

□ Multiple-Choice Questions

1. In the United States, the national government assumes major responsibility for _____.

- A. determining marriage laws
- B. funding recovery efforts after natural disasters
- C. regulating driving
- D. maintaining public highway systems
- E. formulating divorce laws

Answer: B

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A-head: The Role of State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

2. In the United States, the national government exercises exclusive authority over matters pertaining to _____.

- A. health care coverage
- B. public highway systems
- C. social services
- D. marriage laws
- E. war and peace

Answer: E

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A-head: The Role of State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

3. In the United States, state governments are responsible for _____.

- A. fighting inflation
- B. issues relating to international trade and relations
- C. deciding what constitutes criminal behavior
- D. Medicare
- E. food and nutritional assistance

Answer: C

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A-head: The Role of State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

4. What state-administered federal program is responsible for providing health care coverage for poor Americans?

- A. Medicare
- B. Social Security
- C. Medicaid
- D. Aid to Families with Dependent Children
- E. Health care coverage for poor Americans is not provided through a federal program

Answer: C

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A-head: The Role of State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

5. _____ is the total output of all economic activity in the nation, including goods and services.

- A. Net national product
- B. Gross domestic product

- C. Government spending
- D. Consumer price index
- E. Gross national product

Answer: B

Page Reference: 5

A-head: The Role of State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

6. Which of the following best describes recent trends in state and local government spending as compared to federal government spending over the past 30 years?

- A. State and local government spending has grown, while federal spending has decreased except for federal spending in 2009-2011.
- B. Federal spending has increased, while state and local government spending has decreased.
- C. Both federal spending and state and local spending have increased, especially since the recession in 2009.
- D. Both federal spending and state and local spending have decreased, as Republican tax policies have decreased the federal budget, thereby impacting state and local budgets.
- E. Both federal spending and state and local spending have held steady in recent years; there have been no significant increases or decreases.

Answer: A

Page Reference: 5

A-head: The Role of State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

7. Which of the following is NOT an area in which state and local governments typically determine policy?

- A. how schools are run
- B. defense against foreign threats
- C. where roads and bridges are built
- D. how land is used
- E. what social services are provided and to whom

Answer: B

Page Reference: 5

A-head: The Role of State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Who Governs?

8. Community, business, and other leaders who determine public policy or block changes in policy without themselves necessarily holding office are collectively known as _____.

- A. centralists
- B. lobbyists
- C. opinion leaders
- D. the power elite
- E. decentralists

Answer: D

Page Reference: 7

A-head: Rule by a Few or Rule by the Many?

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

9. _____ refers to the divisions in a community among socioeconomic groups or classes.

- A. Social stratification
- B. Decentralization
- C. Pluralism

- D. Laissez-faire
- E. Gerrymandering

Answer: A

Page Reference: 7

A-head: Rule by a Few or Rule by the Many?

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

10. Pluralism is _____.

- A. a belief and attitude that individuals who form the elite have greater influence or authority than others
- B. a political ideology that supports the rights and power of the people in their struggle against the privileged elite
- C. a theory of government that holds that open, multiple, and competing groups can check the asserted power of any one group
- D. the view that politics and decision-making is limited to the government framework
- E. a system of government in which leaders are not subjected to the test of free elections

Answer: C

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A-head: Rule by a Few or Rule by the Many?

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

11. When a variety of different people are active in different policy areas, it is representative of _____.

- A. elitism
- B. communism
- C. differentialism

- D. traditionalism
- E. pluralism

Answer: E

Page Reference: 8

A-head: Rule by a Few or Rule by the Many?

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

12. Which of the following statements best describes the theory of pluralism?

- A. No matter whom one asks there is general agreement that a small group of people are the power brokers in a community.
- B. Corporate members of a community are active in some way, in different policy areas, and have an equal effect on the community's decisions.
- C. The "powers that be," generally those with a large amount of control over the local economy, are the real power brokers in a community.
- D. A variety of people in a community are active (not just the power elite), and generally different people are active in different policy areas.
- E. A plurality of values, specific to a community, is the underlying source of community power.

Answer: D

Page Reference: 8

A-head: Rule by a Few or Rule by the Many?

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Who Governs?

13. Which of the following statements, if true, supports pluralism?

- A. Representative democracy ensures individuals are all-powerful.
- B. Public policy emerges from competition among groups.
- C. Direct democracy leads to anarchy and the loss of freedom.

