

## Chapter 1

# Politics, Democracy, and the American People

### Multiple Choice

1. According to the text, the American public's level of trust in their government
  - a. has always been extremely low.
  - b. immediately declined as a result of the September 11 terrorist attacks.
  - c. immediately rose following the September 11 terrorist attacks but subsequently declined.
  - d. has never been higher than it is today.
  - e. cannot be accurately measured

*Answer: C; Page Reference: 1; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

2. Alexis de Tocqueville was
  - a. a British philosopher who argued against democracy.
  - b. a French aristocrat who visited America in the 1830s.
  - c. a Spanish political thinker who wrote a book on government in the twentieth century.
  - d. an American senator who was not fully trusted by the voters.
  - e. an Italian political philosopher who argued against direct democracy

*Answer: B; Page Reference: 1, 7; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

3. Harold Lasswell defined politics as the study of
  - a. who gets the support of elites.
  - b. who acquires the most political power in a community.
  - c. who gets what, based on how much they contribute to campaigns.
  - d. who gets what, when, and how.
  - e. a pattern of corrupt or unethical decision-making.

*Answer: D; Page Reference: 2; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

4. Which of the following is NOT a basis of legitimacy, according to Max Weber?
  - a. charisma
  - b. tradition
  - c. force
  - d. legality
  - e. none of the above

*Answer: C; Page Reference: 3; Bloom's Category: Comprehension*

5. Which of the following BEST defines democracy?
  - a. Power is held by a small group of people.
  - b. Governmental powers are held by a single person or group.
  - c. Power is shared by all citizens.
  - d. Government is unnecessary.
  - e. Government consists of three branches: legislative, executive, judicial.

*Answer: C; Page Reference: 4; Bloom's Category: Comprehension*

6. The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. had many followers due to what source of legitimate power?
- a. charisma
  - b. tradition
  - c. force
  - d. legality
  - e. wealth

*Answer: A; Page Reference: 3; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

7. *Government* and *politics* are not the same because *government* refers to
- a. the institutions and processes by which rules are made and enforced for all members of society.
  - b. the institutions that govern and how these institutions work in concert.
  - c. the institutions that govern and how citizens determine which ones can enforce the rules.
  - d. the rules made by citizens and enforced by representatives.
  - e. organizations that influence policymaking.

*Answer: A; Page Reference: 4; Bloom's Category: Comprehension*

8. Why isn't a labor union or a corporation considered to be a part of the government?
- a. Labor unions and corporations do not have elected officials.
  - b. Labor unions and corporations cannot enforce rules for all of society.
  - c. Labor unions and corporations cannot create any legitimate rules.
  - d. Labor unions and corporations rarely involve themselves in politics.
  - e. Labor unions and corporations do not support political candidates.

*Answer: B; Page Reference: 4; Bloom's Category: Application*

9. A New England town meeting is a form of
- a. direct democracy.
  - b. constitutional democracy.
  - c. representative democracy.
  - d. republican democracy.
  - e. collaborative democracy.

*Answer: A; Page Reference: 4; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

10. When voters vote for or against the adoption of particular laws, they participate in a
- a. supposition.
  - b. referendum.
  - c. recall.
  - d. proposal.
  - e. veto.

*Answer: B; Page Reference: 4; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

11. The procedure in some states that allows citizens to put proposed laws and constitutional amendments on the ballots to approve or reject legislative statutes is called
- a. referendum.
  - b. initiative.
  - c. recall.
  - d. proposition.
  - e. disposition.

*Answer: B; Page Reference: 4; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

12. Representative democracy differs from direct democracy in that in the former, citizens transfer their \_\_\_\_\_ power to people whom they elect to represent them.
- a. implied
  - b. natural
  - c. participation
  - d. decision-making
  - e. constitutional

*Answer: D; Page Reference: 5; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

13. Locke believed that government's primary role was to
- a. help individuals fulfill their potential.
  - b. develop the moral character of its citizens.
  - c. protect the life, liberty, and property of those it governs.
  - d. preserve the social morality.
  - e. create an all-powerful central government

*Answer: C; Page Reference: 7; Bloom's Category: Comprehension*

14. Which of the following is NOT a basic principle of American democracy?
- a. self-government
  - b. majority rule
  - c. an organized opposition
  - d. economic equality
  - e. government regulation of the economy

*Answer: D; Page Reference: 7-11; Bloom's Category: Comprehension*

15. According to the text, Thomas Hobbes and David Hume
- a. agreed with John Locke about natural law.
  - b. were skeptical of human reason.
  - c. did not think that people were passionate enough about freedom.
  - d. were influenced by the thinking of James Madison.
  - e. were influenced by the thinking of Alexis de Tocqueville

