

## Chapter 1 - The Study of American Government

### The Study of American Government

1. The financial position of the state and national governments under the Articles of Confederation could be best described as
  - a. sound, strong, and based on a large surplus of revenue.
  - b. sound, strong, but uncertain around the edges.
  - c. uniformly stable at the state level, but the national government struggled with debt.
  - d. stable at the national level with little cause for concern in any of the states.
  - e. growing debt at the national level and several states with financial crises.

*ANSWER:* e

2. The fundamental government finance problems in the 2010s and 1780s were primarily
  - a. unsolvable.
  - b. imagined.
  - c. mathematical.
  - d. political.
  - e. All of these are correct.

*ANSWER:* d

3. The federal budget initially proposed for 2017 called for over \_\_\_\_\_ trillion dollars in spending.
  - a. 1
  - b. 2
  - c. 4
  - d. 5
  - e. 7

*ANSWER:* c

4. The textbook refers to the activity by which an issue is agitated or settled as
  - a. government.
  - b. policy.
  - c. politics.
  - d. participation.
  - e. None of these are correct.

*ANSWER:* c

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5. Individuals have power when they are able to
- get elected to office.
  - be present at behind-the-scenes political meetings.
  - serve their fellow human beings.
  - get others to do what they want them to do.
  - vote without being influenced by outside forces.

ANSWER: d

6. The text notes a tendency for issues that were once \_\_\_\_\_ to become \_\_\_\_\_.
- simple; complicated
  - public; secret
  - social; political
  - private; public
  - economic; social

ANSWER: d

7. By *authority*, the authors mean the
- right to use power.
  - manner in which power is spread.
  - use of power for good causes.
  - desire to have power.
  - desire to give power to others.

ANSWER: a

8. *Formal authority* refers to a right to exercise power that is derived from a(n)
- official ceremony.
  - majority vote.
  - consensus.
  - popular consensus.
  - governmental office.

ANSWER: e

9. Today, a primary source of legitimate political authority in the United States is the
- Bill of Rights.
  - will of the people.
  - U.S. Constitution.
  - concept of civil liberty.
  - notion of civil rights.

ANSWER: c

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10. In the United States, a person is said to have political \_\_\_\_\_ if he or she acts in a certain way that is conferred by a law or by a state or national constitution.
- a. authority
  - b. control
  - c. power
  - d. influence
  - e. clout

*ANSWER:* a

11. The text suggests that in the United States, no government at any level would be considered legitimate if it were not in some sense
- a. democratic.
  - b. altruistic.
  - c. humanitarian.
  - d. elitist.
  - e. aristocratic.

*ANSWER:* a

12. At the time of the Constitutional Convention, the view that a democratic government was desirable was
- a. already waning.
  - b. close to unanimous.
  - c. beyond debate.
  - d. held by the elite only.
  - e. far from unanimous.

*ANSWER:* e

13. For what reason does the book justify representative democracy?
- a. Deciding wisely on issues is impractical and unlikely, but deciding on leaders is possible.
  - b. Elites are better at making political decisions.
  - c. Representative democracy reserves power to important institutions besides the people.
  - d. The Capitol Building lacks the room for all voters to discuss issues.
  - e. Direct democracy is subject to emotional whims by voters.

*ANSWER:* a

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14. In 1787, as the Constitution was being debated, \_\_\_\_\_ worried that the new government he helped create might be too democratic, while \_\_\_\_\_ who refused to sign the Constitution, worried that it was not democratic enough.
- a. John Adams; James Madison
  - b. George Washington; George Mason
  - c. Alexander Hamilton; George Mason
  - d. Thomas Jefferson; Alexander Hamilton
  - e. Patrick Henry; Samuel Adams

ANSWER: c

15. Allowing voters to decide on referendum issues adds a measure of \_\_\_\_\_ to a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. republicanism; democracy
  - b. oligarchy; populist society
  - c. class struggle; classless society
  - d. representative leadership; participatory democracy
  - e. direct participation; representative democracy

ANSWER: e

16. How did Aristotle define democracy?
- a. Rule of the few
  - b. Rule of the one
  - c. Rule of the powerful
  - d. Rule of the many
  - e. Rule of the intelligent

ANSWER: d

17. The term *participatory democracy* applies most accurately to which of the following societies?
- a. Greece in the fourth century B.C.
  - b. Modern China
  - c. The United States since 1787
  - d. The Soviet Union between 1917 and 1991
  - e. The southeastern United States before the Civil War

ANSWER: a

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18. The Greek city-state, or *polis*, did NOT extend the right to vote to
- a. slaves.
  - b. women.
  - c. minors.
  - d. those without property.
  - e. All of these are correct.

