parties are filled only from an inner circle of top corporate leaders. This would be evidence for

- A.** elite theory.
- B. substantive democracy.
- C. pluralist theory.
- D. the interest group model.
- E. aristocracy.

69. Studies on decision making concerning public policy issues suggest that much of the elite's power comes from the ability of elites to

- A. win seats in Congress.
- B. become governors of states.
- C. finance candidates for president of the United States.
- D.** keep issues off the political agenda.
- E. None of the above is true.

70. Many protestors from the Occupy Wall Street movement argued that American government was best described by

- A. substantive democracy.
- B.** elite theory.
- C. pluralist theory.
- D. the interest group model.
- E. majoritarian theory.

71. Elite theory is discredited as an explanation of American national politics because studies show that

- A. elitism cannot coexist with democratic elections.
- B. there are too few power positions in the United States to constitute an elite.
- C. government and business leaders generally do not cooperate with one another.
- D.** no one identifiable group regularly prevails on different issues.
- E. citizens will rally to defend rights they believe are endangered by government policies.

72. Studies of the congressional agenda demonstrate that it is characterized by

- A. an emphasis on legislation concerned with the poor.
- B. an emphasis on legislation concerned with immigration.
- C. an emphasis on legislation concerned with increasing taxes on the wealthy.
- D.** an emphasis on business-related legislation.
- E. None of the above is true.

73. Democratization is the

- A. process of moving from procedural to substantive democracy.
- B.** process of institutionalizing the rules of procedural democracy and establishing substantive democratic policies.
- C. act of electing leaders in a way that conforms to the criteria of substantive democracy.
- D. process of moving from a demand to a market economy.
- E. requirement that freedoms and rights be protected by written covenant.

74. Whether a political system is “democratic” is chiefly defined by

- A. its amount of participation.
- B. its political equality and majority rule.
- C. government responsiveness to public opinion.
- D. its tolerance for freedom of speech and association.
- E.** It cannot be simply defined by any of the above.

75. One primary challenge to democratization in Iraq after the overthrow of dictator Saddam Hussein is

- A. the lack of a functioning oil economy.
- B.** religious conflict between Sunni and Shiite branches of Islam.
- C. the continued crackdown on open protest of the government.
- D. the resurgence of the Ba’ath Party as a democratic force.
- E. the failure to establish a free and independent press.

76. Ethnic and religious rivals are often more interested in achieving a form of government that

- A.** oppresses their opponents.
- B. provides a separation of church and state.
- C. requires all citizens to attend religious services.
- D. requires all schools provide religious instruction.
- E. All of the above are true.

77. According to the text, it is difficult for a country with a market economy to remain _____ in its internal politics.

- A. democratic
- B. responsive
- C. decentralized
- D.** undemocratic
- E. pluralistic

78. The text suggests that there are _____ forces that may be pushing authoritarian governments toward democratization.

- A. religious
- B. moral
- C. philosophical
- D. ethical
- E.** economic

79. The text suggests that the United States fulfills the _____ model quite well.

- A. authoritarian
- B. majoritarian
- C. totalitarian
- D.** pluralist
- E. egalitarian

80. Describe whether or not Occupy Wall Street should be considered a majoritarian movement.

Answers will vary.

81. Explain how Greek philosophers classified different governments, and what they thought about democracy.

Answers will vary.

82. Identify the three questions that are addressed by procedural democratic theory.

Answers will vary.

83. Explain the difference between procedural democratic theory and substantive democratic theory.

Answers will vary.

84. Describe some prominent examples of participatory democracy in both ancient and more recent history.

Answers will vary.

85. Identify some of the ways that e-government may expand public involvement in politics.

Answers will vary.

86. Identify some of the disagreements between substantive democratic theorists and the rights that government should protect.

Answers will vary.

87. Give two examples of government mechanisms that follow the majoritarian model.

Answers will vary.

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

Answers will vary.

89. Explain how the pluralist model of democracy may better reflect the knowledge levels of individual Americans.

Answers will vary.

90. Summarize the findings of political scientists who have researched the validity of elite theory, and the response of elite theorists to such findings.

Answers will vary.

91. Explain the key difference between elite and pluralist theory.

Answers will vary.

92. Discuss why democratization can be difficult to achieve in different parts of the world, and why there is a strong relationship between economic prosperity and democracy.

Answers will vary.

93. According to the text, does the United States better fit the pluralist model or the majoritarian model, and why?

Answers will vary.