- D. The values of respect and tolerance are absent in the present society.
- E. Studies show that the upper socioeconomic groups make up the power elite.

Answer: B

Page Reference: 8

A-head: Rule by a Few or Rule by the Many?

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Analyze it

Topic: Who Governs?

14. Which of the following statements is true about the mobility rate of the population of the United States?

- A. It contributes to political inaction because processes for updating voter registration are complicated.
- B. The people of United States have a low mobility rate.
- C. It increases local political participation since newly arrived residents are enthusiastic about bringing about change.
- D. The United States puts a large number of legal barriers in the way of people who want to move from state to state or within a county.
- E. The process of voter registration becomes easier when moving from state to state than at the county level.

Answer: A

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A-head: Who Are the Constituents?

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

15. Which of the following is NOT an activity of interest groups in the states?

- A. lobbying at state capitols and city halls
- B. educating and organizing voters

- C. supporting political friends
- D. getting members of their group to run for public office
- E. trying to build up the membership of their organizations

Answer: D

Page Reference: 9

A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Apply what you know

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

16. Interest groups _____.

- A. assume major responsibility for funding recovery efforts after natural disasters
- B. educate and organize voters
- C. regulate driving
- D. provide Medicaid
- E. control Social Security

Answer: B

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A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

17. Which statement best describes special-interest groups' power?

- A. The nature of the special-interest group determines whether it is stronger at the state and local level or in Washington, D.C.
- B. Special-interest groups' power is generally stronger in Washington, D.C. than at the local level.
- C. Special-interest groups' power is generally stronger at the state and local level than in Washington, D.C.
- D.C.

D. Thanks to campaign reform laws, the strength of special-interest groups has greatly diminished at both the state and local levels and the federal level.

E. Special-interest groups have never been particularly powerful in U.S. politics, either at the state, local, or federal level.

Answer: C

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A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

18. Which of the following interest groups is present in nearly every state and locality?

A. auto unions

B. association of wine producers

C. tobacco farmers' association

D. association of software professionals

E. public school teachers' union

Answer: E

Page Reference: 10

A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

19. Why are professional associations concerned with public policy?

A. because the states award contracts based on professional associations' lobbying strength and public image

B. because the states provide their licenses and determine the requirements to become licensed

C. because they want to make sure licensing requirements are as liberal as possible in order to increase their numbers and, therefore, their influence

D. because their main priority is to shape public policy, which will make their professions more marketable to potential clients

E. they aren't; professional associations do not involve themselves in government

Answer: B

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A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Apply what you know

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

20. The Beauticians Aid Association, the Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, and the Institute of Dry Cleaning are examples of _____.

A. ethnic fraternal societies

B. regulatory agencies

C. political action committees

D. legislative task forces

E. professional associations

Answer: E

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A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Apply what you know

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

21. Which of the following professionals are NOT typically licensed by the state?

A. doctors

B. lawyers

C. waiters

D. dentists

E. teachers

Answer: C

Page Reference: 10

A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Apply what you know

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

22. Which of the following statements is true of interest groups?

- A. Interest groups assume major responsibility over operating Social Security programs.
- B. When compared to states and local governments, interest groups tend to be more dominant at the national level.
- C. Interest groups tend to have minimal internal divisions.
- D. There are more interest groups and lobbyists in states that have larger economies.
- E. Interest groups manage health care coverage for poor citizens through Medicaid.

Answer: D

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A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

23. Which of the following statements is true of interest groups?

- A. Interest groups are stronger in states where political parties are better organized.
- B. Interest groups are weaker in states where the state government is strong, active, and professional.
- C. Interest groups appear to be weaker in states with traditionalistic political cultures.
- D. Interest groups tend to be stronger in states with individualistic political cultures.
- E. Interest groups are stronger in states where the state government is relatively strong.

Answer: B

Page Reference: 11

A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

24. Interest groups appear to be stronger in states with _____ political cultures.

- A. traditionalistic
- B. anarchical
- C. oligarchic
- D. moralistic
- E. individualistic

Answer: A

Page Reference: 11

A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

25. Which of the following is a direct strategy used by interest groups to exert influence?

- A. print advertisements
- B. email campaigns
- C. contributing to local event
- D. lobbying
- E. letter writing

Answer: D

Page Reference: 11

A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

26. KP Inc. is a software company based in California and is part of the Association of Software Companies (ASC), a local interest group. Which of the activities represents a direct strategy to exert influence?

