

CHAPTER 1: Introduction: The Citizen and the Government

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, President George W. Bush oversaw the creation of the Department of:
 - a. Veterans Affairs
 - b. Homeland Security
 - c. Education
 - d. Health and Human Services
 - e. Treasury

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: p. 4 TOP: what government does
MSC: Factual

2. The existence of slavery in the United States is a good example of how:
 - a. American values are not always reflected in practice
 - b. Americans do not value liberty
 - c. European ideals have influenced American political culture
 - d. political needs are often placed above economic needs
 - e. liberty requires popular sovereignty

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: p. 5 | p. 15 TOP: political culture
MSC: Conceptual

3. Today, the federal government is:
 - a. nonexistent in the lives of most Americans
 - b. a small institution that enacts a small number of programs touching on very few aspects of American life
 - c. an enormous institution that enacts a large number of programs touching on nearly every aspect of American life
 - d. an enormous institution that enacts a small number of programs touching on very few aspects of American life
 - e. an enormous institution that is legally banned from regulating economic activities

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: p. 6 TOP: what government does
MSC: Conceptual

4. In general, Americans' trust in their government has _____ since the 1960's.
 - a. remained stable
 - b. risen slightly
 - c. risen sharply
 - d. fallen slightly
 - e. fallen sharply

ANS: E DIF: Easy REF: p. 6 TOP: trust
MSC: Factual

5. The belief that you can influence how your government acts is called:
 - a. political efficacy
 - b. saliency

- c. popular sovereignty
- d. autocracy
- e. oligarchy

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: p. 6 TOP: political efficacy
 MSC: Factual

6. Which of the following is NOT an accurate statement about the consequences of declining trust in government?
- a. Distrust threatens the government's ability to attract good workers to the public sector.
 - b. Distrust makes people less willing to pay the taxes necessary for public activities.
 - c. Distrust motivates people to participate in politics through voting, volunteering for political campaigns, and running for office.
 - d. Distrust weakens the government's ability to help people in times of crisis.
 - e. Distrust weakens the government's ability to defend our national interest in the world economy.

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: p. 8 TOP: trust
 MSC: Conceptual

7. Which of the following is NOT a reason for the declining levels of trust in the United States in recent years?
- a. revelations about the faulty information that led up to the war in Iraq
 - b. the government's inability to get the economy moving following the recession of 2008
 - c. an increase in the knowledge of how government operates
 - d. the bitter congressional battle over raising the national debt limit in 2011
 - e. ongoing concern about the war in Iraq during the Bush administration

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: pp. 8–9 TOP: political efficacy
 MSC: Conceptual

8. How is a decline in political efficacy likely to matter for the health of American democracy?
- a. It is likely to lead to an increase in political participation and a renewed interest in political life.
 - b. It is likely to lead to a decline in political participation and a withdrawal from political life.
 - c. It is likely to lead to less dishonesty by elected representatives.
 - d. It is likely to lead to more initiatives and ballot referenda.
 - e. It is likely to lead to a stronger belief in the values of liberty and equality.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: pp. 8–9 TOP: political efficacy
 MSC: Conceptual

9. The first prerequisite to increasing political efficacy is:
- a. increasing political knowledge
 - b. decreasing political knowledge
 - c. reducing political participation
 - d. reducing trust in government
 - e. reducing popular sovereignty

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: pp. 8–9 TOP: political efficacy
 MSC: Applied

10. Political apathy among Americans hurts which core political value the most?

- a. democracy
- b. freedom of religion
- c. economic liberty
- d. equality of opportunity
- e. equality of outcome

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: pp. 8–9 TOP: political efficacy
MSC: Applied

11. To the Ancient Greeks, citizenship meant:

- a. voting
- b. holding office
- c. military service
- d. paying taxes
- e. participating in public affairs

ANS: E DIF: Moderate REF: p. 9 TOP: citizenship
MSC: Factual

12. In order to be a good citizen, it is most critical to possess:

- a. powerful friends
- b. money
- c. political knowledge
- d. strongly held convictions
- e. a college degree

