

□ Answers and Explanations

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Which of the following is the best definition of pluralism?
- (a) is correct because pluralists argue that political power is shared among many groups.
 - (b) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of pluralism.
 - (c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of pluralism.
 - (d) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of pluralism.
 - (e) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of pluralism.

Page reference: 333, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

2. Elite theorists believe that the power of interest groups
- (a) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of elitism.
 - (b) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of elitism.
 - (c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of elitism.
 - (d) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of elitism.
 - (e) is correct because elitists argue that political power is primarily held by the wealthy.

Page reference: 333, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

3. The hyperpluralist theory holds that
- (a) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate definition of hyperpluralism.
 - (b) is correct because hyperpluralists argue that the number of interest groups can slow down our system as members of Congress are bombarded with competing information.
 - (c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate definition of hyperpluralism.
 - (d) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate definition of hyperpluralism.
 - (e) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate definition of hyperpluralism.

Page reference: 333, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

4. Lawmakers often rely on lobbyists for all of the following reasons EXCEPT
- (a) is incorrect because lobbyists do create new policy ideas for lawmakers.
 - (b) is incorrect because lobbyists do provide advice on strategies to lawmakers.
 - (c) is incorrect because lobbyists do provide money for travel to lawmakers.
 - (d) is correct because lawmakers do not depend on interest groups for votes since votes must come from their district.**
 - (e) is incorrect because lobbyists do provide expertise to lawmakers.

Page reference: 341–343, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

5. Iron triangles are composed of
- (a) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of what composes an iron triangle.
 - (b) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of what composes an iron triangle.
 - (c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of what composes an iron triangle.
 - (d) is correct because iron triangles are the relationship between congressional committees, government agencies, and interest groups who work together on policies.**
 - (e) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of what composes an iron triangle.

Page reference: 335, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

6. Proponents of the pluralist theory argue that, for the most part, power is evenly distributed among interest groups because
- (a) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of the pluralist theory of interest groups.
 - (b) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of the pluralist theory of interest groups.
 - (c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of the pluralist theory of interest groups.
 - (d) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of the pluralist theory of interest groups.
 - (e) is correct because pluralists believe that power is shared and that interest groups will check one another in the policy arena.**

Page reference: 333–334, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

7. Which of the following statements accurately describes methods interest groups employ to influence policymaking?
- (a) is incorrect because choices I and IV are also correct.
 - (b) is incorrect because choice III is also correct.
 - (c) is incorrect because interest groups do not meet with judges about cases in their policy area.
 - (d) is correct because interest groups frequently file class action lawsuits in an attempt to reverse policy decisions. They also solidify their relationships with members of Congress by channeling most of their campaign contributions to incumbents. Interest groups also know that policymakers are more easily influenced if they must rely on a lobbyist for information and advice about a policy.**
 - (e) is incorrect because selections II and V are incorrect choices.

Page reference: 339–347, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

8. Interest groups do all of the following EXCEPT
- (a) is incorrect because interest groups do link the public to the policy process.
 - (b) is correct because interest groups do not run candidates for office but, instead, attempt to influence policymakers.**
 - (c) is incorrect because interest groups do try to shape specific policy goals.
 - (d) is incorrect because interest groups do play a part in political campaigns.
 - (e) is incorrect because interest groups do unite politicians with the same policy agenda.

Page reference: 339–347, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

9. Which of the following interest groups is known to be the largest in membership size?
- (a) is incorrect because the National Rifle Association is not the largest interest group.
 - (b) is incorrect because the League of Conservation Voters is not the largest interest group.
 - (c) is incorrect because the Christian Coalition is not the largest interest group.
 - (d) is correct because the AARP is the largest interest group in the United States.**
 - (e) is incorrect because the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is not the largest interest group.

