

14.5

Learning Objective 14.6: Assess the role of unelected bureaucrats in American democracy and the impact of the bureaucracy on the scope of government. (p. 500)

Understanding Bureaucracies

Bureaucracy and Democracy

- Although bureaucrats are not elected, bureaucracies may be controlled by elected decision makers.
- Bureaucrats are competent and reasonably representative of Americans.
- The role of government and the size of the bureaucracy ultimately depends more on voters than bureaucrats.

For Additional Review

Create a timeline of the bureaucracy. On this timeline, put the history and goals of the bureaucracies within the government departments under the executive office. Use this timeline when studying and reviewing this material for the unit test and for the AP Government and Politics Exam.

Create an organizational chart of the bureaucracy. Be sure to include the individual members and sub-departments, committees, or bureaus. Use this visual depiction of the bureaucracy to aid your understanding of the organization of the bureaucracy and refer to this when studying and reviewing for the unit test and the AP Government and Politics Exam.

□ Review Questions

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. All of the following are important official services performed by the federal bureaucracy EXCEPT
 - a. implementing laws passed by Congress.
 - b. implementing the president's policy initiatives.
 - c. solving disputes between the executive and legislative branches of government.
 - d. distributing information about public programs and services.
 - e. issuing rules and regulations.

2. The Pendleton Civil Service Act is significant because
 - a. it instituted an affirmative action policy for hiring and promoting federal bureaucrats.
 - b. it created the federal civil service and prescribed that the hiring of civil servants be based on merit.
 - c. it gave the president more control over federal agencies.
 - d. it reduced the number of federal civil servants working outside of Washington, D.C.
 - e. it established clear boundaries between state and federal bureaucracies.

3. Bureaucracies are often criticized as being undemocratic because
 - a. they are not directly accountable to the people.
 - b. they utilize a merit system for hiring.
 - c. citizens tend to have low opinions of them.
 - d. the courts have no influence over their actions.
 - e. they are overly influenced by campaign contributions.

4. Presidents attempt to exercise control over the bureaucracy through which of the following means?
 - I. appointing loyal supporters as the heads of federal agencies
 - II. issuing executive orders
 - III. altering agencies' budgets
 - IV. providing incentive pay to senior agency administrators
 - a. I only
 - b. I and III only
 - c. III and IV only
 - d. I, II, and III only
 - e. all of the above

5. Which of the following statements represent a prevalent myth about the federal bureaucracy?
 - I. The bureaucracy is growing larger each year.
 - II. Most federal bureaucrats work in Washington, D.C.
 - III. Citizens are generally dissatisfied with the bureaucracy.
 - IV. The bureaucracy makes government inefficient and cumbersome.
 - a. I only
 - b. IV only
 - c. I and II only
 - d. II, III, and IV only
 - e. all of the above

6. An important tool Congress uses to influence the bureaucracy is
 - a. submitting amicus curiae briefs to the federal courts.
 - b. issuing executive orders.
 - c. hiring civil servants to head federal agencies.
 - d. frequently removing administrators from office.
 - e. requiring agency heads to routinely appear before congressional committees.

7. Iron triangles are made up of which of the following?
 - a. congressional committees, independent executive agencies, and private corporations
 - b. bureaucratic agencies, congressional committees, and interest groups
 - c. regulatory commissions, the Office of Management and Budget, and interest groups
 - d. the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government
 - e. the president's cabinet, interest groups, and private corporations

8. All of the following are independent regulatory commissions EXCEPT the
 - a. Federal Reserve Board.
 - b. National Labor Relations Board.
 - c. Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - d. Office of Management and Budget.
 - e. Federal Trade Commission.

9. The Hatch Act helps maintain a nonpartisan bureaucracy because it
 - a. creates a federal commission on which half the members are Democrats and half are Republican.
 - b. ensures that federal employees are hired based on merit.
 - c. requires all federal employees to register to vote as independents.
 - d. requires all federal agencies to have staffs that are balanced along party lines.
 - e. prohibits government employees from active participation in partisan politics.

