

□ Review Questions

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Which of the following is the best definition of pluralism?
 - a. A multitude of groups compete for and share power at any given time.
 - b. A multitude of interest groups have the ability to form and survive.
 - c. Several small, single-issue groups tend to hold power.
 - d. The number of groups continues to increase as society becomes more complicated.
 - e. Groups are multiplying and getting more intense.

2. Elite theorists believe that the power of interest groups
 - a. is derived from their equal access to the government.
 - b. comes mostly from public support.
 - c. is evenly distributed among them.
 - d. reinforces a more democratic government.
 - e. is held by only a few wealthy groups.

3. The hyperpluralist theory holds that
 - a. interest group intensity places pressure on members of Congress.
 - b. the large number of groups slows down the policymaking process.
 - c. it is common for one group to rapidly split up into other groups.
 - d. many groups compete for and share power.
 - e. salient issues cause a plurality of groups to form.

4. Lawmakers often rely on lobbyists for all of the following reasons EXCEPT
 - a. to come up with new policy ideas that they can introduce in Congress.
 - b. for advice on strategies to advance or prevent a piece of legislation.
 - c. for money that would allow them to travel to their constituencies.
 - d. to encourage group members to vote for them during reelection.
 - e. for expertise on a certain issue.

5. Iron triangles are composed of
 - a. a cabinet department, a legislative committee, and a federal judge.
 - b. a corporate board, an interest group, and the Speaker of the House.
 - c. a PAC, an interest group, and a congressional candidate.
 - d. an interest group, a legislative committee, and a federal agency.
 - e. a local civic group, a state legislator, and a federal department.

6. Proponents of the pluralist theory argue that, for the most part, power is evenly distributed among interest groups because
 - a. the public participates equally in different types of interest groups.
 - b. all interest groups receive the same amount of federal funds.
 - c. each policy area is assigned a limited number of related interest groups.
 - d. interest groups each get the same attention from politicians.
 - e. competition prevents any one group from becoming more influential.

7. Which of the following statements accurately describes methods interest groups employ to influence policymaking?
- I. Class action lawsuits allow interest groups to sue in the name of a larger section of the public.
 - II. Interest groups meet with judges about cases that affect their policy area.
 - III. Interest groups make almost all of their PAC contributions to incumbents rather than challengers.
 - IV. Lobbyists use their policy expertise to make themselves indispensable to politicians.
 - V. Interest groups pay committee members to review proposed legislation from a legislative point of view.
- a. III only
 - b. I and IV only
 - c. II and V only
 - d. I, III, and IV only
 - e. II, IV, and V only
8. Interest groups do all of the following EXCEPT
- a. link the public to the political process.
 - b. nominate candidates for elective office.
 - c. try to shape specific policy goals.
 - d. play a part in political campaigns.
 - e. unite politicians with the same political ideology.
9. Which of the following interest groups is known to be the largest in membership size?
- a. National Rifle Association (NRA)
 - b. League of Conservation Voters
 - c. Christian Coalition
 - d. American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
 - e. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
10. Which of the following groups has primarily used litigation to advance its issues?
- a. National Rifle Association (NRA)
 - b. League of Conservation Voters
 - c. Christian Coalition
 - d. American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
 - e. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
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. politiques.
 - b. factions.
 - c. cliques.
 - d. parties.
 - e. interests.

12. Interest groups are sometimes negatively referred to as
- radicals.
 - elitists.
 - cliques.
 - demagogues.
 - special interests.
13. When interest groups find the popular political channels closed to them, they may turn to
- celebrities.
 - the president.
 - litigation.
 - governors.
 - Congress.
14. Interest groups often create political action committees (PACs) to
- get the support of the national and state courts.
 - create a new political party.
 - nominate a candidate for political office.
 - overturn executive orders.
 - contribute money to candidates and political parties.
15. The U.S. government attempts to regulate interest groups by
- regulating membership requirements.
 - banning some specific groups considered too extreme.
 - regulating media access to the groups.
 - regulating their access to the president.
 - regulating the practice of lobbying.
16. The activities of a group or organization that seek to persuade political leaders to support the group's position are known as
- pluralism.
 - free-riding.
 - hyperpluralism.
 - elitism.
 - lobbying.
17. All of the following are appropriate lobbying strategies EXCEPT
- litigation.
 - threatening members of Congress.
 - electioneering.
 - helping formulate campaign strategy.
 - providing information to a congressional committee.

18. This is considered to be the most important resource interest groups and PACs can provide to candidates.
- strategies
 - volunteers
 - campaign workers
 - money
 - votes
19. Labor unions and trade associations are examples of what type of interest group?
- grassroots
 - single-issue
 - public
 - economic
 - occupational
20. Most political action committees represent
- government groups.
 - labor unions.
 - citizens' groups.
 - business groups.
 - potential groups.

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.
- NAACP
 - AARP
 - NRA
2. Interest groups are often criticized for hurting the political process by making PAC contributions.
- Identify one argument against allowing PACs to make contributions.
 - Identify one argument in favor of allowing PACs to make contributions.
 - Identify one law that regulates PACs and explain why it has or has not been effective.