CHAPTER 8: Political Influence:

Interest Groups, Lobbyists, and Social Movements

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

1. The definition of an interest group is an organization that\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. uses pluralist theory to understand political decisions
3. pursues common interests while trying to influence public policies
4. runs candidates for public office hoping to form the government
5. focuses only on the economic needs of its members

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 212

1. Pluralist theory contends that interest groups\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. represent the diversity of interests in society
3. concentrate power in the hands of a few
4. advocate for Canadian independence
5. reinforce social stereotypes

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 212

1. While self-interested groups seek to gain selective benefits from government, other kinds of groups seek benefits that are widely available to the public as a whole, called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ benefits.
2. long-term
3. selective
4. exclusive
5. collective

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 215

1. Neo-pluralism, a modification of pluralist theory, views business interests as having \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in influencing government policymaking.
2. a disadvantaged position
3. an assured position
4. a declared position
5. a privileged position

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 213

1. Which among the following is an example of an interest group?
2. Royal Canadian Legion
3. Liberal Party of Canada
4. Cooperative Commonwealth Federation
5. Department of Justice

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 216

1. Rational choice theory argues that the reason why people join and contribute to interest groups is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. create a public and collective benefit
3. pursue their own self-interest
4. exercise their democratic freedoms
5. learn more about a subject

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 213

1. A *free rider* is someone who\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. is able to use public transit without paying
3. enjoys the benefits of group action without contributing
4. wants to pursue solidary incentives
5. succumbs to peer pressure to join a group

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 219

1. A good example of an interest group that is particularly influential due to the financial, educational, and organizational capabilities of its members is the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Canadian Council of Chief Executives
3. Electoral College
4. Bloc Québécois
5. Friends of the Lubicon

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Pages:* 216, 228

1. In this theory, interest groups are not viewed as having a major effect on public policy.
2. Rational choice theory
3. Representative theory
4. State-centred theory
5. Pluralist theory

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 214

1. People may join an interest group for solidary incentives, or a more compelling reason is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. categorical incentives
3. spiritual incentives
4. selective incentives
5. purposive incentives

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 220

1. Pluralist theory argues that activities of interest groups result in policies that are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. subject to legal challenge
3. very expensive
4. in the public interest
5. easier to understand

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 213

1. The following statements are all things a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_theorist might say.

“Individuals join interest groups in order to pursue their self-interests.”

“Small groups are able to exploit the public to gain special benefits.”

“Some people may benefit from the activities of an interest group without having to contribute to its success.”

1. rational choice
2. Marxist
3. state-centred
4. public interest

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 214

1. The definition of an institutionalized interest group is one that has, among other things, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. a business base
3. a few members
4. paid professional staff
5. a narrow focus

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 216

1. Which among the following is an example of an institutionalized interest group?
2. Environment Canada
3. Canadian Red Cross
4. Multilateral Agreement on Investment
5. Secretary of State

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Pages:* 216-217

1. The Progressive Conservative government’s decision to shut down five independent policy organizations in 1992 led to a greater role for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Royal Commissions
3. think tanks
4. Cabinet ministers
5. provincial governments

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 226

1. An important reason why MPs play only a limited role in policy development is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. party discipline
3. ideological bias
4. the media
5. federalism

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 226

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is an interest group that is particularly well known for its dramatic protest activities.
2. The Fraser Institute
3. The Council of Canadians
4. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business
5. Greenpeace

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 227

1. In 1996, this interest group successfully mounted a campaign against a proposal to allow the major banks to enter the insurance business.
2. The Council of Canadians
3. The Insurance Bureau of Canada
4. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business
5. The Canadian Bankers’ Association

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 227

1. The text discusses several major ways in which interest groups attempt to influence government policies, including, among other things, lobbying cabinet members, MPs, the bureaucracy, and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. businesses
3. interest groups
4. the public
5. think tanks

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 227

1. The term *lobbying* is derived from the old practice of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. throwing projectiles at the House of Commons
3. approaching MPs in the lobby of the British House of Commons
4. posing questions to MPs during Question Period
5. utilizing the airwaves for public information campaigns

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 232

1. Lobbyist regulations require professional lobbyists to report whom they are acting on behalf of, the subject matter of the communication, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. the type of communication
3. the political party they are or have been associated with
4. the nature of the public interest in their activities
5. the name of the department they are communicating with

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 234

1. New social movements have tended to avoid involvement with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. unconventional political institutions
3. grassroots organizations
4. conventional political institutions
5. civil disobedience

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 236

1. Determining what influences government decisions is not an easy task. At a minimum, however, Canadians expect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. lobbyists to have previous experience in government
3. informed public discussion of government decisions
4. that foreign industries will be excluded from bidding for government contracts
5. that the government will have strong connections to private industry

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 233

1. The decision to cancel the Court Challenges program in 2006 was criticized as a lack of interest by the Conservative government in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. promoting equality for women
3. promoting environmental conservation
4. promoting victims’ rights
5. promoting competition among Canada’s major banks

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 230

1. For interest groups, the potential for successful influence depends not only on the number of members, but the group’s ability to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. undermine like-minded organizations
3. avoid relationships with key officials
4. reward members
5. mobilize members

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* moderate *Pages:* 230-231

**TRUE/FALSE**

1. Public interest groups are those that pursue selective benefits for their members that are not generally available.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 215

1. Selective benefits are only available to the members of a specific interest group and are not generally available to the public at large.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 214

1. The structure of Canadian tax laws tends to work against the interests of non-profits and for the interests of business interest groups.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 221

1. Interest groups that have a guaranteed membership are more likely to take positions that reflect their members’ views.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 218

1. The Economic Advisory Council set up by the Harper government is different from previous advisory groups because it includes both business and labour interests.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 226

1. Governments have encouraged and supported the development of interest groups and included them in the policy process.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 224

1. The “sponsorship scandal” that contributed to the defeat of the Liberal government in 2006 involved lobbying Air Canada to purchase Airbus jets.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 233

1. Social movements have always played a significant role in Canadian politics.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 235

1. In Canada, there have been many prosecutions to date for violating the Lobbying Act.

*Answer:* False *Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 234

1. Business interest groups have always been well represented in Canadian politics, while groups representing the less privileged elements of society often struggle for representation.

*Answer:* True *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 220

**SHORT ANSWER**

1. Describe at least three non-political activities that professional associations (such as doctors’ groups or lawyers’ groups) take part in.

*Answer:* Educating and informing their members; arranging conferences for their members; assessing the qualifications of those who seek accreditation; and determining disciplinary action if members violate their rules.

*Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 216

1. What are the arguments against government sponsorship and support for interest groups?

*Answer:* Some of the drawbacks of government support for interest groups include the following: (1) it may mobilize demands, grievances, and criticisms from groups; (2) groups may be critical of government policies; (3) governments can be charged with funding “special interests”; and (4) criticisms can be made about the choice of groups that receive funding.

*Difficulty:* challenging *Pages:* 223-224

1. What was the Court Challenges Program?

*Answer:* The Court Challenges Program was set up in 1978 to help with the legal costs of those seeking to challenge Canadian laws and government actions that violated equality rights and minority language rights.

*Difficulty:* moderate *Page:* 230

1. What is the definition of a social movement?

*Answer:* A social movement is a network of groups and individuals that seeks major social and political changes, particularly by acting outside of established political institutions.

*Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 235