

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
- has always been extremely low.
 - immediately declined as a result of the September 11 terrorist attacks.
 - immediately rose following the September 11 terrorist attacks but subsequently declined.
 - has never been higher than it is today.
 - cannot be accurately measured

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

2. Alexis de Tocqueville was
- a British philosopher who argued against democracy.
 - a French aristocrat who visited America in the 1830s.
 - a Spanish political thinker who wrote a book on government in the twentieth century.
 - an American senator who was not fully trusted by the voters.
 - 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
- who gets the support of elites.
 - who acquires the most political power in a community.
 - who gets what, based on how much they contribute to campaigns.
 - who gets what, when, and how.
 - 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?
- charisma
 - tradition
 - force
 - legality
 - none of the above

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

5. Which of the following BEST defines democracy?
- Power is held by a small group of people.
 - Governmental powers are held by a single person or group.
 - Power is shared by all citizens.
 - Government is unnecessary.
 - 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?
- charisma
 - tradition
 - force
 - legality
 - wealth

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

7. *Government* and *politics* are not the same because *government* refers to
- the institutions and processes by which rules are made and enforced for all members of society.
 - the institutions that govern and how these institutions work in concert.
 - the institutions that govern and how citizens determine which ones can enforce the rules.
 - the rules made by citizens and enforced by representatives.
 - 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?
- Labor unions and corporations do not have elected officials.
 - Labor unions and corporations cannot enforce rules for all of society.
 - Labor unions and corporations cannot create any legitimate rules.
 - Labor unions and corporations rarely involve themselves in politics.
 - 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
- direct democracy.
 - constitutional democracy.
 - representative democracy.
 - republican democracy.
 - 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
- supposition.
 - referendum.
 - recall.
 - proposal.
 - 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
- referendum.
 - initiative.
 - recall.
 - proposition.
 - 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:
- force citizens to express their preferences for public policy.
 - ensure that public officials are responsive to the desires of minorities.
 - give citizens a chance to select policy-making officials.
 - encourage violence as a means of replacing leaders.
 - 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
- two years.
 - three years.
 - four years.
 - six years.
 - year.
- Answer: A; Page Reference: 10; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
26. In the U.S. Constitution, freedom of speech is protected under the
- First Amendment.
 - Fifth Amendment.
 - Fourteenth Amendment.
 - Twenty-first Amendment.
 - 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?
- religious equality
 - moral equality
 - political equality
 - economic equality
 - racial equality.
- Answer: B; Page Reference: 12; Bloom's Category: Knowledge*
28. Jefferson's concept of equality did NOT apply to
- black slaves or women.
 - people who did not own land.
 - individuals who were born with few talents.
 - citizens who practiced different religions than his.
 - 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?
- equality
 - private property
 - limited government
 - majority rule
 - 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?
- John Locke
 - James Madison
 - Baron Montesquieu
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - David Hume

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

31. The Census Bureau estimates that the American population will
- decline suddenly after 2075.
 - hit over 500 million by 2025.
 - jump to a billion by 2100.
 - reach about 300 million by 2010.
 - 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?
- the Northeast and the West
 - the South and the Midwest
 - the West and the South
 - the Midwest and the West
 - 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?
- Asian Americans
 - Hispanics or Latinos
 - African Americans
 - American Indians
 - 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
- survey public opinion.
 - propose solutions to political problems affecting the elites.
 - acquire support for minority candidates.
 - obtain agreement on proposed solutions to political problems.
 - win elections.

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

True or False

- Political power is the ability to influence the political behavior of others.
Answer: True; Page Reference: 2; Bloom's Category: Knowledge
- 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