*Answer: B; Page Reference: 6; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

16. What doctrine is an extension of Locke's idea that people are able to make rational decisions and that they understand what policies would best serve their interests?
- a. minority rights
  - b. majority rule
  - c. separation of powers
  - d. limited government
  - e. checks and balances

*Answer: B; Page Reference: 7; Bloom's Category: Application*

17. John Locke wrote that civil society was created by an agreement among citizens in which they accepted existing law and penalties as binding. This agreement was called
- a. the social contract.
  - b. majority rule.
  - c. direct democracy.
  - d. constitutional democracy.
  - e. representative democracy.

*Answer: A; Page Reference: 7; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

18. Who expressed concern about a “tyranny of the majority”?

- a. John Locke
- b. David Hume
- c. Thomas Jefferson
- d. Alexis de Tocqueville
- e. James Madison

*Answer: D; Page Reference: 8; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

19. The filibuster, which permits a few U.S. Senators – or even one – to indefinitely postpone or delay a vote in the Senate, is an example of:

- a. minority rights.
- b. limited rights.
- c. majority rights.
- d. basic rights.
- e. civil rights.

*Answer: A; Page Reference: 9; Bloom's Category: Application*

20. A government that places written legal limits on the power of the majority to act is often referred to as a

- a. representative democracy.
- b. constitutional democracy.
- c. limited democracy.
- d. republican democracy.
- e. collaborative democracy.

*Answer: B; Page Reference: 9; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

21. The written language of the U.S. Constitution can only be altered by

- a. holding a referendum and requiring a majority vote of citizens.
- b. the approval of the United Nations, the president, and Congress.
- c. a formal amendment process as stated within the document.
- d. writing a totally new constitution that includes the desired changes.
- e. the approval of all the state legislatures.

*Answer: C; Page Reference: 9; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

22. The principle that holds that the powers of government should be limited and embodied in a basic written law is referred to as

- a. liberty.
- b. the social contract.
- c. majority rule.
- d. constitutionalism.
- e. equality.

*Answer: D; Page Reference: 9; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

23. The Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments grant important rights to people who are accused of having committed crimes. These rights are examples of

- a. democratic rules.
- b. majority rules.
- c. civil liberties.
- d. civil rights.
- e. social contracts.

*Answer: C; Page Reference: 10 Bloom's Categories: Knowledge*

24. According to the text, free elections:
- a. force citizens to express their preferences for public policy.
  - b. ensure that public officials are responsive to the desires of minorities.
  - c. give citizens a chance to select policy-making officials.
  - d. encourage violence as a means of replacing leaders.
  - e. allow political candidates to raise unlimited amount of money.

*Answer: C; Page Reference: 10; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

25. Elections for members of the House of Representatives are held every
- a. two years.
  - b. three years.
  - c. four years.
  - d. six years.
  - e. year.

*Answer: A; Page Reference: 10; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

26. In the U.S. Constitution, freedom of speech is protected under the
- a. First Amendment.
  - b. Fifth Amendment.
  - c. Fourteenth Amendment.
  - d. Twenty-first Amendment.
  - e. Third Amendment.

*Answer: A; Page Reference: 11; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

27. What type of equality did Thomas Jefferson stress in the Declaration of Independence?
- a. religious equality
  - b. moral equality
  - c. political equality
  - d. economic equality
  - e. racial equality.

*Answer: B; Page Reference: 12; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

28. Jefferson's concept of equality did NOT apply to
- a. black slaves or women.
  - b. people who did not own land.
  - c. individuals who were born with few talents.
  - d. citizens who practiced different religions than his.
  - e. citizens of different colonies.

*Answer: A; Page Reference: 12; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

29. What basic principle of American democracy has been a source of conflict since the nation's founding?
- a. equality
  - b. private property
  - c. limited government
  - d. majority rule
  - e. universal education.

*Answer: A; Page Reference: 11-12; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

30. According to the text, who was an early advocate of public education, defending the cost of such a system on the basis that it would instill the value of democracy?
- a. John Locke
  - b. James Madison
  - c. Baron Montesquieu
  - d. Thomas Jefferson
  - e. David Hume

*Answer: D; Page Reference: 13; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

31. The Census Bureau estimates that the American population will
- a. decline suddenly after 2075.
  - b. hit over 500 million by 2025.
  - c. jump to a billion by 2100.
  - d. reach about 300 million by 2010.
  - e. decline sharply beginning in 2020.

