

□ Answers and Explanations

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. All of the following are important official services performed by the federal bureaucracy EXCEPT
- (a) is incorrect because implementing laws passed by Congress is an official service performed by the federal bureaucracy.
 - (b) is incorrect because implementing the president's policy initiatives is an official service performed by the federal bureaucracy.
 - (c) is correct because the bureaucracy does not referee or solve disputes between the executive and legislative branches of government. Bureaucracies are essentially implementers of policy.**
 - (d) is incorrect because distributing information about public programs and services is an official service performed by the federal bureaucracy.
 - (e) is incorrect because issuing rules and regulations is an official service performed by the federal bureaucracy.

Page reference: 484–493, AP Topics: The role of institutions in the enactment of policy and policymaking in a federal system

2. The Pendleton Civil Service Act is significant because
- (a) is incorrect because the Pendleton Civil Service Act did not institute affirmative action policy.
 - (b) is correct because the Pendleton Civil Service Act of 1883 created the federal civil service system. Hiring and promotions in this system are based on the merit system. With regards to hiring, applicants must take an exam, and those individuals in the highest scoring group are hired. Most federal bureaucratic positions are filled this way, though the president does appoint some people to high-level positions.**
 - (c) is incorrect because the Pendleton Civil Service Act did not give the president more control over federal agencies.
 - (d) is incorrect because the Pendleton Civil Service Act did not reduce the number of civil servants working outside Washington, D.C.
 - (e) is incorrect because the Pendleton Civil Service Act did not establish clear boundaries between federal and state bureaucracies.

Page reference: 478, AP Topic: The role of institutions in the enactment of policy and policymaking in a federal system

3. Bureaucracies are often criticized as being undemocratic because

(a) is correct although they make vital decisions and perform essential services for government and the people, bureaucrats are not directly accountable to citizens, just as the president and Congress are. This has led to the criticism that the bureaucracy is an undemocratic branch of government.

(b) is incorrect because the merit system is not a source of criticism concerning the undemocratic nature of bureaucracies.

(c) is incorrect because popular criticism is not necessarily related to the undemocratic nature of bureaucracies.

(d) is incorrect because the influence of the courts is not related to the criticisms of the bureaucracy.

(e) is incorrect because the bureaucracies are not elected.

Page reference: 476–479, AP Topics: The role of institutions in the enactment of policy and policymaking in a federal system

4. Presidents attempt to exercise control over the bureaucracy through which of the following means?

(a) is incorrect because II and III are also accurate.

(b) is incorrect because I is also accurate.

(c) is incorrect because IV is an inaccurate choice.

(d) is correct because presidents have no control over the compensation bureaucrats receive. There is a fairly rigid federal pay scale that is used to determine the level of pay and benefits to which federal employees are entitled.

(e) is incorrect because all of the answers are not accurate.

Page reference: 479–480, AP Topics: The role of institutions in the enactment of policy and policymaking in a federal system

5. Which of the following statements represent a prevalent myth about the federal bureaucracy?

(a) is incorrect because the federal bureaucracy is not growing bigger and bigger each year.

(b) is incorrect because only about 12 percent of federal bureaucrats work in Washington, D.C. California, with more than 245,000 federal employees, leads the nation in the number of federal bureaucrats.

(c) is incorrect because both selections are inaccurate.

(d) is incorrect because most citizens are generally satisfied with the service they receive from the bureaucracy.

(e) is correct because all of these statements are false or misleading.

Page reference: 476–478, AP Topics: The role of institutions in the enactment of policy and policymaking in a federal system

6. An important tool Congress uses to influence the bureaucracy is

(a) is incorrect because amicus curiae briefs are not used by Congress to influence bureaucracy.

(b) is incorrect because executive orders are not used by Congress to influence bureaucracy.

(c) is incorrect because Congress cannot hire the heads of the departments.

(d) is incorrect because Congress cannot remove administrators from office.

(e) is correct because Congress uses oversight committee hearings as a means to ensure that federal agencies are meeting the goals and objectives set in the laws it passes, as well as to help keep federal agencies free of fraud, waste, and abuse.

Page reference: 497–500, AP Topics: The role of institutions in the enactment of policy and policymaking in a federal system

7. Iron triangles are made up of which of the following?

(a) is incorrect because iron triangles are not made up of congressional committees, independent executive agencies, and private corporations.

(b) is correct because an iron triangle is the mutually dependent relationship between bureaucratic agencies, interest groups, and congressional committees. These relationships are often detrimental to the interests of taxpayers and ordinary citizens.

(c) is incorrect because iron triangles are not made up of regulatory commissions, the Office of Management and Budget, and interest groups.

(d) is incorrect because iron triangles are not made up of the executive, the legislative, and the judicial branches.