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: pp. 9–10 TOP: citizenship
MSC: Conceptual

13. Survey data shows that the level of Americans' political knowledge is:

- a. uniformly high
- b. low and spotty
- c. high regarding local political figures but low regarding governmental processes
- d. high concerning current events but low concerning history
- e. high regarding governmental processes but low concerning national political figures

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: p. 10 TOP: political knowledge
MSC: Factual

14. Government can best be defined as:

- a. the institutions and procedures by which a territory and its people are ruled
- b. the set of political principles and values that guide political life
- c. the legalized theft of others' property
- d. the invisible hand that turns private interests into public goods
- e. the shared set of values, beliefs, and attitudes that people have about politics

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: p. 10 TOP: forms of government
MSC: Factual

15. A government that is not constrained by legal limits and also seeks to eliminate those organized social groups that might challenge or limit their authority is known as:

- a. oligarchic
- b. authoritarian
- c. totalitarian
- d. democratic
- e. republican

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: p. 10 TOP: forms of government
MSC: Factual

16. The willingness to be restrained by the power of social institutions, but not political or legal institutions, is a hallmark of a(n) _____ regime.

- a. totalitarian
- b. authoritarian
- c. democratic
- d. oligarchic
- e. monarchic

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: p. 10 TOP: forms of government
MSC: Factual

17. Which of the following is NOT an example of a totalitarian regime?

- a. pre–World War II Italy
- b. pre–World War II Japan
- c. Nazi Germany
- d. the Soviet Union under Stalin
- e. the United Kingdom

ANS: E DIF: Easy REF: p. 10 TOP: forms of government
MSC: Factual

18. Before the eighteenth century:

- a. governments were primarily democratic
- b. totalitarian rule was common
- c. governments rarely sought the support of their people
- d. most governments were based on respect for the rule of law
- e. autocracies were extremely rare

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: p. 12 TOP: forms of government
MSC: Factual

19. Of the nearly 200 governments in the world, what is the estimate of the number of actual constitutional democracies?

- a. 20
- b. 75
- c. 87
- d. 110
- e. 150

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: p. 12 TOP: forms of government
MSC: Factual

20. The demand that there be no taxation without representation is a good example of what political reform of the eighteenth century?
- a. the decline of popular influence on government
 - b. more popular influence on government
 - c. the decline in citizenship
 - d. the spread of autocracy
 - e. greater attention to the economic effects of politics

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: p. 12 TOP: forms of government
MSC: Factual

21. The key group in Europe that pushed for limited government was:
- a. the bourgeoisie
 - b. the idiots
 - c. the citizens
 - d. the poor
 - e. the peasantry

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: p. 12 TOP: forms of government
MSC: Factual

22. The bourgeoisie sought to change which of the following institutions into instruments of political participation?
- a. monarchies
 - b. universities
 - c. independent judiciaries
 - d. newspapers
 - e. parliaments

ANS: E DIF: Moderate REF: p. 12 TOP: forms of government
MSC: Factual

23. What major changes in Western government led to the establishment of constitutional government?
- a. legal limits on government and the right of more people to vote
 - b. the right of revolution and the spread of socialism
 - c. debt relief for the poor and the right of citizens to hold office
 - d. the colonialism of the New World and the right of revolution
 - e. the growth in ethnic and religious diversity

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: p. 12 TOP: forms of government
MSC: Factual

24. Who described politics as “who gets what, when, and how”?
- a. James Madison
 - b. Abraham Lincoln
 - c. Harold Lasswell
 - d. Franklin Roosevelt
 - e. John Locke

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: p. 13 TOP: participation
MSC: Factual

25. According to the text, what is the goal of politics?
- a. to have a say in a government's leadership, organization, and policies
 - b. to get as much power as possible in order to serve one's own interests
 - c. to construct a perfect constitutional order
 - d. to construct a political system that is conducive to economic growth
 - e. to construct a political system that provides as many people as possible with the chance to participate