- A. ASC collects \$10,000 and donates it to the local 10K health marathon.
- B. A representative from the ASC is sent to Washington to convince officials about stricter laws on copyright infringement of software.
- C. KP Inc. organizes a conference on software piracy for all software companies in California.
- D. ASC arranges for an awareness campaign on software piracy through television commercials which is scheduled to be aired during the Super Bowl.
- E. KP Inc. launches a series of print as well as radio advertisements for its new anti-virus software.

Answer: B

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A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Apply what you know

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

27. Which of the following is an example of a direct strategy for influencing state legislators?

- A. television advertisements
- B. radio commercials
- C. petitions
- D. email campaigns
- E. in-house lobbying

Answer: E

Page Reference: 11

A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Apply what you know

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

28. Which of the following is true of lobbying?

- A. It is more stringent at the state and local level than at the federal level.
- B. Monetary contributions are considered as the top lobbying technique.
- C. It is an indirect strategy of exerting influence on state officials.
- D. It involves providing information on specific proposals.
- E. The U.S. federal law prohibits gifts to public employees.

Answer: D

Page Reference: 11

A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

29. Lobbyists have greater influence in state legislatures than in Congress. Which of the following statements, if true, strengthens the argument?

- A. State legislators have smaller professional staff teams and serve shorter terms.
- B. States legislators are more responsive to indirect strategies.
- C. Lobbying regulations are stricter at the state and local level than at the federal level.
- D. State legislators are more informed and tend to have high level of information on specific proposals.
- E. Lobbying is an often neglected public issue.

Answer: A

Page Reference: 11

A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Analyze it

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

30. Who among the following represents an in-house lobbyist?

A. Sally is a retired state official who works at local media company and provides information to local officials on policy issues relating to the media.

B. Sam volunteers at the local school and is part of the “Save Education” group and works to influence local officials on local educational policies.

C. Judy has experience in the state government and is hired by a local waste management company to influence state legislators on environmental laws.

D. David is a member of a local environmental group and works to influence state legislators on waste management issues.

E. Greg is the executive director at a realty company and has specialized information on policy issues regarding land use.

Answer: E

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A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Apply what you know

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

31. How many states now ban lobbyists from contributing to campaigns?

A. 22

B. 13

C. 5

D. 9

E. 50

Answer: C

Page Reference: 13

A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

32. What legislative restriction is often called the “no cup of coffee” rule?
- A. Lobbyists are not allowed to meet with legislators outside legislators’ offices.
 - B. Lobbyists are not allowed to contribute to legislators’ campaigns.
 - C. Lobbyists are not allowed to meet with legislators during a legislative session.
 - D. Lobbyists are not allowed to give state officials gifts exceeding \$3.
 - E. Lobbyists are not allowed to give state officials gifts of any kind.

Answer: E

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A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

33. Which of the following states limits gifts to public employees to no more than \$3 in value?
- A. Texas
 - B. Virginia
 - C. California
 - D. Iowa
 - E. Vermont

Answer: D

Page Reference: 13

A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

34. Four states ban gifts of any sort to state officials. This is sometimes called the “_____” rule.
- A. anti-incumbent
 - B. no cup of coffee

- C. corruption prevention
- D. full disclosure
- E. public transparency

Answer: B

Page Reference: 13

A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

35. In which government do U.S. citizens usually have the most trust?

- A. foreign governments
- B. local governments
- C. national government
- D. international governments
- E. state governments

Answer: B

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A-head: Participation Patterns in Local Government

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

36. Which of the following statements is true of the participation patterns of citizens of United States in the local government?

- A. Citizens take less interest in and vote less often in the national government than in their local governments.
- B. Citizens are less informed about the national government than about their local government.
- C. Local governments are often preoccupied with controversial issues which drive citizens away from participating or taking interest in the matter.

D. In local politics, rather than spend time and address local political issues, citizens tend to move to another community.

