Understanding the Political World 13th edition Danziger Test Bank

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CHAPTER 2
POLITICAL THEORY AND POLITICAL BELIEFS

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. _____ refers to the assumptions and broad beliefs that guide political ideologies.
A) Normative political theory
B) Empirical political theory
C) A political belief system
D) A world view
Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.1: Compare conservatism, classical liberalism, and socialism.
Topic: Normative Political Theory
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

2. Political ideologies are primarily which of the following?
A) descriptions of political reality
B) descriptions of how politics is desired to be
C) explanations of political conflict
D) descriptions of political history
Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.1: Compare conservatism, classical liberalism, and socialism.
Topic: Normative Political Theory
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

3. A comprehensive set of beliefs about the political world is _____.
A) a political culture
B) the basis of national character
C) a political ideology
D) composed primarily of cognitive orientations
Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.1: Compare conservatism, classical liberalism, and socialism.
Topic: Normative Political Theory
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

4. Which of the following ideologies aims to protest traditional values and the existing social hierarchy?
A) socialism
B) conservatism
C) classical liberalism
D) communism
Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.1: Compare conservatism, classical liberalism, and socialism.

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Topic: Normative Political Theory
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

5. Which of the following statements is consistent with the writings of Thomas Hobbes?
A) Human beings are good and peaceful by nature.
B) Absence of government is likely to lead to interpersonal violence.
C) The people have the right to question the decisions of the ruler.
D) People are inherently social, which mitigates interpersonal conflicts.
Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.1: Compare conservatism, classical liberalism, and socialism.
Topic: Normative Political Theory
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Analyze It

6. Which of the following ideologies advocates individual freedom, limited government, and laissez-faire economics?
A) democratic socialism
B) conservatism
C) fascism
D) classical liberalism
Answer: D
Learning Objective: 2.1: Compare conservatism, classical liberalism, and socialism.
Topic: Normative Political Theory
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

7. Which individual is usually identified as the "founding father" of classical liberalism?
A) Plato
B) Franklin D. Roosevelt
C) John Locke
D) V.I. Lenin
Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.1: Compare conservatism, classical liberalism, and socialism.
Topic: Normative Political Theory
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

8. Adherents of classical liberalism particularly adhere to the belief that the role of government should be _____.
A) to mitigate social ills
B) limited
C) to support a strong and effective welfare state
D) to ensure that taxes are fair
Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.1: Compare conservatism, classical liberalism, and socialism.

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Topic: Normative Political Theory
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

9. Which of the following is one of the key distinctions between classical liberalism and conservatism?
A) The concept of the state of nature not important to conservative theorists.
B) Unlike conservatism, classical liberalism assumes that individuals are rational.
C) Unlike classical liberalism, conservatism supports laissez-faire economy.
D) Unlike conservatism, classical liberalism is supportive of absolute power of governments.
Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.1: Compare conservatism, classical liberalism, and socialism.
Topic: Normative Political Theory
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

10. The ideas of the welfare state are most consistent with _____.
A) socialism
B) fascism
C) nationalism
D) conservatism
Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.1: Compare conservatism, classical liberalism, and socialism.
Topic: Normative Political Theory
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

11. The feelings or emotions evoked by seeing someone burn the national flag in a political protest are likely to trigger _____ orientations.
A) cognitive
B) affective
C) primary
D) evaluative
Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.2: Distinguish cognitive, affective, and evaluative orientations.
Topic: Individual Political Beliefs
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Analyze It

12. One reason why public opinion polls need to be interpreted with caution is because _____.
A) survey researchers are almost always biased, therefore presenting the question in a biased way
B) polls are unreliable because they place individuals on the spot, often resulting in inaccurate responses
C) the sample polled may not be representative of the group to whom the opinion is attributed
D) the question posed may not reflect the sample's affective orientations
Answer: C

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Learning Objective: 2.2: Distinguish cognitive, affective, and evaluative orientations.
Topic: Individual Political Beliefs
Difficulty Level: Difficult
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

13. Which of the following describes constraint knowledge?
A) a complex understanding of the dynamics that establish the linkages between ideas
B) an important political fact
C) personal beliefs about how politics ought to be
D) knowledge of the sanctions that government can exercise on individual behavior
Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.3: Compare belief systems of the mass and the elite.
Topic: Belief Systems
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

14. Research on belief systems suggests that
A) the vast majority of people possess significant constraint knowledge.
B) most people have well-developed political beliefs.
C) most people operate with minimal constraint knowledge.
D) most people possess coherent ideological beliefs.
Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.3: Compare belief systems of the mass and the elite.
Topic: Belief Systems
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

15. The concepts of mass and elite belief systems are associated with the studies of _____.
A) William Beveridge
B) Philip Converse
C) Sidney Verba
D) Adam Smith
Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.3: Compare belief systems of the mass and the elite.
Topic: Belief Systems
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

16. According to Philip Converse's study from the 1950s, only about ____ percent of Americans possessed an "elite belief system."
A) 5
B) 15
C) 25
D) 35
Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.3: Compare belief systems of the mass and the elite.

