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ANSWERS ARE LOCATED IN THE SECOND PART OF THIS DOCUMENT

MULTIPLE CHOICE - Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1) Which of the following *best* characterizes Americans' knowledge of public affairs today?

1) _____

A) Millennialsare better informed than older generations by a wide margin.
B) Americans are consistently shown to be among the most well-informedcitizens when compared to other democracies.
C) Most Americans today are far better informed than previous generations, though knowledge levels are still rather low.
D) Misinformation is now at its highest level in the history of polling.
E) Baby boomers have been shown to be the most well-informed generation, while younger generations know little about public affairs.

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2) Critical thinking is best described as

2) _____

A) the process of forming an opinion after weighing the relevant facts.
B) discounting the news from ordinary media outlets.
C) rejecting the accounts of bureaucrats and finding alternative versions online.
D) assuming that all news are lies until alternative truths present themselves.
E) trusting your instincts on the way the world works.

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3) Approximately what share of Americans refuses to believe that Russia interfered in the 2016 elections?

3) _____

A) 6 percent
B) 13 percent
C) 25 percent
D) 33 percent
E) 60 percent

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4) What type of government suppresses individuality, forcing people to think and act in prescribed ways or risk punishment?

4) _____

A) communist
B) socialist
C) authoritarian
D) egalitarian
E) republican

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5) Which of the following has most recently proven to serve as a significant obstacle to critical thinking?

5) _____

A) changes in the media landscape
B) political partisanship
C) television
D) newspapers
E) the coastal elites

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6) What do behavioral scientists Gordon Pennycook and David Rand call the habit of judging the accuracy of a claim on the basis of who's saying it or whether we've heard it before?

6) _____

A) "cognitive laziness"
B) "cognitive disconnect"
C) "cognitive bias"
D) "the cult of personality"
E) "cognitive dissonance"

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7) In recent years,

7) _____

A) American politics has become more heated and divisive.
B) Americans have become more tolerant of leaders slanting facts.
C) American leaders have become more willing to lie.
D) Americans have embraced more truthful politicians.
E) our politics has become more divisive and heated, leaders have lied more readily, and we have come to tolerate it more.

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8) Which of the following is an example of politicians' deliberate slanting of facts?

8) _____

A) calls for tax increases to fund infrastructure
B) debates over immigration policy and amnesty for current undocumented immigrants
C) the claim that free trade is the cause for the loss of millions of manufacturing jobs
D) the insistence that President Barack Obama is a citizen and born in Hawaii
E) the claim that Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. elections

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9) What is the likely result of spending hours listening to partisan talk shows?

9) _____

A) misinformation
B) liberalism
C) pragmatism
D) well-rounded political views
E) a distaste for politics

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10) Which of the following is NOT among the frameworks used in political science?

10) _____

A) rational choice theory
B) liberalism
C) institutional analysis
D) historical reasoning
E) behavioral studies

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11) Who among the following was the chief architect of the U.S. Constitution and also one of America's top political scientists?

11) _____

A) James Madison
B) Andrew Jackson
C) Woodrow Wilson
D) Benjamin Franklin
E) John Adams

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12) Which important aspect of European thought had the greatest impact on the formation of the political culture of America?

12) _____

A) Romanticism
B) the Reformation
C) the Renaissance
D) Rationalism
E) the Enlightenment

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Section : Political Culture: Americans' Enduring Beliefs

13) Which of the following is NOT one of the core values of American political culture?

13) _____

A) individualism
B) equality
C) cooperation
D) liberty
E) self-government

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14) Which of the following statements about cultural or political beliefs in America is FALSE?

14) _____

A) America's origins as a wilderness society led to the belief that government is responsible for providing material assistance to its citizens.
B) Americans believe that individuals should be free to act and think as they choose.
C) Americans reject European notions of aristocratic privilege.
D) America has a strongly individualistic culture.
E) Americans generally believe that the people are the ultimate source of governing authority.

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15) Which of the following *best* describes Americans' "unalienable rights," as described in the Declaration of Independence?

15) _____

A) freedoms belonging to every citizen that cannot be legally taken away by the government
B) "God-given" rights that all people possess from birth
C) freedom from government interference in any aspect of life
D) freedom from religious persecution
E) the freedoms necessary to become "a perfect nation"

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16) Individualism is the idea that

16) _____

A) individuals should be free to act and think as they choose.
B) all individuals are equal in their moral worth.
C) people are the ultimate source of governing authority.
D) people should take initiative and be self-sufficient.
E) there should be formal limits on citizens' power.