E. The trust in state and local government has increased dramatically since 2002.

Answer: D

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A-head: Participation Patterns in Local Government

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

37. Citizen opposition to having a drug treatment clinic or a prison in their neighborhood is an example of _____.

A. a total lack of empathy

B. a political action committee

C. the “Not In My Back Yard!” response

D. political propaganda

E. elitism

Answer: C

Page Reference: 14

A-head: Participation Patterns in Local Government

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Apply what you know

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

38. A NIMBY reaction is most likely to be triggered in a community when it is announced that _____.

A. federal funds have been procured to build a new high school

B. an elected official has been accused of scandalous behavior

C. a local election has no clear winner and a runoff will result

D. a proposed new airport will not be built after all

E. a new landfill will be built in the area

Answer: E

Page Reference: 14

A-head: Participation Patterns in Local Government

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Apply what you know

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

39. What is meant by redistribution of resources?

A. shifting wealth from one segment of the population to another, generally from rich to poor

B. shifting the tax burden from individuals to corporations

C. shifting the source of taxes from income to purchases

D. attempting to equalize the percentage of taxes paid by each individual, taking into account both income and sales taxes

E. shifting the tax burden from corporations to individuals

Answer: A

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A-head: Participation Patterns in Local Government

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

40. At what level of government are redistributive policies, which focus on redistributing resources to needier citizens, least likely to be found?

A. the local level

B. the state level

C. the federal level

D. about equally at the local and federal level

E. about equally at all levels of government

Answer: A

Page Reference: 14

A-head: Participation Patterns in Local Government

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

41. Local government officials tend to see the redistribution of resources as the responsibility of _____.

- A. county fiscal courts
- B. city councils
- C. charitable organizations
- D. the state and/or national government
- E. lobbyists

Answer: D

Page Reference: 14

A-head: Participation Patterns in Local Government

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

42. Governmental tax and social programs that shift wealth or benefits from one segment of the population to another are known as _____.

- A. lobbyist policies
- B. regulatory policies
- C. redistributive policies
- D. monetary policies
- E. communist policies

Answer: C

Page Reference: 14

A-head: Participation Patterns in Local Government

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

43. Which of the following is reason for the relative lack of public interest in local government?

- A. Cities are highly involved in redistributive politics.
- B. Most city officials wish to alter the status quo.
- C. Local governments are more often guided by interest group pressure than by professional and technical advice.
- D. Local governments are mostly concerned with seemingly noncontroversial, routine issues.
- E. Local governments do not make any decisions that have any impact on individuals' lives.

Answer: D

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A-head: Participation Patterns in Local Government

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Analyze it

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

44. Which of the following events is most likely to result in large voter turnout at the local level?

- A. a mayoral election
- B. a city council or commissioner election
- C. a school board election
- D. a gubernatorial election
- E. a police commissioner election

Answer: D

Page Reference: 14

A-head: The Role of Local Media

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Apply what you know

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

45. Which of the following is NOT a reason for limited media coverage of local government?

- A. Many cities have limited media outlets, for example, only a single weekly newspaper.
- B. Local government has little effect on the daily lives of citizens.
- C. Citizens tend to be more interested in state and national government.
- D. Many reporters assigned to local politics are inexperienced.
- E. Citizens tend to be more interested in local sports.

Answer: B

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A-head: The Role of Local Media

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

46. Which of the following is least likely to be found in a small community newspaper?

- A. coverage of the local high school football team's big game
- B. coverage of the most recent city council meeting
- C. coverage of a congressional debate over tax increases
- D. coverage of a new manufacturing plant opening
- E. coverage of a congressional election

Answer: B

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A-head: The Role of Local Media

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

47. Lack of citizen interest in, and participation in, local politics is often referred to as _____.

- A. gerrymandering

- B. grassroots apathy
- C. elitism
- D. disillusionment
- E. rational abstention

Answer: B

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A-head: Grassroots Apathy

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

48. Compared to state and national elections, local elections _____.

- A. tend to have lower levels of turnout
- B. occur less frequently
- C. are much more competitive
- D. generate greater levels of citizen interest
- E. typically have higher rates of citizen participation

Answer: A

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A-head: Grassroots Apathy

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

49. Which of the following factors contributes to grassroots apathy?

- A. local elections held at the same time as national elections
- B. voter empathy toward local politics
- C. the lack of competition that exists when local candidates in an election run unopposed
- D. intense local issues
- E. local governments holding partisan rather than nonpartisan elections

Answer: C

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A-head: Grassroots Apathy

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

50. Which of the following is a reason for lower voter turnout in local elections than in state or national elections?

- A. greater citizen interest in local politics
- B. low levels of competition in local elections
- C. high name recognition for all candidates in local elections
- D. local elections being held at the same time as presidential elections
- E. higher levels of campaign spending for local elections

Answer: B

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A-head: Grassroots Apathy

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

51. People tend to become politically active when _____.

- A. no competition exists for some of the races on a particular ballot
- B. the government holds nonpartisan elections
- C. issues become more intense and seem to directly affect them
- D. the media does not cover politics
- E. the government forces them to be

Answer: C

Page Reference: 16

A-head: Grassroots Apathy

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

52. Which of the following best describes the state and federal initiatives to assist inner-city residents and bring them into the economic mainstream?