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: p. 13 TOP: participation
MSC: Factual

26. Having some share or say in the composition of a government's leadership, how it is organized, or what its policies are going to be is called:
- a. government
 - b. power
 - c. autocracy
 - d. federalism
 - e. constitutionalism

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: p. 13 TOP: participation
MSC: Factual

27. Politics can be defined as:
- a. conflicts over the character, membership, and policies of any organization to which people belong
 - b. the informal, private organizations through which a land and its people are ruled
 - c. a hierarchically structured organization that is designed to distribute labor among several different groups of people
 - d. a line-and-staff organization that is designed to facilitate control over complex social arrangements
 - e. alliances of various interest groups, policy experts, and elected representatives who unite in order to promote a governmental solution to a problem

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: p. 13 TOP: participation
MSC: Factual

28. Direct democracy is best defined as:
- a. a state of continual revolution
 - b. the system that allows people to vote by telephone or over the Internet
 - c. a system that allows citizens to vote directly for laws and policies
 - d. the competition between interest groups for governmental power
 - e. a system that allows citizens to elect representatives who play a significant role in governmental decision making

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: p. 13 TOP: participation
MSC: Factual

29. A representative democracy is a system of government that:
- a. allows citizens to vote directly on laws and policies
 - b. allows citizens to make, veto, or judge statutes personally
 - c. gives citizens a regular opportunity to elect top government officials
 - d. gives citizens the ability to make important military decisions directly

- e. legally requires government officials to vote for policies that a majority of their constituents prefer

ANS: C

DIF: Easy

REF: p. 14

TOP: participation

MSC: Factual

30. Which of the following is an example of the process of direct democracy?
- a. A group of citizens collecting signatures so that the public can vote on whether to enact a law guaranteeing minimum amounts of living space for pregnant pigs.
 - b. A citizen calling her representative to complain about potholes on local roads.
 - c. A citizen who was never active in politics choosing to run for Congress.
 - d. A group of citizens coming together to debate the pros and cons of higher taxes.
 - e. A citizen deciding to contribute money to his preferred presidential candidate.

ANS: A

DIF: Moderate

REF: p. 14

TOP: forms of government

MSC: Applied

31. Which of the following is an instrument of direct democracy?
- a. the electoral college
 - b. litigation
 - c. initiatives
 - d. the House of Representatives
 - e. the Senate

ANS: C

DIF: Moderate

REF: p. 14

TOP: participation

MSC: Factual

32. At the time of the Founding, approximately _____ percent of non-Native American inhabitants of the thirteen states were of European ancestry.
- a. 25
 - b. 50
 - c. 65
 - d. 80
 - e. 98

ANS: D

DIF: Easy

REF: p. 14

TOP: immigration

MSC: Factual

33. Which of the following statements best describes naturalization laws in the United States prior to 1870?
- a. All free people could become naturalized citizens after living in the country for at least five years.
 - b. All free people could become naturalized citizens after living in the country for at least ten years.
 - c. Only free whites could become naturalized citizens.
 - d. Only freed black slaves could become naturalized citizens.
 - e. Only Native Americans could become naturalized citizens.

ANS: C

DIF: Moderate

REF: pp. 14–15

TOP: race

MSC: Factual

34. Which of the following statements about the changes in American society between 1900 and 2010 is NOT true?
- a. There has been a decline in the percentage of Americans who identify themselves as Protestants.
 - b. The average age of Americans has fallen.
 - c. There has been an increase in the percentage of Americans who live in urban areas.
 - d. The percentage of whites has decreased.
 - e. There has been an increase in the percentage of Americans who identify as multiracial.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: pp. 14–18 TOP: race
MSC: Factual

35. Which of the following statements about the United States Census is most accurate?
- a. The census has always counted every person living within the boundaries of the United States regardless of race or ethnicity.
 - b. The census has always categorized people in one of five racial groups: Native Americans, Hispanics, blacks, Asians, and whites.
 - c. The census has never categorized people by race or ethnicity.
 - d. Who is counted by the census and how they are categorized by race and ethnicity has changed significantly throughout American history.
 - e. The current census does not allow people to identify themselves as a member of more than one racial group.