ANSWER: e

19. In our political system, Aristotle's ideal of direct democracy has been *most* closely approximated by the
- a. AFL-CIO.
  - b. U.S. House of Representatives.
  - c. New England town meeting.
  - d. Constitutional Convention.
  - e. southeastern United States before the Civil War.

ANSWER: c

20. The Framers of the Constitution believed that democracy
- a. is the ideal form of government.
  - b. is not an ideal form of government, but better than any alternative.
  - c. is likely to lead to bad decisions.
  - d. is likely to lead to decisions based on sound reasoning and logic.
  - e. cannot exist in America as long as some people are slaves.

ANSWER: c

21. Democracy was defined as the competitive struggle for people's votes by
- a. Joseph Stalin.
  - b. Joseph Schumpeter.
  - c. Max Weber.
  - d. Karl Marx.
  - e. Søren Kierkegaard.

ANSWER: b

22. America today is \_\_\_\_\_ democratic than it was in the past.
- a. less uniquely
  - b. more uniquely
  - c. neither more nor less
  - d. less
  - e. more

ANSWER: e

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23. Representative democracy is sometimes disapprovingly referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_ theory of democracy.
- a. limited
  - b. aristocratic
  - c. economic
  - d. authoritarian
  - e. elitist

ANSWER: e

24. Each of the following is an example of a nondemocratic political system EXCEPT a(n)
- a. totalitarian state.
  - b. military dictatorship.
  - c. absolute monarchy.
  - d. authoritarian empire.
  - e. constitutional republic.

ANSWER: e

25. The Framers' concerns about direct democracy are well illustrated by the fact that the Constitution
- a. uses the word *democracy* only once, in the Preamble.
  - b. uses the word *democracy* only in reference to Congress.
  - c. does not feature the word *democracy* at all.
  - d. uses only the word *democratic*.
  - e. frequently uses the word *democracy*, but never in reference to the enumeration of a formal power.

ANSWER: c

26. When the Framers of the Constitution wrote "republican form of government," they were referring to
- a. direct democracy.
  - b. democratic centralism.
  - c. mob rule.
  - d. town meetings.
  - e. representative democracy.

ANSWER: e

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27. All of the following are requirements for representative democracy EXCEPT
- a. there must be opportunity for genuine leadership competition.
  - b. individuals and parties must be able to run for office.
  - c. voters must perceive that a meaningful choice exists.
  - d. political resources must be distributed in a roughly equal manner.
  - e. communication through the press, meetings, speech, and the internet must be free.

*ANSWER:* d

28. According to the Framers of the Constitution, who was the best judge of the people's best interests?
- a. The people
  - b. The landed gentry
  - c. Elected officials
  - d. Unelected bureaucrats
  - e. Business leaders

*ANSWER:* c

29. A modern example of direct democracy occurs when citizens
- a. elect local boards to make decisions.
  - b. run for political office.
  - c. affected by some program participate in its formulation.
  - d. write elected officials to express opinions on policy.
  - e. work for politicians.

*ANSWER:* c

30. Democracy in the United States is distinguished from many European democracies by the fact that in the United States,
- a. many more offices are elective.
  - b. more campaign money comes from public sources.
  - c. more people participate in the electoral process.
  - d. the government plays a more active role in elections.
  - e. the government frequently changes hands.

*ANSWER:* a

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31. According to the class view of power distribution, which of the following groups wields the most power in the United States?
- a. Unions and laborers
  - b. Interest groups
  - c. Unelected bureaucrats
  - d. The people
  - e. Top executives of multinational corporations

*ANSWER: e*

32. In a referendum, citizens express their opinions about issues by means of
- a. letters.
  - b. the ballot.
  - c. town meetings.
  - d. petitions.
  - e. All of these are correct.