- A. promising
- B. nonexistent (most have been discontinued)
- C. inadequate
- D. a bright spot of success in an otherwise dismal economic picture
- E. hugely successful in some states, but dismal in others

Answer: C

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A-head: Challenges for State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.4

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Challenges for State and Local Governments

53. Cities rarely have the funds to mount major economic development plans. Which of the following statements, if true, strengthens the argument?

- A. There has been a major reduction in housing values that has reduced property tax revenue.
- B. The economic crisis of 2008 saw a rise in the number of bailouts across the world.
- C. A recent poll of residents from 5 major cities in the United States suggests that citizens feel that the local government is not doing enough for the betterment of the lower sections of society.
- D. There has been a rise in income and sales tax revenue.
- E. Congress passed the American Reconstruction and Recovery Act of 2009, which included billions of dollars for road and highway construction and other state and local projects.

Answer: A

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A-head: Challenges for State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.4

Skill Level: Analyze it

Topic: Challenges for State and Local Governments

54. Which of the following does NOT contribute to the fiscal challenges facing city and state officials?

- A. increased Internet purchasing
- B. a shift to the consumption of services rather than goods
- C. increasing health care costs
- D. increasing energy prices
- E. decreasing voter participation in state and local elections

Answer: E

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A-head: Challenges for State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.4

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Challenges for State and Local Governments

55. How is the issue of immigration at the local level where foreign-born residents have recently settled best described?

- A. The value of immigrant labor is best appreciated at the local level.
- B. In smaller communities, individuals are more likely to be accepting of new immigrants.
- C. Immigration reform at the federal level has “trickled down” to the local level and greatly improved relations between native-born Americans and new immigrants.
- D. Many longtime residents resent new immigrants and have pushed both local and state officials to do something to stop, or at least slow, immigration.
- E. Most new immigrants keep to themselves and neither want nor seek interaction with the established community.

Answer: D

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A-head: Challenges for State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.4

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Challenges for State and Local Governments

56. Which of the following is NOT a major challenge currently facing state and local governments?

- A. health care costs and delivery
- B. intense political divisions over new immigrants
- C. providing adequate defense against foreign military threats
- D. cost of corrections and prisons
- E. poverty in the inner cities

Answer: C

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A-head: Challenges for State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.4

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Challenges for State and Local Governments

57. Which of the following is true of the challenges facing state and local governments?

- A. Communities across the United States are united over the new immigration laws.
- B. Property tax revenue is generally faster to recover from recessions than are income or sales tax revenues.
- C. The state government is funding programs despite the reduction in their sources of income.
- D. The state and local government have more funds as there is a reduction in the cost of corrections and prisons.
- E. Environmental regulation, land use, and recycling remain major challenges at the local level.

Answer: E

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A-head: Challenges for State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.4

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Challenges for State and Local Governments

□ True-False Questions

1. The national government has the primary responsibility for decisions about how schools are run, where roads and bridges are built, and how land is used.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 5

A-head: The Role of State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

2. Gross domestic product is an estimated value of the total worth of production and services, by citizens of a country, on its land or on foreign land, calculated over the course on one year.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 5

A-head: The Role of State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

3. The U.S. federal government has custody over a majority of the country's prison and jail inmates.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 5

A-head: The Role of State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

4. The national government has more daily contact with ordinary Americans than the local and state governments.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 5

A-head: The Role of State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Who Governs?

5. State and local employees are the face of government for many of us, and they help execute the federal government's laws and rules.

Answer: True

Page Reference: 5

A-head: The Role of State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Who Governs?

6. Social scientists who believe that the power elite exists in communities assume that political influence is a function of social stratification.

Answer: True

Page Reference: 7

A-head: Rule by a Few or Rule by the Many?

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Who Governs?

7. Pluralism refers to divisions in a community among socioeconomic groups or classes.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 7

A-head: Rule by a Few or Rule by the Many?