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: pp. 14–18 TOP: race
MSC: Conceptual

36. The National Origins quota system:
- a. allowed a large quota of new immigrants from northern European countries but only a small quota of new immigrants from eastern and southern European countries
 - b. allowed only a small quota of new immigrants from northern European countries but a large quota of immigrants from eastern and southern European countries
 - c. allowed the same quota of new immigrants from every country around the world
 - d. abolished the quota system for immigrants from certain countries
 - e. outlawed all immigration from European countries

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: p. 15 TOP: immigration
MSC: Factual

37. How does the United States Constitution create a system that underrepresents urban areas?
- a. It provides representation based on population in the House of Representatives.
 - b. It provides each state with two senators regardless of population.
 - c. It provides for a system of direct democracy at the federal level.
 - d. It requires the federal government to spend the same amount of money in rural and urban areas of the country.
 - e. It requires that the federal government impose higher taxes on people living in urban areas of the country.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: p. 18 TOP: race
MSC: Applied

38. Throughout American history, the concept of liberty has been linked to:
- a. the idea of privacy

- b. the idea of limited government
- c. the idea of unlimited government
- d. the idea of economic equality
- e. the Articles of Confederation

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: p. 19 TOP: political culture
MSC: Factual

39. According to the text, what were the essential documents of the American Founding?
- a. the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution
 - b. the Declaration of Independence and the Magna Carta
 - c. the Constitution and the Magna Carta
 - d. the Constitution and the Mayflower Compact
 - e. the Mayflower Compact and the Magna Carta

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: p. 19 TOP: political culture
MSC: Factual

40. What are the three core values in American politics?
- a. liberty, equality, and democracy
 - b. democracy, patriotism, and the rule of law
 - c. equality, oligarchy, and free enterprise
 - d. anarchy, equality, and patriotism
 - e. socialism, oligarchy, and liberty

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: p. 19 TOP: political culture
MSC: Conceptual

41. The Bill of Rights was designed to protect:
- a. equality
 - b. liberty
 - c. democracy
 - d. capitalism
 - e. socialism

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: p. 19 TOP: political culture
MSC: Applied

42. The Bill of Rights is:
- a. the first ten amendments to the Constitution
 - b. the first constitution the Founders wrote
 - c. the charter of freedom established by the English lords against the king
 - d. the Fourteenth Amendment
 - e. the first governing document of Plymouth Colony

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: p. 19 TOP: political culture
MSC: Factual

43. Which of the following statements best describes how Americans currently feel about laissez-faire capitalism?
- a. Americans strongly support capitalism and economic liberty and reject all restrictions on economic freedom.

- b. Americans strongly support capitalism and economic liberty but also endorse policies that are designed to guarantee economic equality among all citizens.
- c. Americans strongly support capitalism and economic liberty but also endorse some restrictions on economic freedoms to protect the public.
- d. Americans strongly oppose capitalism and economic liberty and endorse policies that are designed to guarantee economic equality among all citizens.
- e. Americans strongly oppose capitalism and economic liberty and endorse some restrictions on economic freedoms to protect the public.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: pp. 19–20 TOP: political culture
MSC: Applied

44. In American political culture, economic freedom means:

- a. low inflation
- b. job security
- c. capitalism
- d. the absence of income taxes
- e. a government-controlled stock market

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: pp. 19–20 TOP: political culture
MSC: Conceptual

45. The term *laissez-faire* means:

- a. fair trade
- b. laziness is folly
- c. hard work
- d. leave alone
- e. equal treatment

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: p. 20 TOP: political culture
MSC: Factual