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Topic: Belief Systems
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

17. The political culture of a society may be defined as _____.
A) the social, economic, and ethnic characteristics of the society's members
B) the configuration of political orientations among people in that society
C) the major political beliefs of the society's top government officials
D) the most popular political media of a society
Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.4: Determine the extent to which political culture explains political behavior.
Topic: Political Culture
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

18. A possible criticism of Huntington's "civilizations" theory could be as follows:
A) The decline of religious adherents worldwide makes Huntington's theory now irrelevant.
B) There is absolutely no conclusive correlation between different countries, even neighboring ones.
C) Huntington's generalizations are overly simplified and, therefore, cannot reflect the political culture of a country.
D) The lack of violence between Huntington's "civilizations" proves his theory null and void.
Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.4: Determine the extent to which political culture explains political behavior.
Topic: Political Culture
Difficulty Level: Difficult
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

19. According to the analysis of the World Values Survey in Figure 2.1, the region characterized by the strongest association with survival values *and* traditional values is _____.
A) Africa
B) Latin America
C) Catholic Europe
D) Confucian countries
Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.4: Determine the extent to which political culture explains political behavior.
Topic: Political Culture
Difficulty Level: Difficult
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

20. According to Samuel Huntington, future global wars are most likely to start over _____.
A) oil
B) water

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C) cultural and religious identities
D) colonial competition
Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.4: Determine the extent to which political culture explains political behavior.
Topic: Political Culture
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

ESSAY QUESTIONS

21. Discuss socialism and its main ideology. How does socialism differ from democratic socialism?

Answer: The ideal answer should include:
1. Socialism is a philosophy according to which the most important goal is to provide high-quality, relatively equal conditions of life for everyone, with an active state assisting in the achievement of this goal.
2. The ideology of socialism centers on a deep commitment to use the power and policies of the state to increase the material, social, and political equality of all its members.
3. Democratic socialism is a variation within socialist ideology. This variant also has egalitarianism as its primary goal, and it assumes that the changes can be affected by a government that comes to power and rules by democratic means.

Learning Objective: 2.1: Compare conservatism, classical liberalism, and socialism.
Topic: Normative Political Theory
Difficulty Level: Easy
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

22. What is conservatism? What are its views about human nature?

Answer: The ideal answer should include:
1. Conservatism attempts to prevent or slow the transition away from a society based on traditional values and the existing social hierarchy. As the word suggests, the essence of conservative ideology is to conserve the many valued elements of the system that already exist.
2. Conservatism makes two key assumptions about human nature. First, conservatism assumes individuals are not consistently rational. Second, conservatism assumes individuals are inherently unequal in intelligence, skills, and status.

Learning Objective: 2.1: Compare conservatism, classical liberalism, and socialism.
Topic: Normative Political Theory
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

23. Describe the “clash of civilizations” argument. How was Huntington’s argument criticized?

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Answer: The ideal answer should include:
1. According to Huntington, the world will be greatly impacted by the relationship between nine major civilizations in particular: African, Buddhist, Confucian, Hindu, Islamic, Japanese, Latin American, Eastern Orthodox, and Western. Huntington predicted that clashes among these civilizations would be the fundamental source of international political conflict and the most likely cause of the next global war.
2. Many analysts criticize Huntington's argument as loaded with gross generalizations that greatly oversimplify political reality.

Learning Objective: 2.4: Determine the extent to which political culture explains political behavior.
Topic: Political Culture
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

24. If the belief systems of the masses are full of inaccuracies and inconsistencies, can we learn anything about politics by studying those belief systems?

Answer: The ideal answer should include:
1. Studying the beliefs of individual Americans in the 1950s, Converse concluded that only about 15 percent of the population had a sophisticated, "elite belief system" characterized by extensive political knowledge and abstract ideas that were well organized by constraint knowledge. The rest of the population lacked detailed political knowledge.
2. Other studies conclude that even those with a modest level of political knowledge are able to fashion reasonable political opinions and make good judgments about politics by using a variety of mental shortcuts.

Learning Objective: 2.3: Compare belief systems of the mass and the elite.
Topic: Belief Systems
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

25. What are national character studies? What are their advantages and disadvantages?

Answer: The ideal answer should include:
1. National character studies are studies of political culture. They attempt to capture the essence of a people's political culture in terms of broad adjectives. Huntington's "clash of civilizations" argument is a good examples of national character studies.
2. One advantage of national character studies is that they allow us to simplify reality. On the other hand, national character studies often are loaded with gross generalizations that greatly oversimplify political reality.

Learning Objective: 2.4 Determine the extent to which political culture explains political behavior.
Topic: Political Culture

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Difficulty Level: Moderate
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

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