*ANSWER: b*

33. In power elite view, which leaders control politics?
- a. Top military officials
  - b. Labor union leaders
  - c. Mass media executives
  - d. The heads of special-interest groups
  - e. All of these are correct.

*ANSWER: e*

34. The author cites the early presidential administrations, the Civil War, and the New Deal as examples of struggles over
- a. what constitutes legitimate authority.
  - b. who shall govern.
  - c. who gets what, when, and how.
  - d. when progress is possible.
  - e. how power is accumulated.

*ANSWER: a*



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35. Which view about how power is distributed in the United States attributes the majority of political power to elected politicians?
- a. The class view
  - b. The power elite view
  - c. The bureaucratic view
  - d. The creedal passion view
  - e. None of these are correct.

*ANSWER: e*

36. Karl Marx believed that governments were dominated by
- a. business owners.
  - b. elected officials.
  - c. appointed bureaucrats.
  - d. interest groups.
  - e. religious leaders.

*ANSWER: a*

37. Karl Marx argued that governments were dominated by business owners, whom he called the “\_\_\_\_\_”, until a revolution replaced them with rule by laborers, whom he called the “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- a. proletariat; bourgeoisie
  - b. bourgeoisie; proletariat
  - c. power elite; middle class
  - d. working class; lower class
  - e. laborites; working class

*ANSWER: b*

38. The sociologist \_\_\_\_\_ argued that American democracy is dominated by a small “power elite.”
- a. C. Wright Mills
  - b. Karl Marx
  - c. David B. Truman
  - d. Max Weber
  - e. Samuel P. Huntington

*ANSWER: a*

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39. The bureaucratic view of political elites, which argues that appointed officials dominate government, is associated with
- Karl Marx.
  - C. Wright Mills.
  - Max Weber.
  - David B. Truman.
  - Robert Dahl.

*ANSWER: c*

40. Samuel P. Huntington argued that morally impassioned elites made most important changes EXCEPT
- during periods of great social change.
  - for decisions made by political parties.
  - during normal, "business as usual" periods.
  - for decisions by religious leaders.
  - during wars.

*ANSWER: c*

41. Most people holding national political office are
- middle class.
  - middle age.
  - males.
  - Protestant.
  - All of these are correct.

*ANSWER: e*

42. The size of the American political agenda has \_\_\_\_\_ over time.
- decreased
  - increased
  - remained constant
  - fluctuated in a cyclic pattern
  - fluctuated randomly

*ANSWER: b*

43. The view that morally impassioned elites drive important political changes is associated with
- Karl Marx.
  - Max Weber.
  - Samuel P. Huntington.
  - Robert Dahl.
  - David B. Truman.

*ANSWER: c*

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44. Regarding the role of self-interest in the positions that people take on important issues, it is safest to say that
- a. the self-interest of individuals is usually a complete guide to their actions.
  - b. economic self-interest may be important but is usually not the only guide to people's actions.
  - c. organizational self-interest rather than economic self-interest is usually the best guide to people's actions.
  - d. political preferences can be predicted invariably by knowing an individual's economic or organizational position.
  - e. self-interest is rarely an important factor in understanding political attitudes and behavior.

*ANSWER:* b

45. In 1935, \_\_\_\_\_ of American families paid no federal income tax.
- a. 1 percent
  - b. 4 percent
  - c. 80 percent
  - d. 90 percent
  - e. 96 percent

*ANSWER:* e

46. Prior to the 1960s, the plans of liberal presidents faced heavy resistance from \_\_\_\_\_ in the Senate.
- a. conservative Southern Democrats
  - b. conservative Southern Republicans
  - c. liberal Northern Democrats
  - d. liberal Northern Republicans
  - e. everybody

*ANSWER:* a

47. Which of the following affects the political agenda?
- a. Shared political values
  - b. The weight of custom and tradition
  - c. The impact of events
  - d. The way political elites discuss issues
  - e. All of these are correct.

