Struggle for Democracy 2020 Presidential Election Edition 13th edition Greenberg Test Bank

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Democracy and American Politics

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Who wrote the classic text *Politics*?

a. Plato
b. Marx
c. Aristotle
d. Locke

Answer: c
Topic: What Is Democracy?
Learning Objective: 1.1 Explain democracy as the standard by which American government and politics can be evaluated.
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty: Easy

2. Inherent in the idea of self-rule is the idea that government should serve _____.

a. the rich
b. all citizens
c. the well educated
d. the most needy

Answer: b
Topic: What Is Democracy?
Learning Objective: 1.1 Explain democracy as the standard by which American government and politics can be evaluated.
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty: Easy

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3. A government in which a minority holds power over the majority is generally referred to as _____.

a. a kleptocracy
b. a monarchy
c. an oligarchy
d. a sovereignty

Answer: c
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Difficulty: Easy

4. Using the framework set forth by the authors of the textbook, how would you characterize the votes by African Americans in the 1960 and 1964 presidential elections with respect to overcoming Southern resistance to African American political participation?

a. a structural factor
b. a political linkage
c. a governmental factor
d. a governmental action

Answer: b
Topic: How Do Government and Politics Work?
Learning Objective: 1.2 Construct an analytical framework for examining how government and politics work.
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty: Difficult

5. If people are to form authentic and rational attitudes about public policies and leaders they require which of the following?

a. freedom of religious beliefs
b. accurate and insightfully interpreted political information
c. narrowly framed interpretations of political events
d. continuous polling by public officials to find out political attitudes

Answer: b
Topic: What Is Democracy?
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Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty: Moderate

6. What is the core idea that shapes democracy?

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a. Minorities have the full power of decision making over all matters that affect them.
b. The people may not be right but the people are never wrong.
c. Ordinary people are capable of making choices about self-governance.
d. Policy is determined by tyranny of the majority.

Answer: c
Topic: What Is Democracy?
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Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty: Easy

7. The idea of all citizens making decisions in an open assembly about how best to run society is most closely associated with which of the following views of democracy?

a. the framers' view of democracy
b. indirect democracy
c. the ancient Greeks' view of democracy
d. representative democracy

Answer: c
Topic: What Is Democracy?
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Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty: Easy

8. If a governmental system is based on the idea of popular sovereignty, what is the basis of power?

a. Power should be exercised by an educated elite.
b. The ultimate source of authority rests with the people.
c. A democratic system is based on the concept of material equality.
d. Majority rule is unacceptable because it leads to tyranny.

Answer: b
Topic: What Is Democracy?
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Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty: Easy

9. What does political equality mean?

a. Each person carries the same weight in voting and other political decision making.
b. The opinions and preferences of citizens are combined into a binding decision through the principle of majority rule.

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c. The will of the majority is not the ultimate determinant of what government does.
d. Each person should have the same opportunities to succeed in society.

Answer: a
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Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty: Easy

10. When the government guarantees equal access to the benefits of citizenship by all groups they are ensuring _____.

a. majority rule
b. civil liberties
c. civil rights
d. popular sovereignty

Answer: c
Topic: What Is Democracy?
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Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty: Moderate

11. Which of the following refers to basic freedoms essential to the formation and expression of majority opinion and its translation into public policies?

a. tyranny of the majority
b. political equality
c. popular sovereignty
d. political liberty

Answer: d
Topic: What Is Democracy?
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Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty: Moderate

12. Under which circumstance is political equality violated?

a. if citizens are free to argue and debate
b. if citizens are free to form and express their political opinions
c. if some people can speak out but others cannot
d. if people are encouraged to participate in politics

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Answer: c
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Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty: Moderate

13. Which of the following would be an indication of majority tyranny?

a. when the majority uses law to suppress the rights of the minority
b. when the majority votes for an autocratic leader
c. when the minority uses law to suppress the liberties of the majority
d. when the minority uses stalling tactics to delay the implementation of the will of the majority

Answer: a
Topic: What Is Democracy?
Learning Objective: 1.1 Explain democracy as the standard by which American government and politics can be evaluated.
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty: Moderate

14. The framework for understanding American politics includes influences from which of the following interconnected areas?

a. institutions, interests, and citizens
b. the media, the courts, and the internecine political institutions
c. composition, opposition, and despotism
d. structural factors, political linkages, and governmental sectors

Answer: d
Topic: How Do Government and Politics Work?
Learning Objective: 1.2 Construct an analytical framework for examining how government and politics work.
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty: Moderate

15. What did Jim Crow laws represent?

a. the official system of integration in the South
b. the voter registration system in the South that frequently disenfranchised Black people
c. the official system of segregation in the South
d. the official social contract used in the South

Answer: c
Topic: How Do Government and Politics Work?
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Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty: Easy

16. Using the analytical framework presented by the authors, which of the following would be considered government factors?

a. making laws, issuing rules and regulations, waging war, and providing order
b. institutions like the Congress, the president, the federal bureaucracy, and the Supreme Court
c. those enduring features of American life that influence which issues are important
d. all political actors, institutions, and processes that transmit the wants and demands of people and groups in our society to government officials

Answer: b
Topic: How Do Government and Politics Work?
Learning Objective: 1.2 Construct an analytical framework for examining how government and politics work.
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty: Moderate