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

8. Local values, traditions, and the structure of governmental organizations affect which issues get on the agenda of the local government.

Answer: True

Page Reference: 8

A-head: Rule by a Few or Rule by the Many?

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Who Governs?

9. Interest groups have significantly lesser influence over state and local politics than over national politics.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 9

A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

10. Public school teachers' unions and police and firefighter employee associations are present in

nearly every state and locality in the United States.

Answer: True

Page Reference: 10

A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

11. Advocates of low taxes and smaller government formed the “Tea Party” to cut state and local budgets.

Answer: True

Page Reference: 11

A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

12. Lobbying is an example of an indirect strategy of influencing state officials.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 11

A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

13. Special interest groups show the greatest influence in states where there are powerful political parties that are well-organized.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 11

A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

14. Lobbying regulations are more relaxed at the federal level than at the local and state level.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 11

A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

15. Beyond influencing the legislature, lobbyists at the state level also work with officials in the executive branch and even the judiciary in getting their point across to state governments.

Answer: True

Page Reference: 11

A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

16. Contract lobbyists have experience working in the state government as elected, appointed, or professional officials and can be termed “hired guns”—they work for whoever hires them.

Answer: True

Page Reference: 12

A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

17. It has been proven that large corporations with full time, highly paid lobbyists wield more influence than organizations who cannot afford to pay for lobbying expertise.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 12

A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

18. People in the United States generally have more trust and confidence in the national government than in the state government.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 13

A-head: Participation Patterns in Local Government

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

19. Citizens may trust local government the most, but they generally take less interest in, vote less often in, and are less informed about their local governments than about the national government.

Answer: True

Page Reference: 14

A-head: Participation Patterns in Local Government

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

20. Local governments try to promote equality by redistributing various resources to needier citizens.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 14

A-head: Participation Patterns in Local Government

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

21. Newspapers in medium-sized and large cities appear to be doing better financially than community newspapers.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 15

A-head: The Role of Local Media

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

22. Voter participation is generally higher for local elections, since local issues affect voters' lives more directly.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 15

A-head: Grassroots Apathy

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

23. Town meetings continue to be the one community political process that still attracts large

crowds.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 16

A-head: Grassroots Apathy

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

24. Proposals to raise taxes, cut school funding, or build low-income housing are likely to spur political participation in small communities.

Answer: True

Page Reference: 16

A-head: Grassroots Apathy

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

25. Federal officials are proposing cuts for many of the programs that aid state and local governments.

Answer: True

Page Reference: 17

A-head: Challenges for State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.4

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Challenges for State and Local Governments

26. Local communities generally welcome new immigrants because the role of immigrants in American history is revered.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 18

A-head: Challenges for State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.4

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Challenges for State and Local Governments

27. The costs of corrections and prisons have declined in recent years due to the introduction of new policies and programs, such as offering "good-time" credits to low-risk offenders and making use of privately run prison facilities.

Answer: False

Page Reference: 19

A-head: Challenges for State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.4

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Challenges for State and Local Governments

28. In the United States, health care costs have been rising rapidly for several years, while at the same time citizens have faced greater obstacles to gaining access to care.

Answer: True

Page Reference: 20

A-head: Challenges for State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.4

Skill Level: Remember the fact

Topic: Challenges for State and Local Governments

❑ Short Answer Questions

1. Identify four policy areas in which state and local governments typically make decisions.

Answer: An ideal response would be:

State and local governments make decisions that affect many people's daily lives—they make most of the decisions about how schools are run, where roads and bridges are built, how land is used, and what social services are provided and to whom. They regulate our driving, our occupations, and our families (through marriage and divorce laws, among others). They decide, for the most part, what constitutes criminal behavior and how it should be charged, tried, and punished, and they have custody of more than 91 percent of the nation's nearly 2.4 million prison and jail inmates. State and local governments administer most of our laws and domestic programs, including those funded by the federal government.

Page Reference: 5

A-head: The Role of State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

2. Define social stratification and explain its relationship to the power elite as identified by some social scientists.

Answer: An ideal response would be:

Social stratification refers to the divisions in a community among socioeconomic groups or classes. Social scientists concerned with social stratification in the political system assume that political influence is a function of social stratification. These investigators try to find out who governs particular communities by asking various citizens to identify the people who are most influential. They base their work on the classical political philosopher Thomas Hobbes' assertion in *Leviathan* "the reputation of power is power." Then they study those influential people to determine their social characteristics, their roles in decision making, and the interrelations among them and between them and the rest of the citizens. Using this technique, they find that the upper socioeconomic groups make up the power elite. Elected political leaders are subordinate to that elite, and the major conflicts within the community are between the upper and the lower socioeconomic classes.