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17) To what aspect of America were William Watts and Lloyd Free referring when they labeled it "the country of individualism *par excellence*"?

17) _____

A) the majoritarian nature of the voting and election system
B) the ability of any individual to aspire to high political office
C) the judicial nature of American politics, in which any individual can challenge powerful interests
D) the engrained nature of individualism, from freedom of expression to fair-trial protections
E) the ability of the individual to join in labor unions and interest groups to pursue his or her political and financial self-interests

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18) Europeans have a greater acceptance than Americans of

18) _____

A) welfare policies that could relieve people of the responsibility to care for themselves.
B) the strength of the executive branch of government.
C) the majoritarian system of government.
D) the influence of corporate special interests in the legislative process.
E) the influence of corporate money in the election process.

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19) Which of the following is an example of an authoritarian regime?

19) _____

A) Great Britain
B) France
C) the United States
D) China
E) Canada

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20) According to the Declaration of Independence, governments get their "just powers" from

20) _____

A) "God Almighty."
B) "the consent of the governed."
C) "the various factions."
D) "the teachings of Jesus Christ."
E) "the benevolence of a just king."

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21) West Virginia, the state with the lowest percentage of college graduates in the United States,

21) _____

A) is indicative of Americans' relative indifference to higher education.
B) is evidence of the general truth that the states with the highest percentage of college graduates are located between the Rockies and the Mississippi River.
C) is one of seven U.S. states with fewer than five institutions of higher learning.
D) demonstrates how closed higher education in the United States is compared to the rest of the world.
E) has a higher proportion of college graduates than most European countries.

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22) Which of the following is an accurate description of the prevalence of college education in the United States?

22) _____

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A) Among adults 25 years of age and older, roughly half are college graduates.
B) Among adults 25 years of age and older, nearly one in three is a college graduate.
C) Every U.S. state has at least twenty colleges or universities within its borders.
D) Despite having a much higher rate of colleges and universities per capita than European countries, the U.S. has a lower rate of college graduation per capita.
E) Although the U.S. has a lower number of colleges and universities per capita than Europe, it has a much higher rate of college graduation per capita.

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23) The process by which a society settles its conflicts and allocates the resulting benefits and costs is called

23) _____

A) politics.
B) government.
C) elitism.
D) socialism.
E) communism.

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24) _____ is the ability of persons, groups, or institutions to influence political developments.

24) _____

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A) Apathy
B) Politics
C) Power
D) Liberty
E) Political culture

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25) French philosopher Michel Foucault referred to politics as "_____."

25) _____

A) like making sausage
B) the burden of citizens
C) a means to an end
D) war by other means
E) a necessary evil

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26) The Greek words *demos* and *kratis* together mean

26) _____

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A) majority rule is sacred.
B) the people rule.
C) government is good.
D) politics is immoral.
E) the king is good.

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27) In an oligarchy,

27) _____

A) the state is run by corporate interests and companies instead of individuals.
B) control rests with a small group of popularly elected individuals.
C) control rests with a single individual, such as a dictator.
D) control rests with a small group, such as military officers or a few wealthy families.
E) the state controls all aspects of individuals' lives, including family relations and the practice of religion.

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28) What has democracy come to mean in practice?

28) _____

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A) pluralistic government through the combination of popularly elected representatives and the influence of interest groups
B) oligarchic government through a legislature chosen through popular election
C) elitist control through interest group politics
D) pluralism through the election of representatives and the influence of corporate interests
E) majority rule through the free and open election of representatives

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29) The United States has certain rules in place to keep politics within peaceful bounds. These rules include all of the following EXCEPT

29) _____

A) autocracy.
B) democracy.
C) constitutionalism.
D) free markets.
E) None of these answers are correct.

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30) What is a major limit on majoritarianism, as suggested by the text?

30) _____

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A) The public as a whole takes an interest in only a few of the hundreds of policy decisions that U.S. officials make each year.

B) The public lacks access to the information required to take informed political action on most issues dealt with by the government each year.

C) The actions of special interest groups are ultimately more influential than the voting power of the public.

D) The rapid turnover of government officials and members of the legislature prevents the majority public from making a sustained effort for any single issue.

E) The most power tends to reside with a wealthy minority of the voting public, preventing the majority public from setting the issue agenda.