(e) is incorrect because iron triangles are not made up of the president's cabinet, interest groups, and private corporations.

Page reference: 498–500, AP Topics: The role of institutions in the enactment of policy and policymaking in a federal system

8. All of the following are independent regulatory commissions EXCEPT the

(a) is incorrect because the Federal Reserve Board is an independent regulatory agency.

(b) is incorrect because the National Labor Relations Board is an independent regulatory agency.

(c) is incorrect because the Securities and Exchange Commission is an independent regulatory agency.

(d) is correct because the Office of Management and Budget is part of the Executive Office of the President and is not an independent regulatory commission.

(e) is incorrect because the Federal Trade Commission is an independent regulatory agency.

Page reference: 481–483, AP Topics: The role of institutions in the enactment of policy and policymaking in a federal system

9. The Hatch Act helps maintain a nonpartisan bureaucracy because it

(a) is incorrect because the Hatch Act does not create a bipartisan commission.

(b) is incorrect because the Hatch Act does not insure merit based hiring.

(c) is incorrect because the Hatch Act does not require employees to register to vote.

(d) is incorrect because the Hatch Act does not require politically balanced staffs.

(e) is correct because the Hatch Act, originally passed in 1939 and amended most recently in 1993, prohibits civil service employees from actively participating in partisan politics while on duty. The act was intended to help ensure a fair and impartial bureaucracy, and to protect bureaucrats from coercion on the part of superiors or political appointees.

Page reference: 478, AP Topics: The role of institutions in the enactment of policy and policymaking in a federal system

10. Implementation of public policy is most successful when

(a) is correct because if the goals of a policy are not clear to those who have to implement it, and if those who have to implement it lack the authority to act definitively, then the policy in question is not likely to be well implemented or received.

(b) is incorrect because court orders do not necessarily insure compliance with a policy.

(c) is incorrect because the president preclearing a policy does not necessarily insure compliance with a policy.

(d) is incorrect because having multiple agencies and bureaucrats involved does not necessarily insure compliance with a policy.

(e) is incorrect because having a policy originate in the executive branch does not necessarily insure compliance with a policy.

Page reference: 484–493, AP Topics: The role of institutions in the enactment of policy and policymaking in a federal system

11. The federal bureaucracy handles all of the following activities EXCEPT

(a) is incorrect because the federal bureaucracy does issue rules and regulations.

(b) is incorrect because the federal bureaucracy does hold hearings to obtain information on proposed policies.

(c) is incorrect because the federal bureaucracy does implement policies passed by Congress.

(d) is correct because only Congress can appropriate funds to be spent by the federal government. The bureaucracy engages in all of the other activities listed.

(e) is incorrect because the federal bureaucracy does act as a quasi-judicial body.

Page reference: 484–493, AP Topics: Public policy, The role of institutions in the enactment of policy

12. Government entities that resemble a Cabinet department but have narrower areas of responsibility are called a(n)

(a) is incorrect because an independent department is an inaccurate selection for the description.

(b) is incorrect because a government corporation is an inaccurate selection for the description.

(c) is correct because independent executive agencies are not accounted for by cabinet departments, independent regulatory commissions, and government corporations, and which have a narrower area of responsibility.

(d) is incorrect because a department is an inaccurate selection for the description.

(e) is incorrect because an independent regulatory commission is an inaccurate selection for the description.

Page reference: 483, AP Topics: Public Policy, The role of institutions in the enactment of policy

13. The civil service is defined as

(a) is correct because civil service is the system for hiring and promoting federal employees through a competitive, not political selection process.

(b) is incorrect because civil service jobs and promotions are not awarded for political reasons.

(c) is incorrect because civil service jobs and promotions are not awarded based on seniority.

(d) is incorrect because the civil service is not an agency that oversees the federal personnel system.

(e) is incorrect because the civil service is not a judicial agency that administers laws.

Page reference: 478, AP Topics: Public Policy, The role of institutions in the enactment of policy

14. The spoils system is defined as

(a) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of the spoils system.

(b) is correct because the spoils system, also known as patronage, is a system of public employment based on rewarding political party loyalists and friends.

(c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of the spoils system.

(d) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of the spoils system.

(e) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of the spoils system.

Page reference: 478, AP Topic: Policymaking in a federal system

15. Which of the following was NOT established by the Pendleton Act?

(a) is correct because the Pendleton Act is a reform measure that established the principle of federal employment on the basis of open, competitive exams and created the Civil Service Commission, but it did not establish a higher minimum wage for federal employees.

(b) is incorrect because this is a correct description of the Pendleton Act.

(c) is incorrect because this is a correct description of the Pendleton Act.

(d) is incorrect because this is a correct description of the Pendleton Act.

(e) is incorrect because this is a correct description of the Pendleton Act.