17. Political actors, institutions, and processes that transmit the demands of the people are known as which of the following?

a. political linkage factors
b. government actions
c. structural factors
d. government factors

Answer: a
Topic: How Do Government and Politics Work?
Learning Objective: 1.2 Construct an analytical framework for examining how government and politics work.
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty: Moderate

18. The actions of the National Rifle Association (NRA) to prevent the passage of gun control legislation best illustrate which part of the analytical framework used by your textbook?

a. government
b. government action
c. structure
d. political linkage

Answer: d
Topic: How Do Government and Politics Work?
Learning Objective: 1.2 Construct an analytical framework for examining how government and politics work.
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

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Difficulty: Moderate

19. What constitutes government action?

a. public officials who have formal, legal responsibility in making policy
b. political actors who do not hold official public office
c. deciding what issues become important in politics and government
d. making laws, issuing rules and regulations, waging war, and providing order

Answer: d
Topic: How Do Government and Politics Work?
Learning Objective: 1.2 Construct an analytical framework for examining how government and politics work.
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty: Easy

20. Political linkages are particularly suited to which of the following?

a. communicating the most fundamental and enduring factors that influence politics
b. transmitting the desires of people to representatives in government
c. overseeing the policymaking activities of Congress and the presidency
d. influencing the distribution of income and wealth in society

Answer: b
Topic: How Do Government and Politics Work?
Learning Objective: 1.2 Construct an analytical framework for examining how government and politics work.
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty: Moderate

21. According to Aristotle, Jefferson, Rousseau, and Dahl, which of the following would present a large threat to political equality?

a. a democracy with a large difference between rich and poor people
b. a democracy with a large and educated ruling class where political power is concentrated
c. a democracy with a small difference between rich and poor people
d. a democracy with a large and educated ruling class where economic power is concentrated

Answer: a
Topic: What Is Democracy?
Learning Objective: 1.1 Explain democracy as the standard by which American government and politics can be evaluated.
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty: Moderate

22. Freedom of speech, religion, association, and the press are examples of which of the following?

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a. civil rights
b. state mandates
c. non-exclusionary rights
d. political liberties

Answer: d
Topic: What Is Democracy?
Learning Objective: 1.1 Explain democracy as the standard by which American government and politics can be evaluated.
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty: Moderate

23. With regard to the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which of the following is best classified as a government factor?

a. the growing electoral power of African Americans outside the South
b. the Supreme Court, which was becoming increasingly supportive of civil rights
c. the rules established by the Constitution
d. Jim Crow laws

Answer: b
Topic: How Do Government and Politics Work?
Learning Objective: 1.2 Construct an analytical framework for examining how government and politics work.
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty: Moderate

24. Representative democracy best describes government in which of the following?

a. ancient Greece
b. eighteenth-century Europe
c. the United States
d. North Korea

Answer: c
Topic: What Is Democracy?
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Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty: Moderate

25. Which of the following would be considered a free election?

a. one in which voters directly determine policy
b. one in which election rules favor the incumbent party
c. one in which the costs of the campaign were paid for with public funds
d. one in which there is no coercion of voters or election officials

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Answer: d
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Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty: Moderate

26. Some people claim that the media increasingly peddle ideologically biased political news. If this is true, which of the following necessary conditions for popular sovereignty is jeopardized?

a. that government policies reflect the wishes of the people
b. that government leaders are selected in competitive elections
c. that elections are free and fair
d. that high-quality information is available

Answer: d
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Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty: Difficult

27. Why do some political thinkers believe that democracy is superior to other forms of government?

a. because it encourages dreams that can never be achieved
b. because it is incapable of promoting progress on important decisions
c. because it protects human rights
d. because it subverts the views of the masses

Answer: c
Topic: What Is Democracy?
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Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty: Difficult

28. What is the effect of low levels of political participation in a democratic society?

a. the quality of information to voters declines
b. popular sovereignty is reduced and democracy is weakened
c. the political parties gain power and government becomes more efficient
d. partisanship increases and voters become more ideological

Answer: b
Topic: What Is Democracy?

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Difficulty: Difficult

29. Why is citizen engagement in the political process an important condition of popular sovereignty?

a. Citizen engagement conveys the will of the people.
b. Citizen engagement prevents leaders from being responsible to the public.
c. Citizen engagement helps to ensure that the public is well informed about policy issues.
d. Citizen engagement protects the public from overly responsive political leaders.

Answer: a
Topic: What Is Democracy?
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Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty: Difficult

30. Why is it important for democratic citizens to have high-quality information?

a. High-quality information ensures that public opinion will coalesce around public policy solutions that are agreeable to most Americans.
b. High-quality information is a prerequisite for voting in most states.
c. Political leaders respond only to informed public opinion, and the public cannot be informed without high-quality information.
d. High-quality information enables the formation of political opinions that are consistent with one's values and interests.

Answer: d
Topic: What Is Democracy?
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Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty: Difficult

31. Why is direct democracy untenable in the United States?

a. It exudes socialism.
b. It yields inferior policy results.
c. The U.S. population is too heavily concentrated in California.
d. The U.S. population is too large.

Answer: d
Topic: What Is Democracy?

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