46. The right of each citizen to vote is an example of:

- a. equality of opportunity
- b. equality of result
- c. political equality
- d. educational opportunity
- e. laissez-faire capitalism

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: p. 20 TOP: political culture
MSC: Factual

47. “One person, one vote” reflects the principle of:

- a. political equality
- b. equality of opportunity
- c. majority rule
- d. economic liberty
- e. popular sovereignty

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: p. 20 TOP: political culture
MSC: Factual

48. The fact that the tax code in the United States is more advantageous to wealthy citizens than that of almost any other Western nation supports the claim that:
- Americans strongly reject the ideal of popular sovereignty
 - Americans strongly endorse the ideal of equality of opportunity
 - Americans generally tolerate economic inequality
 - Americans vehemently oppose all forms of inequality
 - Americans believe in majority rule with minority rights

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: pp. 20–21 TOP: political culture
MSC: Conceptual

49. The Constitution’s Preamble, beginning with the words “We the People,” is an illustration of what principle?
- majority rule
 - political equality
 - popular sovereignty
 - minority rights
 - political rights

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: p. 21 TOP: political culture
MSC: Applied

50. Political rights are a protection against:
- pluralism
 - the tyranny of the majority
 - the tyranny of the minority
 - the equality of result
 - socialism

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: p. 21 TOP: political culture
MSC: Applied

51. What is the most important check on majority rule in the United States?
- popular sovereignty
 - pluralism
 - the rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights
 - laissez-faire
 - “one person, one vote”

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: p. 21 TOP: political culture
MSC: Applied

52. Which of the following statements concerning political values in the United States is true?
- American values often conflict with each other in practice.
 - Because of their diversity, Americans do not share a similar set of core political values.
 - The origins of American political values are found in the 1960s.
 - American politics relies on its value neutrality.
 - A belief in economic equality is the oldest and most strongly held American value.

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: p. 21 TOP: political culture
MSC: Conceptual

53. The belief that political authority should rest with the people themselves is called:
- equality of opportunity
 - political equality
 - pluralism
 - popular sovereignty
 - federalism

ANS: D

DIF: Easy

REF: p. 21

TOP: political culture

MSC: Factual

TRUE/FALSE

1. Over the past several decades, the public's belief that elected officials care what people like them think has declined.

ANS: T

REF: p. 8

2. The most important thing for a citizen to possess is political knowledge.

ANS: T

REF: pp. 9–10

3. Constitutional democracies were often found throughout ancient Greece.

ANS: F

REF: p. 9 | p. 12

4. Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union are both examples of autocracies.

ANS: F

REF: p. 10

5. The term “bourgeoisie” is associated with a person from the lowest social classes.

ANS: F

REF: p. 12

6. The referendum is a form of direct democracy.

ANS: T

REF: p. 14

7. The principle of “one person, one vote” summarizes the idea of liberty.

ANS: F

REF: p. 20

8. The United States has never accepted the principle of popular sovereignty.

ANS: F

REF: p. 21

9. Many of the most critical dilemmas of American politics involve conflicts over the way commonly held values are put into practice.

ANS: T

REF: p. 21

ESSAY

1. Political analysts have identified a decline in the trust citizens put in their government. Why is trust such an important element in politics? In what ways is it helpful for levels of trust to be high? What are some of the causes of the decline in trust? How might trust be regained?

ANS:

Answers will vary.

2. What does it mean to be a citizen? How have American ideals of citizenship been influenced by the ancient Greeks? Why is political knowledge so vital for citizenship, and what are the different types of political knowledge?

ANS:

Answers will vary.

3. Write an essay describing some of the different types of government. How would you define and distinguish them? What are the specific characteristics of representative democracy?

ANS:

Answers will vary.

4. While most Americans share similar political values, how they interpret those values in practice often differs radically. Describe some of the conflicts that arise in politics when broadly defined values are implemented in governmental policies. What are some of the controversies that have arisen over the meaning of equality? Over the meaning of liberty?

ANS:

Answers will vary.