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Name:_____ Class:_____ Date:_____

Ch01 The Study of American Government

1. What term can be defined as the activity by which an issue is agitated or settled?
   a. republicanism
   b. democracy
   c. politics
   d. political science

ANSWER: c

2. What concerns about direct democracy persist today?
   a. It is not the best way to resist manipulative politicians.
   b. Direct democracy has never been used before.
   c. The people express support for a government similar to a monarchy.
   d. People often decide large issues on the basis of fleeting passions.

ANSWER: d

3. Which of the following scenarios is an example of direct democracy?
   a. Louisiana's use of the parish system
   b. New England town meetings
   c. voting in party primaries
   d. the electoral college system

ANSWER: b

4. When is a political system non-democratic?
   a. Citizens participate directly in holding office.
   b. It denies equal voting rights to part of its society.
   c. Citizens participate directly in making policy.
   d. Leaders make decisions by winning the popular vote.

ANSWER: b

5. Which is an example of a non-democratic political system?
   a. parliamentary system
   b. representative system
   c. constitutional system
   d. authoritarian system

ANSWER: d

6. Which of the following perspectives holds that society is ruled by a small number of people who exercise power to further their self-interest?
   a. the creedal passion view
   b. the pluralist view
   c. the power elite view
   d. the class view

ANSWER: c

7. If the top political jobs for political parties were filled only from an inner circle of top corporate leaders, this would be

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evidence of which of the following perspectives?

a. the power elite view
b. the pluralist view
c. the class view
d. the bureaucratic view

ANSWER: a

8. To whom do most democracies give the power to make laws?

a. political parties
b. interest groups
c. elected representatives
d. common citizens

ANSWER: c

9. Which of the following terms is defined as the ability of one person to get another person to act in accordance with the first person's intentions?

a. politics
b. policy
c. power
d. lobbying

ANSWER: c

10. How did Aristotle define democracy?

a. as rule of the few
b. as rule of the one
c. as rule of the powerful
d. as rule of the many

ANSWER: d

11. The term participatory democracy applies most accurately to which of the following societies?

a. Greece in the fourth century BCE
b. the United States since 1787
c. the Soviet Union between 1917 and 1991
d. the southeastern United States before the Civil War

ANSWER: a

12. The Framers' concerns about direct democracy are shown by what feature of the Constitution?

a. The Constitution uses the word democracy only once, in the Preamble.
b. The Constitution uses the word democracy only in reference to Congress.
c. The Constitution does not feature the word democracy at all.
d. The Constitution uses the word democratic instead of democracy.

ANSWER: c

13. Who argued that the democratic method is an institutional arrangement for arriving at political decisions?

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a. Karl Marx
b. George Mason
c. Joseph Schumpeter
d. C. Wright Mills

ANSWER: c

14. Which of the following actions is a modern example of direct democracy?
a. individuals electing local boards to make decisions
b. individuals running for political office
c. individuals participating in the formulation of a program that directly affects them
d. individuals writing elected officials to express their opinions on policy

ANSWER: c

15. What is one feature of democracy in the United States that distinguishes it from many European democracies?
a. In the United States, more offices are elective.
b. In the United States, more people participate in the electoral process.
c. In the United States, the government plays a more active role in elections.
d. In the United States, the government frequently changes hands.

ANSWER: a

16. In the United States, no government at any level would be considered legitimate if, in some sense, it could not be described as:
a. democratic.
b. humanitarian.
c. elitist.
d. aristocratic.

ANSWER: a

17. Which group had the right to vote in ancient Athens?
a. all adult citizens
b. city elders
c. all males
d. males with property

ANSWER: d

18. In the U.S. political system, which of these choices most closely approximates Aristotle's ideal of direct democracy?
a. the U.S. House of Representatives
b. a New England town meeting
c. the Constitutional Convention
d. the Southeastern United States before the Civil War

ANSWER: b

19. What does the political agenda consist of?
a. concerns that the government decides to ignore

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b. issues that people believe require governmental action
c. topics that political parties choose to avoid
d. interests that only affect business owners and corporations

ANSWER: b

20. In 1935, what percentage of American families paid no federal income tax?
a. one percent
b. four percent
c. eighty percent
d. ninety-six percent

ANSWER: d

21. Before the 1960s, the plans of liberal presidents faced heavy resistance from which group in the Senate?
a. conservative Southern Democrats
b. conservative Southern Republicans
c. liberal Northern Democrats
d. liberal Northern Republicans

ANSWER: a

22. The issues that people believe require governmental action are called:
a. client politics.
b. majoritarian politics.
c. direct democracy.
d. the political agenda.