Page Reference: 7

A-head: Rule by a Few or Rule by the Many?

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Who Governs?

3. Explain the theory of pluralism.

Answer: An ideal response would be:

Pluralism refers to a theory of government that holds that open, multiple, and competing groups can check the asserted power of any one group.

Page Reference: 8

A-head: Rule by a Few or Rule by the Many?

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Who Governs?

4. What are professional associations and why are they active in state and local politics?

Answer: An ideal response would be:

Professional association refers to a type of interest group. They represent the social and economic majorities of people who rely on a particular industry or corporation for their jobs and livelihood. States license barbers, beauticians, architects, lawyers, doctors, teachers, accountants, dentists, and many other occupational groups. Such interest groups are naturally interested in the nature of the regulatory laws and the makeup of boards that do the regulating. Medical associations monitor licensing standards for physicians, nurses, and other health professionals, just as legal associations monitor licensing standards for their profession and the appointment of state and local judges.

Page Reference: 10

A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

5. What are the indirect strategies used by interest groups to exert their influence on state officials?

Answer: An ideal response would be:

Interest groups can be effective in influencing state officials by turning ordinary citizens into lobbyists for their positions. This is done through indirect strategies. Indirect strategies involve use of the media, email campaigns, letter writing, and so forth. Typically, an interest group will develop a paid commercial for television that informs the public of its stance on an issue; these commercials often look like public service announcements.

Page Reference: 12

A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

6. Why might local governments avoid redistributing resources to needier citizens?

Answer: An ideal response would be:

Local governments, as a rule, do not try to promote equality by redistributing various resources to needier citizens. Local officials tend to believe that this is the task of national or state authorities—if they think it should be done at all.

Page Reference: 14

A-head: Participation Patterns in Local Government

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

7. What is meant by NIMBY? Give an example of how it might happen.

Answer: An ideal response would be:

Neighborhood groups sometimes become engaged in protecting their neighborhoods and petitioning for improvements. One concern that often activates them is the possibility that “undesirable” facilities—such as drug treatment clinics, prisons, dumps, or homeless shelters—may be located in their neighborhood. Although attendance at local government meetings is usually low,

the announcement of a landfill or a prison construction project often stimulates the reaction that local officials call NIMBY, an acronym for “Not In My Back Yard!” This response can have the perverse effect of forcing facilities such as airports to remain in densely populated areas because it is too difficult to find alternative sites for them.

Page Reference: 14

A-head: Participation Patterns in Local Government

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

8. In terms of political involvement, what is meant by grassroots apathy?

Answer: An ideal response would be:

Grassroots apathy refers to reduced involvement by voters in local politics. Some of the reasons for this include local governments holding elections separate from state and federal elections and a lack of public interest in local issues.

Page Reference: 15-16

A-head: Grassroots Apathy

Learning Objective: 1.3

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Participation Patterns in Local Government

9. Identify four of the main issues currently facing state and local governments.

Answer: An ideal answer may include any of the following issues:

- People want more services but at the same time would like to see their taxes cut.
- Intense political divisions over new immigrants exist in many communities.
- Much of the nation’s infrastructure needs to be repaired or rebuilt.
- The costs of corrections and prisons have skyrocketed in recent years, driven by the rapid growth of prison populations as well as the costs of caring for an aging population of prisoners.
- Poverty in the inner cities persists.

- Education needs improvement.
- Environmental regulation, land use, and recycling remain major challenges at the local level.
- Health care costs and delivery are challenges to all levels of government.

Page Reference: 18-20

A-head: Challenges for State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.4

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Challenges for State and Local Governments

10. Identify four of the techniques currently being used to deal with increasing costs of corrections and prisons.

Answer: An ideal response would be:

States are trying to cut costs by introducing new policies and programs including stronger efforts to divert inmates to rehabilitation facilities; “good-time” credits to low-risk offenders who would then be allowed to shorten their prison terms; shorter sentences at the discretion of judges; more effective systems of parole and probation; and greater use of privately run (and often out-of- state) prison facilities.