*ANSWER:* e

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48. Which of the following reflects the issues that people believe require governmental action?
- a. Client politics
  - b. Majoritarian politics
  - c. Interest groups
  - d. The form of government
  - e. The political agenda

ANSWER: e

49. What effect does the national media most likely have on the political agenda?
- a. Publicizing issues by giving them attention
  - b. Influencing politicians into voting a particular way
  - c. Producing stories that force politicians to act
  - d. Demanding action through sheer size and power
  - e. None of these are correct.

ANSWER: a

50. When the cost and benefits of a policy are *widely distributed*, they are
- a. limited to a relatively small number of citizens.
  - b. spread over many, most, or even all citizens.
  - c. enjoyed by only one demographic.
  - d. limited to one geographic region.
  - e. spread over a number of states.

ANSWER: b

51. When the cost and benefits of a policy are *narrowly concentrated*, they are
- a. limited to a relatively small number of citizens.
  - b. spread over many, most, or even all citizens.
  - c. enjoyed by many demographics.
  - d. limited a geographic region.
  - e. spread over a number of states.

ANSWER: a

52. A policy in which almost everybody benefits and almost everybody pays is
- a. interest group politics.
  - b. majoritarian politics.
  - c. client politics.
  - d. entrepreneurial politics.
  - e. log-rolling politics.

ANSWER: b

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53. Debate over the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 encompassed
- a. interest group politics.
  - b. majoritarian politics.
  - c. client politics.
  - d. entrepreneurial politics.
  - e. All of these are correct.

*ANSWER:* e

54. A city council representative faces an important vote on how much, if any, money to spend on a new school. The representative relies on a poll of her constituents to make a decision. This is in keeping with the form of politics known as
- a. participatory politics.
  - b. majoritarian politics.
  - c. pluralist politics.
  - d. elitist politics.
  - e. reciprocal politics.

*ANSWER:* b

55. A policy in which one small group benefits and another small group pays is
- a. interest group politics.
  - b. majoritarian politics.
  - c. client politics.
  - d. entrepreneurial politics.
  - e. logrolling politics.

*ANSWER:* a

56. \_\_\_\_\_ politics is a policy in which one small group benefits and almost everybody pays.
- a. Interest group
  - b. Majoritarian
  - c. Client
  - d. Entrepreneurial
  - e. Logrolling

*ANSWER:* c

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57. \_\_\_\_\_ politics is a policy in which almost everybody benefits and a small group pays.
- a. Interest group
  - b. Majoritarian
  - c. Client
  - d. Entrepreneurial
  - e. Logrolling

ANSWER: d

58. Pork-barrel legislation is an example of which type of politics?
- a. Interest group politics
  - b. Majoritarian politics
  - c. Client politics
  - d. Entrepreneurial politics
  - e. None of these are correct.

ANSWER: c

59. Which of the following statements about political power, or “who governs?” is *most* accurate?
- a. The key to understanding power is to understand the monetary costs of different political decisions.
  - b. Political power can usually be inferred by knowing what laws are on the books.
  - c. Political power can usually be inferred by knowing what administrative actions have been taken.
  - d. Power cannot be realized without institutional arrangements.
  - e. Most power derives from psychological and social factors such as friendship, loyalty, and prestige.

ANSWER: e

60. The trouble with trying to infer the distribution of political power from examining the laws on the books is that
- a. laws may be enacted in a great variety of circumstances.
  - b. laws are made to be broken.
  - c. legislative codes may be so obscure as to defy anyone’s comprehension.
  - d. many congressional enactments never get recorded at all.
  - e. the judicial branch is rarely independent from the legislative branch.

ANSWER: a

61. Under the Articles of Confederation, the state governments paid very little of the monies requisitioned by the federal government.
- a. True
  - b. False

ANSWER: True

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62. The annual interest on the national debt will be well over \$300 billion by 2026.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* True

63. Some political issues are imagined.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* True

64. The United States was founded on the principle that the Constitution is the fundamental source of legitimate authority.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* False

65. Young Americans are becoming increasingly engaged in politics.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* False

66. Groups that agree on both the ends and means of a given issue may still fail to reach a consensus.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* True

67. One can have political power even if one does not possess formal authority.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* True

68. None of the Founders was particularly concerned about the government being too democratic.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* False

69. In the Greek city-state, only property holders were allowed to be citizens.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* True

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70. A representative democracy directly reflects the “rule of the many.”