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31) The fact that farmers have more influence over agricultural price-supports than do other groups is an example of

31) _____

A) majoritarianism.
B) pluralism.
C) elitism.
D) constitutionalism.
E) corporate power.

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32) Pluralism contends that, on most issues,

32) _____

A) corporate elites have more control over economic policy than do "the politicians in the visible government."
B) the will of the majority of the voting public determines government policy.
C) it is the preferences of special interests that largely determine what government does.
D) true authority lies with the elected politicians, and not with the public that put them in office.
E) the diverse nature of the citizenry enhances the democratic process in policymaking.

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33) A government's authority

33) _____

A) is evidenced when government officials use their right to exercise power.
B) is by definition not coercive.
C) does not include the power to arrest and imprison.
D) ensures that lawlessness prevails most of the time.
E) is based on pluralism.

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34) What era in American politics is notable for a high level of bipartisanship?

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34) _____

A) 1945–1960 (post-WWII)
B) 1865–1877 (Reconstruction)
C) 1992–2000 (Clinton era)
D) 1900–1917 (pre-WWI)
E) 2016–present (Trump era)

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35) The Bill of Rights

35) _____

A) reduced the restrictiveness of constitutionalism.
B) enhanced the powers of the executive.
C) further checked the power of the majority.
D) enhanced the majoritarian nature of government.
E) restricted the power of corporate influence in the government.

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36) The Bill of Rights added to the Constitution, among other things,

36) _____

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A) a guarantee of freedom of speech.
B) a division of governmental authority into three branches.
C) checks and balances among the three branches of government.
D) restrictions against the power of corporations to influence the election process.
E) term limits for elected officials to reduce their power.

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37) In a constitutional system,

37) _____

A) there are no restrictions on the lawful uses of power, as long as this power is obtained by majority rule.
B) there are lawful restrictions on a government's power.
C) the economy is based on the free enterprise system.
D) officials govern according to the traditions established by their predecessors.
E) all citizens have absolute free speech rights.

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38) What new policy was established by the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark *Gideon v. Wainwright* ruling?

38) _____

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A) the right to trial by jury
B) the need to charge an arrested suspect with a specific crime within 24 hours of arrest
C) the requirement that police read a suspect his or her rights before or during arrest
D) government provision of free legal counsel to the accused if they are too poor to hire a lawyer
E) the practice of allowing a suspect out on bail until the time of the trial

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39) Which of the following is a difference between communism and socialism, as described by the text?

39) _____

A) Under socialism, the government owns some firms, but under communism the government does not own any major assets.
B) Under communism, the government assumes total management of the economy, whereas under socialism, the government does not try to manage the overall economy.
C) Under socialism, the economy operates mainly through private transactions, but under communism, the government owns a number of major industries and tries to provide for people's basic economic needs.
D) Under communism, the government manages the economy completely but does not attempt to provide for people's basic needs; under socialism, the government does not manage the economy completely, but does attempt to provide for people's basic needs.
E) Under socialism, the government owns more industries than a communist government does, but it provides less direct benefit for individuals' welfare.

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40) Which of the following describes socialism as practiced today in Sweden?

40) _____

A) The government does not attempt to manage the overall economy but owns a number of major industries and provides for people's basic economic needs.
B) The government manages the overall economy through ownership of most major industries, and it does not allow private property.
C) The economy operates almost exclusively on private transactions.
D) The government does little to manage the economy and owns no major industries, serving mainly to provide for people's basic economic needs.
E) Firms are largely free to make their own production, distribution, and pricing decisions, and individuals depend largely on themselves for economic security.

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41) The United States' economy operates primarily as a

41) _____

A) free-market system.
B) free-market system with major elements of socialism.
C) socialist system with some free-market elements.
D) socialist system.
E) None of these answers are correct.

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42) In which of the following ways is the U.S. free-market system distinct from European economies?

42) _____

A) its lack of regulatory intervention
B) its lack of intervention through taxation
C) its lack of intervention through spending policies
D) the extent to which private transactions determine the allocation of economic costs and benefits
E) the extent to which it exercises regulatory intervention by altering interest rates

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43) Roughly two-thirds of all lobbyists in the nation's capital represent

43) _____

A) activist organizations.
B) labor unions.
C) business firms.
D) foreign-based political action groups.
E) nonprofit organizations.

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44) U.S. firms have greater power than firms in other Western democracies over which of the following?