10. Implementation of public policy is most successful when
 - a. the goals of the policy and the authority of the implementers are clear.
 - b. there is a court order mandating compliance with the policy.
 - c. the executive branch has precleared the policy with the federal judiciary.
 - d. multiple agencies and bureaucrats are involved.
 - e. the policy originated in the executive branch as opposed to the legislative branch.

11. The federal bureaucracy handles all of the following activities EXCEPT
 - a. issuing rules and regulations.
 - b. holding hearings to obtain information about proposed policies.
 - c. implementing policies passed by Congress.
 - d. appropriating funds to pay for federal government programs.
 - e. acting as a quasi-judicial body.

12. Government entities that resemble a Cabinet department but have narrower areas of responsibility are called a(n)
- independent department.
 - government corporation.
 - independent executive agency.
 - department.
 - independent regulatory commissions.
13. The civil service is defined as
- a system of hiring and promotion based on the merit principle and the desire to create a nonpartisan government service.
 - a system in which jobs and promotions are awarded for political reasons rather than for merit or competence.
 - a system of government employment in which selection and promotion depend on seniority rather than political patronage.
 - an independent agency that oversees merit in the federal government personnel system.
 - a judicial agency that administers civil service laws, rules, and regulations.
14. The spoils system is defined as
- the dispensing of government jobs to persons based on a competitive, non-partisan process.
 - the dispensing of government jobs to persons who belong to the winning political party.
 - the dispensing of government job promotions based on the seniority system.
 - an independent agency that oversees merit in government departments.
 - an independent agency that oversees the Food and Drug Administration.
15. Which of the following was NOT established by the Pendleton Act?
- higher minimum salaries for federal employees
 - a requirement that applicants demonstrate their qualifications for employment
 - creation of the Civil Service Commission
 - retention and promotion of federal employees based on job performance, not political loyalty
 - competitive exams to qualify for employment
16. The main task of the federal bureaucracy is to
- implement and administer federal laws and programs.
 - interpret and apply federal laws and programs.
 - implement and administer the orders of the president.
 - implement and administer the orders of the cabinet.
 - implement and administer state laws and programs.
17. The president's choice of cabinet members is limited by the fact that
- he must make selections based on applicants approved by his political party.
 - he must make selections based on applicants approved by the House of Representatives.
 - his selections must be confirmed by the House of Representatives.
 - his selections must be confirmed by the Senate.
 - he must make selections based on applicants approved by the Supreme Court.

18. The president has the most direct control over which of the following?
 - a. independent regulatory commissions
 - b. government corporations
 - c. departments
 - d. executive corporations
 - e. independent executive agencies

19. Though similar to independent executive agencies, independent regulatory commissions are
 - a. under direct control of the president.
 - b. under direct control of the Senate.
 - c. in operation at the state level.
 - d. in operation within the judiciary.
 - e. free of direct control by the president.

20. These agencies were created to engage in commercial activities that could be provided by the private sector, and they typically charge for their services.
 - a. independent executive agencies
 - b. government corporations
 - c. independent regulatory commissions
 - d. Federal Reserve banks
 - e. cabinet departments

Free-Response Questions

1. Many political scientists believe that having a nonpartisan civil service increases the likelihood that government will operate in an effective and efficient manner.
 - a. Define the merit principle and explain how it helps to ensure that the civil service remains nonpartisan.
 - b. Define the Hatch Act and explain how it helps to ensure that the civil service remains nonpartisan.
 - c. Although the federal bureaucracy is nonpartisan, the president is nominally in charge of it. Identify and describe two ways a president attempts to control the bureaucracy.

2. Policy implementation involves translating the goals and objectives of a policy into an operating, ongoing program. When policies are not successful, it is often due to problems at the implementation stage of the policy process.
 - a. Identify three reasons that policy implementation might fail.
 - b. Explain how each reason could contribute to the failure of policy implementation.