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* False

71. Representative democracy is sometimes referred to as the “elitist theory of democracy.”

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* True

72. Representative democracy requires that most public officials be elected.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* False

73. Marx argued that governments were basically dominated by business owners.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* False

74. The power elite view argues that American democracy is controlled by elected officeholders.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* False

75. Max Weber argued that the modern state is controlled by appointed bureaucrats.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* True

76. Pluralists see power as being widely distributed throughout society.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* True

77. People generally accept what the government customarily does.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* True



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78. At one time, it was unconstitutional for the federal government to levy income tax.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* True

79. Log-rolling occurs when a legislator supports a proposal favored by another in return for support of his or her own.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* True

80. Safety requirements for automobiles are an example of client politics.

- a. True
- b. False

*ANSWER:* False

81. Explain what power involves and differentiate it from authority.

*ANSWER:*

- Power is the ability of one person to get another to act in accordance with the first person's intentions. Power may be obvious, or subtle, and varies from time to time and from country to country. It may be found in all human relationships. Power is a key feature of the struggles throughout much of American history.
- Authority refers to the right to use power.

82. Explain what a democracy is and note some prominent examples of this form of government throughout history.

*ANSWER:* According to Aristotle's rule of the many: Democracy is a system in which all or most citizens participate directly in either holding office or making policy. Examples: Ancient Greece (4th century B.C.); New England town meetings.

83. Discuss the differences between participatory democracy and representative democracy.

*ANSWER:*

- Participatory or direct democracy is a government in which all or most citizens participate directly.
- Representative democracy is a government in which leaders obtain authority to make decisions by winning a competitive struggle.

84. Explain the primary justifications for representative democracy.

*ANSWER:* Limits of time, information, energy, interest, and expertise make it impractical for the people to decide on policies. It is not impractical for them to choose between competing leadership groups. Democracy can lead to bad decisions, because people often decide large issues on the basis of fleeting passions and in response to popular demagogues.

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85. Identify the requirements for representative democracy to work.

*ANSWER:* · There must be an opportunity for genuine competition of leadership.  
· Individuals and parties must be free to run for office.  
· There needs to be freedom of speech and press.  
· Voters must perceive that a meaningful choice exists.

86. Identify and briefly describe the basic premises of the five viewpoints of political power discussed by the text.

· **Class View:** Derived from the theories of Karl Marx, the class view holds that governments are dominated by business interests.  
· **Power Elite View:** American democracy is dominated by a few top leaders who do not hold elective office (military officers, labor union leaders, media executives, and so on).  
· **Bureaucratic View:** Power is concentrated in the hands of appointed bureaucratic officials who manage the government.  
· **Pluralist View:** Power is shared among many institutions and shared so widely that no single group can dominate politics.

*ANSWER:* · **Creedal Passion View:** Morally impassioned elites drive important political changes.

87. Identify the four things that affect what is on the political agenda, according to the text.

*ANSWER:* · Shared political values  
· The weight of custom and tradition  
· The impact of events such as wars, terrorist attacks, and severe or sustained economic downturns that alters our sense of the proper role of government  
· The way political elites think and talk about politics

88. Identify the government institutions whose influence on agenda setting has become especially important. Explain.

*ANSWER:* · The **courts** can make decisions that force the hand of the other branches of government.  
· The **bureaucracy** has acquired significance because it is now a source of political innovation. It has become a source of policy proposals as well as implementers of the proposals that become law.  
· In the 1960s the **Senate** became an incubator for developing new policies and building national constituencies.

89. Politics produces both cost and benefits. Your text discusses four types of politics based on how cost and benefits are distributed. Explain the four types of politics covered in the text.

*ANSWER:* · **Majoritarian politics:** A policy in which almost everybody benefits and almost everybody pays.  
· **Interest group politics:** A policy in which one small group benefits and another small group pays.  
· **Client politics.** A policy in which one small group benefits and almost everybody pays.  
· **Entrepreneurial politics:** A policy in which almost everybody benefits and a small group pays.

90. Explain the significance of log-rolling on the legislative process.

*ANSWER:* A legislator supports a proposal favored by another in return for support of his or her own proposal. Trading votes in this way attracts the support of members of Congress to form majority coalitions.