44) _____

A) wages and working conditions
B) stock market fluctuations
C) interest rates
D) bond market rates
E) greenhouse gas emissions

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45) The average incomes of minimum-wage workers in the United States and Europe reflect a greater influence of which of the following in the United States, when compared to Europe?

45) _____

A) majoritarianism
B) elitism
C) corporate power
D) judicial action
E) constitutionalism

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46) Sociologist C. Wright Mills was a proponent of the theory of

46) _____

A) pluralism.
B) elitism.
C) majoritarianism.
D) bureaucratic rule.
E) None of these answers are correct.

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47) As described in the text, _____ is a defining characteristic of America politics.

47) _____

A) the widespread sharing of power
B) the supremacy of the elite
C) a continual striving for equality
D) a resistance to all forms of socialism
E) an unequal distribution of power

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ESSAY. Write your answer in the space provided or on a separate sheet of paper.

48) What are some of the barriers to critical thinking in the United States?

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49) Describe the differences between how Americans define themselves and how other, older nations define what it means to be a part of their nations' political identity.

Question Details
Bloom's : Understand
Chapter : Chapter 1: Critical Thinking and Political Culture: Becoming a Responsible Citizen
null : Standard: Texas LO-5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in
Section : Political Culture: Americans' Enduring Beliefs

50) Define *politics*, *power*, and *authority*.

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Question Details
Chapter : Chapter 1: Critical Thinking and Political Culture: Becoming a Responsible Citizen
null : Standard: Texas LO-5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in
Bloom's : Remember
Section : Politics and Power in America

51) How could one argue that America is *not* run by a small power elite?

Question Details
Chapter : Chapter 1: Critical Thinking and Political Culture: Becoming a Responsible Citizen
null : Standard: Texas LO-5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in
Bloom's : Apply
Section : Politics and Power in America

52) To what degree is American democracy majoritarian, and what are the limits to that majoritarianism?

Question Details
Bloom's : Understand
Chapter : Chapter 1: Critical Thinking and Political Culture: Becoming a Responsible Citizen
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Section : Politics and Power in America

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Answer Key

Test name: CH01

1) D
2) A
3) C
4) C
5) A
6) A
7) E
8) C
9) A
10) B
11) A
12) E
13) C
14) A
15) A
16) D
17) D
18) A
19) D
20) B
21) E
22) B
23) A
24) C
25) D
26) B

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27) D
28) E
29) A
30) A
31) B
32) C
33) A
34) A
35) C
36) A
37) B
38) D
39) B
40) A
41) A
42) D
43) C
44) A
45) C
46) B
47) A
48) A major barrier to critical thinking is the unwillingness of citizens to make the effort to educate themselves. Democratic government works best if the citizenry works to develop critical thinking, but most individuals do not make the effort. Another major barrier is the changing nature of media. The rise of talk radio, cable television news networks, and Internet blogs have provided many of those individuals that do pay close attention to the news with faulty information and analysis. In addition, deliberate misinformation campaigns are a serious barrier to sound judgement.

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49) Other people take their identity from the common ancestry that led them gradually to gather under one flag. Long before there was a France or a Japan, there were French and Japanese people, each a kinship group united through ancestry. Even today, it is kinship that links them. There is no way to become fully Japanese except to be born of Japanese parents. On the other hand Americans are a multitude of people from different lands. Thus, Americans are linked not by a shared ancestry but by allegiance to a common set of ideals.

50) *Politics* is the means by which society settles its conflicts and allocates the resulting benefits and costs. Those factions or people who prevail in getting their values accepted are said to have *power*. When power is exercised through the laws and institutions of government, authority is involved. *Authority* is defined as the recognized right of an official or institution to exercise power.

51) One could argue that due to the diversity of group structures in America and the fierce competition over whose values will emerge victorious on any particular issue, it would be difficult for one homogeneous group to consistently control policies and all other competing political forces in the United States. Power in America is also dynamic; whereas once women and minorities were severely restricted from the exercise of power, many of those barriers have been removed, and the influence of women and minorities has grown considerably.

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52) Majoritarianism exists where the majority effectively determines what government does. The American democratic system of government is designed to give the people, through popular election of their representatives, control over the issues dealt with by the government and how the government responds to those issues. There are, however, limits to majoritarianism; the larger public takes an interest in only a few of the many issues dealt with by the government. Most policies result from pressure by the few groups that are directly affected by that issue. Also, elected leadership can choose to make decisions that are unpopular with the majority.

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