Page reference: 347–352, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

10. Which of the following groups has primarily used litigation to advance its issues?
- (a) is incorrect because the NRA does not typically use litigation to advance its issues.
 - (b) is incorrect because the League of Conservation Voters does not typically use litigation to advance its issues.
 - (c) is incorrect because the Christian Coalition does not typically use litigation to advance its issues.
 - (d) is incorrect because the AARP does not typically use litigation to advance its issues.
 - (e) is correct because the NAACP has used litigation in cases such as *Brown v. Board of Education* when other techniques were not useful.**

Page reference: 347–352, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

11. The groups that, according to James Madison, arose from the unequal distribution of property or wealth and had the potential to cause instability in government are known as
- (a) is incorrect because politiques refers to groups in power during the 16th and 17th centuries.
 - (b) is correct because James Madison, in *The Federalist No. 10*, described factions as working adverse to the interests of the nation as a whole and he tried to design the constitutional system to prevent such groups from having too much power.**
 - (c) is incorrect because cliques are exclusive social groups.
 - (d) is incorrect because parties are political organizations organized to run candidates for office.
 - (e) is incorrect because interests are not necessarily organized groups.

Page reference: 330–331, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

12. Interest groups are sometimes negatively referred to as
- (a) is incorrect because interest groups are not necessarily radical.
 - (b) is incorrect because interest groups are not necessarily elitist.
 - (c) is incorrect because interest groups are not necessarily cliques.
 - (d) is incorrect because interest groups are not demagogues.
 - (e) is correct because an interest group is an organization of people with shared policy goals entering the policy process at several points to try to achieve those goals.**

Because these groups share a specific agenda they are also known as special interest groups.

Page reference: 332–335, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

13. When interest groups find the popular political channels closed to them, they may turn to
- (a) is incorrect because using celebrities is not a typical channel for an interest group.
 - (b) is incorrect because using the president is not a typical channel for an interest group.
 - (c) is correct because if an interest group fails in Congress or gets only a vague piece of legislation, the next step is to go to court in the hope of getting specific rulings in its favor. Using the courts to achieve its goal is referred to as litigation.**
 - (d) is incorrect because using governors is not a typical channel for an interest group.
 - (e) is incorrect because interest groups use litigation when their attempt to use Congress has failed.

Page reference: 345–346, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

14. Interest groups often create political action committees (PACs) to
- (a) is incorrect because PACs do not lobby the courts.
 - (b) is incorrect because PACs do not create new political parties.
 - (c) is incorrect because PACs do not nominate candidates for office.
 - (d) is incorrect because PACs do not overturn executive orders.
 - (e) is correct because political action committees are groups that raise money from individuals and then distribute it in the form of contributions to candidates that the group supports.**

Page reference: 339–347, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

15. The U.S. government attempts to regulate interest groups by
- (a) is incorrect because the U.S. government does not regulate interest group membership requirements.
 - (b) is incorrect because the U.S. government does not ban certain interest groups.
 - (c) is incorrect because the U.S. government does not regulate interest group media access.
 - (d) is incorrect because the U.S. government does not regulate interest group presidential access.

(e) is correct because the U.S. government has passed legislation to regulate lobbying in order to regulate interest groups.

Page reference: 341–342, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

16. The activities of a group or organization that seek to persuade political leaders to support the group's position are known as:

(a) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the definition provided.

(b) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the definition provided.

(c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the definition provided.

(d) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the definition provided.

(e) is correct because lobbying, according to Lester Milbrath, is a communication by someone other than a citizen acting on his or her own behalf, directed to a governmental decision maker with the hope of influencing his or her decision.

Page reference: 341, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

17. All of the following are appropriate lobbying strategies EXCEPT

(a) is incorrect because litigation is an appropriate lobbying strategy.

(b) is correct because threatening a member of Congress is an illegal activity and therefore would not be an appropriate lobbying strategy.

(c) is incorrect because electioneering is an appropriate lobbying strategy.

(d) is incorrect because helping to formulate campaign strategy is an appropriate lobbying strategy.