ANSWER: d

23. How does interest group politics contribute to decisions that the public may be uninformed about?

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

24. What did the Framers of the Constitution believe about democracy?
a. It was the ideal form of government.
b. It was not an ideal form of government, but it was better than any alternative.
c. It was likely to lead to bad decisions.
d. It was likely to lead to decisions based on sound reasoning and logic.

ANSWER: c

25. Those who disapprove of representative democracy would characterize it as:
a. progressive.
b. Marxist.
c. authoritarian.
d. elitist.

ANSWER: d

26. According to the class view of power distribution, which of the following groups wields the most power in the United

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States?

a. unions and laborers
b. interest groups
c. the people
d. leaders of multinational corporations

ANSWER: d

27. According to the power elite view, which of these groups would not have any control of politics?

a. top military officials
b. mass media executives
c. the heads of special interest groups
d. the economically disadvantaged

ANSWER: d

28. Which view about power distribution in the United States attributes the majority of political power to elected politicians?

a. the class view
b. the power elite view
c. the bureaucratic view
d. the pluralist view

ANSWER: d

29. Karl Marx believed governments were dominated by:

a. business owners.
b. elected officials.
c. interest groups.
d. religious leaders.

ANSWER: a

30. Which sociologist argued that American democracy is dominated by a small “power elite"?

a. C. Wright Mills
b. Karl Marx
c. Max Weber
d. Samuel P. Huntington

ANSWER: a

31. With whom is the bureaucratic view of political elites associated, which argues that appointed officials dominate the government?

a. Karl Marx
b. C. Wright Mills
c. Max Weber
d. David B. Truman

ANSWER: c

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32. In Samuel P. Huntington's view, which of the following examples illustrates an event in which morally impassioned elites made significant changes?
a. the Framers developing the party system
b. the party bosses in smoke-filled rooms
c. the progressive reformers of the early twentieth century
d. legislative reorganization during the 1940s

ANSWER: c

33. Which type of politics has distributed benefits and costs?
a. majoritarian politics
b. interest group politics
c. client politics
d. entrepreneurial politics

ANSWER: a

34. Policies aimed at lessening income inequality and addressing the disproportionate power held by individuals with wealth are based on which theory of power?
a. the power elite view
b. the bureaucratic view
c. the creedal passion view
d. the class view

ANSWER: d

35. Which theory of power is illustrated when policies like the Affordable Care Act delegate decisions, such as whether birth control should be covered in all insurance plans, to executive agencies like Health and Human Services?
a. the power elite view
b. the bureaucratic view
c. the creedal passion view
d. the class view

ANSWER: b

36. The civil rights movement of the mid-twentieth century is an example of which theory of power?
a. the power elite view
b. the bureaucratic view
c. the creedal passion view
d. the class view

ANSWER: c

37. Which type of politics has distributed benefits and concentrated costs?
a. majoritarian politics
b. interest group politics
c. pork-barrel politics
d. entrepreneurial politics

ANSWER: d

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38. Which type of legislation provides tangible benefits to constituents in several states or districts in hopes of winning their votes in the future?
    a. log-rolling legislation
    b. pork-barrel legislation
    c. commemorative legislation
    d. majoritarian legislation

ANSWER: b

39. An estate tax that imposes a tax on inherited money in excess of $4.49 million is an example of which type of policy?
    a. majoritarian policy
    b. interest group policy
    c. entrepreneurial policy
    d. moralistic policy