*Answer: D; Page Reference: 13; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

32. What two regions of the United States have recently had the largest increase in population?
- a. the Northeast and the West
  - b. the South and the Midwest
  - c. the West and the South
  - d. the Midwest and the West
  - e. the Northeast and the Midwest

*Answer: C; Page Reference: 13; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

33. According to the U.S. Census, what is the largest minority group within the U.S. population today?
- a. Asian Americans
  - b. Hispanics or Latinos
  - c. African Americans
  - d. American Indians
  - e. Eastern European immigrants

*Answer: B; Page Reference: 15; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

34. Diversity poses challenges to a democracy as it leads to wide differences of opinion thereby making it difficult to
- a. survey public opinion.
  - b. propose solutions to political problems affecting the elites.
  - c. acquire support for minority candidates.
  - d. obtain agreement on proposed solutions to political problems.
  - e. win elections.

*Answer: D; Page Reference: 15; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

### **True or False**

1. Political power is the ability to influence the political behavior of others.  
*Answer: True; Page Reference: 2; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
2. Ordinary people exercise political power through voting or interest group membership.  
*Answer: True; Page Reference: 2; Bloom's Category: Application*

3. The United States is primarily a direct democracy.  
*Answer: False; Page Reference: 4; Bloom's Category: Comprehension*
4. According to German sociologist Max Weber, legitimacy in politics can be derived through the use of force.  
*Answer: False; Page Reference: 3; Bloom's Category: Comprehension*
5. Government and politics are synonymous.  
*Answer: False; Page Reference: 4; Bloom's Category: Comprehension*
6. Natural law is an agreement among members of society in which they accept existing laws and penalties as binding.  
*Answer: False; Page Reference: 6; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
7. If citizens obtain enough signatures on a petition, a vote is then held deciding whether or not an official may continue to hold office. This is known as a recall.  
*Answer: True; Page Reference: 4-5; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
8. The idea of self-government originated with Thomas Jefferson.  
*Answer: False; Page Reference: 6; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
9. One of the rights protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is the right to petition the government.  
*Answer: True; Page Reference: 9-10; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
10. Alexis de Tocqueville claimed that a nation cannot be both ignorant and free.  
*Answer: False; Page Reference: 13; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
11. The total number of poor people in the United States rose sharply between 1996 and 2003.  
*Answer: False; Page Reference: 11-12; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
12. Adopted in 1791, the Bill of Rights sought to protect the individual against abuses of power by the government.  
*Answer: True; Page Reference: 9; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
13. In terms of population, the fastest growing states are in the Northeast.  
*Answer: False; Page Reference: 15; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
14. Majority rule always prevents tyranny.  
*Answer: False; Page Reference: 7-8; Bloom's Category: Analysis*
15. An example of a civil liberty is the freedom to worship or not worship as one chooses.  
*Answer: True; Page Reference: 9; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
16. The United States is referred to as a constitutional democracy, meaning it places written legal limits on the power of the majority to act.  
*Answer: True; Page Reference: 9; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
17. The Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments grant important rights to people who are accused of having committed crimes.  
*Answer: True; Page Reference: 10; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

18. 18-year olds did not get the right to vote until 1919.  
*Answer: False; Page Reference: 10; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
19. Presently, African-Americans are the largest minority group.  
*Answer: False; Page Reference: 15; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
20. Jefferson believed that economic equality is necessary for the existence of a democratic society.  
*Answer: False; Page Reference: 12; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*

### **Essay**

1. What might Locke and Tocqueville say about American government and politics today? Where might they agree and disagree?  
*Page Reference: 1, 6-9; Bloom's Category: Application*
2. Assess social contract theory as the basis for government. In what ways is the theory reflected in the structure of the U.S. government?  
*Page Reference: 6-7; Bloom's Category: Comprehension*
3. Which of the "Bases of Democracy" (i.e., self-government, majority rule, limited government) is most important? Support your choice by explaining why you selected this "base of democracy."; Page Reference: 6-13; Bloom's Category: Analysis
4. Compare and contrast Weber's three sources of legitimacy. Which do you think is the most important in contemporary democratic political systems? Why?  
*Page Reference: 3; Bloom's Category: Analysis*
5. According to Volkomer, "Diversity creates special problems for a democracy." Assess Volkomer's assertion with reference to the contemporary demographic shifts taking place in the United States today. Is Volkomer correct in his assertion? Why or why not?  
*Page Reference: 13-15; Bloom's Category: Application*