(e) is incorrect because providing information to a member of Congress is an appropriate lobbying strategy.

Page reference: 339–347, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

18. This is considered to be the most important resource interest groups and PACs can provide to candidates.

(a) is incorrect because even though strategy is an important resource, it is not as important as money.

(b) is incorrect because even though volunteers are an important resource, they are not as important as money.

(c) is incorrect because even though campaign workers are an important resource, they are not as important as money.

(d) is correct because even though interest groups and PACs can provide many important resources to candidates, due to the increasing expense associated with running for office, money is considered to be the most important resource that can be provided.

(e) is incorrect because even though votes are an important resource, they are not as important as money.

Page reference: 339, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

19. Labor unions and trade associations are examples of what type of interest group?

(a) is incorrect because grassroots is an inaccurate description of the groups provided.

(b) is incorrect because single-issue is an inaccurate description of the groups provided.

(c) is incorrect because public is an inaccurate description of the groups provided.

(d) is correct because the primary purpose of an economic interest group is to promote the financial interests of its members. Labor unions work for the interest of their workers, while trade associations work to advance the economic good for the firms in their industry; hence both would be examples of economic interest groups.

(e) is incorrect because occupational is an inaccurate description of the groups provided.

Page reference: 332–339, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

20. Most political action committees represent

(a) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.

(b) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.

(c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.

(d) is correct because PACs can be categorized according to the type of interest they represent, and the greatest growth has been seen in the PACs representing corporations and trade organizations.

(e) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.

Page reference: 336–347, AP Topic: Linkages between institutions and interest groups

Free-Response Questions

This rubric provides examples of many, but not all of the possible correct responses to the free-response questions.

1. Interest groups use a variety of techniques to pursue their goals. For each of the interest groups below, identify a technique that has been important to the group's success in the policy process and explain why the group used this technique.
 - a. NAACP
 - The NAACP is best known for using litigation to pursue its goals. In particular, the NAACP made history when its attorneys took on a class action lawsuit that reached the Supreme Court, *Brown v. Board of Education*, in 1954. Litigation is advantageous to groups like the NAACP, after attempts to use more traditional lobbying techniques are unsuccessful. Federal judges hold their positions for life, and are therefore not swayed by public opinion. Supreme Court case rulings are the final legal authority in the U.S., unless overturned by a constitutional amendment.
 - b. AARP
 - The AARP is best known for its extraordinary large membership base. The members are also very active in grassroots lobbying: calling members of Congress, e-mailing, and making other similar types of contact with lawmakers. The AARP is powerful because elected officials depend on their votes to win, so their large membership base gains the attention of politicians.
 - c. NRA
 - The NRA is known for making large campaign contributions. Campaign contributions are useful because elected officials rely on such contributions to run effective campaigns, and try to give as much as they can to their contributors to keep the contributions flowing.
2. Interest groups are often criticized for hurting the political process by making PAC contributions.
 - a. Identify one argument against allowing PACs to make contributions.

- One argument against allowing PACs to make contributions is that it can lead to corruption. Those who subscribe to this view would argue that PACs essentially buy legislation by making contributions.
- b. Identify one argument in favor of allowing PACs to make contributions.
- One argument in favor of allowing PACs to make contributions is that making a contribution is a type of expression, which is protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution.
- c. Identify one law that regulates PACs and explain why it has or has not been effective.
- There are several laws that regulate PACs. The most recent law is called the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, also referred to as the McCain-Feingold Act. This law was designed to stop PACs from making unlimited contributions to the political party and thus banned so-called soft money. This law has been somewhat effective; however, one of the loopholes in this law is citizens' ability to make unlimited contributions to 527 groups. These groups support issues, not specific parties, and are identified by their status in the federal tax code. By making unlimited contributions to these groups, PACs have gotten around the McCain-Feingold law because the groups run similar ads to support candidates that the parties once did.