ANSWER: c

40. What method is used by members of Congress to build a winning coalition for their policies?
    a. log-rolling
    b. back-scratching
    c. structured rules
    d. cloture

ANSWER: a

41. Which term is used to describe activists inside or outside of the government who pull together political majorities on behalf of unorganized interests?
    a. progressives
    b. agitators
    c. policy entrepreneurs
    d. political action committees

ANSWER: c

42. What is an important implication of the bureaucracy increasingly becoming a source of political innovation?
    a. Bureaucrats may use their expertise to craft policies that address important problems.
    b. The policies are generally unrepresentative because bureaucrats are typically more liberal than the population.
    c. The policies developed by bureaucrats are generally less important because the bureaucrats are unelected.
    d. Bureaucrats have been able to wield unlimited power over policy making that is unchecked by the other branches.

ANSWER: a

43. James Madison argued that while the federal government needed its own power of taxation and collectors of revenue, its overall powers would remain few and defined, and its taxing power would be used sparingly. Who replied that if given that power, there would, over time, be an immense increase of taxes spent by an ever-growing federal government?
    a. John Jay
    b. George Washington
    c. Alexander Hamilton
    d. Patrick Henry

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ANSWER: d

44. Congress' power to tax, as provided in the Constitution and later amendments, leads one to conclude that the fundamental government finance problems are not mathematical. Instead, they are caused by:
    a. rules and regulations.
    b. Supreme Court decisions.
    c. politics.
    d. the governors of half the states intervening in the budget process.

ANSWER: c

45. A deficit can be described as:
    a. the spending of more than projected government revenues in any given year.
    b. the total amount of money the U.S. government owes.
    c. a reduction of any agency's budget.
    d. the Constitution's prohibition of the government from spending more money than it takes in.

ANSWER: a

46. What was Karl Marx's view on the distribution of political power?
    a. the power elite view
    b. the bureaucratic view
    c. the class view
    d. the creedal passion view

ANSWER: c

47. What is vital to understanding power?
    a. interests
    b. preferences
    c. ideologies
    d. beliefs

ANSWER: b

48. Economic depressions and deep recessions, such as the ones that began in 1929, 2007, and 2020, have led the public to:
    a. believe the government should not take action.
    b. believe that the government could not take action.
    c. expect the government to take action.
    d. believe the result was the welfare state as we know it.

ANSWER: c

49. What two roles can the national media play in the policy-making process?
    a. The national media can help place new matters and sell more advertising, demonstrating that capitalism works.
    b. The national media can publicize those matters placed there by others and be supportive of the administration in power.
    c. The national press can either help place new issues on the agenda or publicize those matters placed there by others.

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d. They can sell more advertising, demonstrating capitalism works and increasing circulation.

ANSWER: c

50. How can state governments make national policy directly without Congress ever voting on the matter?

a. The combined strength of the state secretaries is more powerful than the power of Congress.

b. The attorneys general of the states may sue a business firm and settle the suit with an agreement that binds the industry throughout the country.

c. Governors often put pressure on the states' Congressional delegates.

d. Voters in any given state may use the initiative on the next election ballot. If it passes, Congress must obey the will of the people.

ANSWER: b

51. Explain how interest groups affect majoritarian and client politics.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

52. Many farmers benefit substantially from agricultural price supports, but many consumers have no idea what these price supports cost them in taxes and higher food prices. Which type of politics does this suggest?

a. interest group politics

b. client politics

c. entrepreneurial politics

d. majoritarian politics

ANSWER: b

53. Which of the following people is the best-known example of a policy entrepreneur?

a. Michelle Obama

b. Ronald Reagan

c. Ralph Nader

d. Al Gore

ANSWER: c

54. The toxic or hazardous waste spills at Love Canal, New York, and Times Beach, Missouri, compelled Congress to pass legislation in 1980 to deal with an estimated 30,000 waste sites. What was this program called?

a. the Superfund program

b. the Ready-Set-Go program

c. the Toxic and Hazardous Waste program

d. the McHardy-Hutchinson program

ANSWER: a

55. Compare and contrast a direct democracy with a representative democracy.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

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