Page Reference: 19

A-head: Challenges for State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.4

Skill Level: Remember the facts

Topic: Challenges for State and Local Governments

□ Essay Questions

1. Describe the role played by state and local governments in the American political system.

Answer: An ideal response would be:

State and local governments have more daily contact with ordinary Americans than the national government and make decisions that affect many people’s daily lives—how schools are run, where

roads and bridges are built, how land is used, and what social services are provided and to whom. They regulate our driving, our occupations, and our families (through marriage and divorce laws, among others). They decide, for the most part, what constitutes criminal behavior and how it should be charged, tried, and punished, and they have custody of more than 91 percent of the nation's nearly 2.4 million prison and jail inmates.

State and local governments administer most of our laws and domestic programs, including those funded by the federal government. Through Medicaid and related programs, state governments provide health care coverage for approximately half of all poor children and a quarter of all poor adults. With federal assistance, they finance half of all nursing home expenditures and more than one-third of all births. They pay for 79 percent of the total costs of building and maintaining our public highway system, and they are responsible for building and maintaining most of our bridges, water and sewage systems, and other elements of our nation's infrastructure. State and local colleges and universities educate nearly three of every four students enrolled in higher education.

State and local governments are a very large part of our economy. State and local expenditures as a percentage of national GDP have steadily grown during the last 30 years and have nearly the same total impact on our country's economy as does that of the national government. These governments employ nearly 20 million people in education, hospitals, police protection, and corrections.

Page Reference: 5

A-head: The Role of State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.1

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Who Governs?

2. Identify three of the most active types of interest groups in state and local politics.

Answer: An ideal response would be:

- Business elite
 - Business interests and its effects on local politics
 - Interest in community planning and taxes
- Professional associations
 - Examples: health care professionals, barbers, etc.
 - Interest in regulatory laws and the makeup of boards that do the regulating

- Special-interest groups
 - Dominate certain states and affect public policies in these states
 - Examples: corn and hog farmers in Iowa, gas and oil companies in Texas and Louisiana, tobacco farmers in North Carolina and Virginia, etc.

Page Reference: 9-10

A-head: The Maze of Interests

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

3. Briefly describe the role of lobbying in state and local politics. What strategies do lobbyists employ to influence government decisions?

Answer: An ideal response would be:

- Importance of lobbying in present-day politics
- The common misconception of lobbying
- What constitutes lobbying
- The influence of lobbyists on state and local level politics
- Example of direct and indirect strategies used by lobbyists

Page Reference: 11-12

A-head: Lobbyists at the Statehouse

Learning Objective: 1.2

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Influences on State and Local Governments

4. As racial and ethnic minority groups become majorities in more states, what might happen to political divisions in those states and what might the effects of this trend be on public policies?

Answer: An ideal response would be:

As our nation has become more diverse, most U.S. citizens have learned to appreciate the strength that comes from multiple cultures and races, and many of our businesses have come to rely on

immigrant labor, both legal and illegal. However, in many communities where foreign-born residents have settled in large numbers, longtime residents have resented the changing racial, linguistic, and ethnic composition of their communities and have pushed state and local officials to stem or even reverse the growth of immigrants. New immigration laws passed in Arizona in 2010 reignited a national debate on how all levels of government might address this problem. In June, 2012 the United States Supreme Court ruled much of the Arizona immigration law unconstitutional, although the court did allow Arizona law enforcement officers to continue to check the immigration status of those who were stopped for other offenses.

Page Reference: 18-19

A-head: Challenges for State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.4

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Challenges for State and Local Governments

5. List and discuss the eight main challenges currently facing state and local governments.

Answer: An ideal answer will elaborate on the following issues:

- People want more services but at the same time would like to see their taxes cut.
- Intense political divisions over new immigrants exist in many communities.
- Much of the nation's infrastructure needs to be repaired or rebuilt.
- The costs of corrections and prisons have skyrocketed in recent years, driven by the rapid growth of prison populations as well as the costs of caring for an aging population of prisoners.
- Poverty in the inner cities persists.
- Education needs improvement.
- Environmental regulation, land use, and recycling remain major challenges at the local level.
- Health care costs and delivery are challenges to all levels of government.

Page Reference: 18-20

A-head: Challenges for State and Local Governments

Learning Objective: 1.4

Skill Level: Understand the concept

Topic: Challenges for State and Local Governments

