



AP GOVERNMENT TEST CHAPTER 1
An Introduction to Government



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

- 1) Political knowledge
 - A) is not that important in a democracy.
 - B) is greater among youth than the elderly.
 - C) is generally high in the United States.
 - D) fosters political tolerance.
 - E) fosters cynicism about the government.

- 2) Government is defined as the
 - A) executive branch and its agencies.
 - B) institutions through which public policies are made for society.
 - C) agency that implements policies that have been enacted by other institutions of the political system.
 - D) body that is concerned with economic problems while leaving social problems to other institutions of society.
 - E) organization that brings problems to the attention of public officials.

- 3) The policymaking institutions of the American national government include all of the following EXCEPT
 - A) Congress.
 - B) the Supreme Court.
 - C) political parties.
 - D) the Presidency.
 - E) the Senate.

- 4) A public good is defined as
 - A) something that the government provides at a loss rather than a profit.
 - B) something in which any member of society can share.
 - C) a public policy that is good for the nation as a whole.
 - D) something provided by the government that cannot be provided by the private sector.
 - E) a choice that government makes in response to a political issue.

- 5) Single-issue groups
- A) usually run their own candidates for public office.
 - B) are rapidly losing prominence in American politics.
 - C) are highly regarded by political scientists for their contributions to democracy.
 - D) help facilitate the construction of a cohesive national public policy.
 - E) have little sympathy for compromising.
- 6) A set of institutions and activities that link together government, politics, and public policy is
- A) political decision making.
 - B) a linkage institution.
 - C) a policy agenda.
 - D) a policymaking system.
 - E) a government.
- 7) A choice that government makes in response to some issue on its agenda is called
- A) a law.
 - B) stimulus-response.
 - C) public policy.
 - D) rational choice theory.
 - E) selective selection.
- 8) The effects a policy has on people and problems are called
- A) policy implementation.
 - B) policy agenda.
 - C) policy issues.
 - D) policy outputs.
 - E) policy impacts.
- 9) Two of the most important principles of democratic theory are majority rule and
- A) Roberts' Rules of Order.
 - B) judicial review.
 - C) minority rights.
 - D) majority restraint.
 - E) the plurality rule.

- 10) Pluralist theory contends that in the United States
- A) too many influential groups cripple government's ability to govern.
 - B) many groups vie for power with no one set of groups dominating.
 - C) the many members of Congress dominate a singular official such as the President.
 - D) society is governed solely by an upper-class elite.
 - E) because most citizens fail to pay attention to serious issues, government has become an elite institution.
- 11) Representation refers to
- A) the protection of minority rights in a pluralist system.
 - B) electing office holders in fair and free elections.
 - C) the correspondence between the few leaders and the many followers in a democracy.
 - D) majority rule.
 - E) all policy views being included in political debate.
- 12) Which of the following is NOT a contemporary theory of democracy?
- A) pluralism
 - B) hyperpluralism
 - C) democratic centralism
 - D) class theory
 - E) elite theory
- 13) According to hyperpluralists, the increasing caseloads of federal and state courts demonstrate
- A) that groups have lost confidence in Congress.
 - B) the high status of attorneys in the United States.
 - C) the inability to control the bureaucracy in implementing policy.
 - D) the expanding scope of government in the United States.
 - E) groups being more likely to appeal to different institutions in order to gain policy benefits.
- 14) People who worry about PACs are most especially concerned about
- A) too much democracy being dangerous to social stability.
 - B) the close connection between money and politics.
 - C) the decline in American voter turnout.
 - D) single-issue voters.
 - E) the role Party Affairs Councils play in elections.

- 15) The ability of groups to prevent the government from taking actions adverse to their interests leads to what the text calls
- A) Dahl's "ideal democratic process."
 - B) policy gridlock.
 - C) enlightened understanding.
 - D) elite dominance.
 - E) budget deficits.
- 16) The largest item in the U.S. government budget, consuming more than one-fifth of spending, is
- A) national defense.
 - B) foreign aid.
 - C) education spending.
 - D) welfare for the poor.
 - E) Social Security payments.
- 17) Escalating campaign costs are a challenge to democracy because
- A) they reflect diverse interests.
 - B) only the wealthy can enter into political campaigns.
 - C) they are associated with more technical policies.
 - D) it is believed that PAC contributions affect the way members of Congress vote on some issues.
 - E) they lead to policy gridlock.
- 18) The writers of the U.S. Constitution
- A) were interested in promoting equality above all else.
 - B) believed in majority rule.
 - C) patterned our government after Britain's except for the King.
 - D) sought to establish the most democratic system they could.
 - E) were distrustful of democracy.
- 19) Political issues
- A) are always acted upon by the government.
 - B) arise when people disagree about a problem or public policy choices made to combat a problem.
 - C) are limited in number in the United States.
 - D) usually emerge out of group consensus on a problem.
 - E) all of the above

- 20) When compared to the rest of the world, America has a relatively low
- A) frequency of elections.
 - B) number of candidates who seek office.
 - C) number of offices up for election.
 - D) voter turnout in elections.
 - E) all of the above
- 21) One advantage of the Internet for democracy is that
- A) it will provide more accurate information than traditional news sources.
 - B) it will provide more political information to the elderly.
 - C) it makes it easier for citizens to communicate directly with government.
 - D) it makes it easy to avoid political topics.
 - E) it provides less information than newspapers.
- 22) Governments in the modern world, whether democratic or not, are similar in doing all of the following EXCEPT
- A) providing public services.
 - B) providing public goods.
 - C) collecting taxes.
 - D) maintaining a national defense.
 - E) protecting citizens' civil liberties.
- 23) A means of selecting policymakers and/or organizing government so that policy represents and responds to the public's preferences is
- A) government.
 - B) politics.
 - C) public administration.
 - D) democracy.
 - E) all of the above
- 24) The most fundamental element of democratic theory is
- A) access to information.
 - B) equality.
 - C) majority rule.
 - D) government efficiency.
 - E) power to the people!

- 25) American government is viewed most positively by the
- A) hyperpluralist theory.
 - B) socialist theory.
 - C) elite and class theory.
 - D) positivist philosophy.
 - E) pluralist theory.

Essay Question

The American Governmental system is a delicate balance between the Republic and a democratic society. Explain the delicate balance.

- Hints:
- Show an understanding of the puzzle
- Make sure you clearly define both arenas
- Make sure you identify the problem and the elements of the problem
- Make sure you discuss possible solution
- Your response can be in bullet form.