Page reference: 478, AP Topic: Policymaking in a federal system

16. The main task of the federal bureaucracy is to
- (a) is correct because a bureaucracy is a form of organization that operates through impersonal, uniform regulations which uses task specialization to implement and administer federal laws and programs.**
- (b) is incorrect because a bureaucracy does not interpret and apply federal laws and programs.
- (c) is incorrect because a bureaucracy does not implement and administer orders of the president.
- (d) is incorrect because a bureaucracy does not implement and administer orders of the cabinet.
- (e) is incorrect because a bureaucracy does not implement and administer state laws and programs.

Page reference: 475, AP Topic: Policymaking in a federal system

17. The president's choice of cabinet members is limited by the fact that
- (a) is incorrect because the president is not limited by political party when selecting cabinet members.
- (b) is incorrect because the president is not limited by the House of Representatives when selecting cabinet members.
- (c) is incorrect because the president is not limited by the House of Representatives when selecting cabinet members.
- (d) is correct because each of the 15 cabinet departments is headed by a secretary (except for the Department of Justice, which is headed by the attorney general), who has been chosen by the president but who must also be approved by the Senate.**
- (e) is incorrect because the president is not limited by the Supreme Court when selecting cabinet members.

Page reference: 480–483, AP Topic: Public policy

18. The president has the most direct control over which of the following?
- (a) is incorrect because independent regulatory commissions are not as directly controlled by the president as independent executive agencies.
- (b) is incorrect because government corporations are not as directly controlled by the president as independent executive agencies.

(c) is incorrect because departments are not as directly controlled by the president as independent executive agencies.

(d) is incorrect because executive corporations are not an accurate selection for this question.

(e) is correct because independent executive agencies' administrators are appointed by the president and serve at his will.

Page reference: 482–483, AP Topic: Public policy

19. Though similar to independent executive agencies, independent regulatory commissions are

(a) is incorrect because independent regulatory commissions are not under the direct control of the president.

(b) is incorrect because independent regulatory commissions are not under the direct control of the Senate.

(c) is incorrect because independent regulatory commissions are not in operation at the state level.

(d) is incorrect because independent regulatory commissions are not in operation with the judiciary.

(e) is correct because independent regulatory commissions are agencies whose independence is protected by Congress and are therefore free from direct control by the president.

Page reference: 481–482, AP Topic: Public policy

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) is incorrect because independent executive agencies do not operate like businesses.

(b) is correct because government corporations are government agencies that are designed like a business corporation and engage in commercial activities that could be provided by the private sector; they typically charge for their services.

(c) is incorrect because independent regulatory commissions do not operate like businesses.

(d) is incorrect because Federal Reserve banks do not operate like businesses.

(e) is incorrect because cabinet departments do not operate like businesses.

Page reference: 483, AP Topic: Public policy

Free-Response Questions

This rubric provides examples of many, but not all of the possible correct responses to the 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.
 - The merit principle calls for the use of entrance exams and promotion ratings to hire and reward qualified civil servants. Under this principle, individuals are hired and promoted based on their qualifications, rather than patronage or partisan ties.
 - b. Define the Hatch Act and explain how it helps to ensure that the civil service remains nonpartisan.
 - The Hatch Act is a federal law that prohibits government employees from participating in partisan political activities while on duty. The law helps to protect civil service employees from pressures from political appointees and others to behave in a partisan manner in carrying out their professional duties.
 - c. Ways a president attempts to control the bureaucracy.
 - **Appoint the right people to head agencies.** Presidents control the appointments of federal agency heads and subheads. Appointing individuals with shared ideology and goals is one effective way presidents can influence agencies.
 - **Issue executive orders.** Executive orders carry the force of law and can be used to get agencies to take, or not take, certain actions.
 - **Alter an agency's budget.** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is instrumental in determining an agency's budget. Threats to cut or add to a budget usually get an agency's attention.
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.

There are several reasons that policy implementation might fail.

- **Flawed program design:** It is difficult to implement a policy or program that is defective in its basic theoretical conception. In this case, policy fails because the policy itself cannot be successfully implemented even with the best effort.
- **Lack of clarity:** Congress often states a broad policy goal in legislation and leaves the implementation of the policy to bureaucrats. Congress does this so that it can claim to be responsive to its constituents, while reserving the ability to blame others if specific policies fail to meet constituents' expectations. Similarly, bureaucrats sometimes receive unclear or even contradictory instructions from Congress. This makes knowing what to implement and how best to do it quite difficult.
- **Lack of resources:** If agencies have insufficient funds to carry out assigned tasks, successful policy implementation will be difficult to achieve. For example, the IRS is required to catch people who cheat on their taxes, but this is impossible if they cannot hire enough auditors.