**Chapter 01: Understanding Politics**

**Chapter 01 Multiple Choice Questions**

1. After having increased greenhouse gases in 2011, Canada withdrew from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. Kyoto Protocol

b. Rio Treaty

c. ABM Treaty

d. Paris Agreement

Difficulty: easy Learning Objective: Intro

Question ID: 01-1-01

Answer: a. Kyoto Protocol

2. Climate change is an issue which impacts the common good of humanity. Which of the following is NOT one of the stated goals of the Paris Agreement in its efforts to address global climate change?

a. Developed countries provide $100 billion a year to developing countries

b. Keep global average temperature increase well below increase of 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels

c. Make efforts to limit global average temperature increase to 1.5°C

d. Carbon neutrality of all signees by 2040

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: Intro

Question ID: 01-1-02

Answer: d. Carbon neutrality of all signees by 2040

3. A definition of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is any activity related to influencing, making, or implementing collective decisions for a political community.

a. coercion

b. persuasion

c. politics

d. power

Difficulty: easy Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-1-03

Answer: c. politics

4. In the analysis of politics, 'power' is defined as the ability to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. achieve unity rather than diversity

b. reduce the levels of violence

c. affect the behaviour of others

d. change governmental institutions

Difficulty: easy Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-1-04

Answer: c. affect the behaviour of others

5. A form of power that is exercised by offering a reward or bribe is described as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. persuasion

b. inducement

c. coercion

d. bargaining

Difficulty: easy Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-1-05

Answer: b. inducement

6. In 1938, Nazi Germany threatened to invade Czechoslovakia if the Czech government did not allow Germany to annex part of its territory. This is an example of what kind of political power?

a. coercion

b. inducement

c. leadership

d. persuasion

Difficulty: easy Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-1-06

Answer: a. coercion

7. As it relates to political power, persuasion means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. getting people to act against their own desires or interests

b. using fear or threat of harm to achieve objectives

c. accepting the right of others to make decisions on their behalf

d. using information either truthfully or manipulatively to change behaviour

Difficulty: challenging Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-1-07

Answer: d. using information either truthfully or manipulatively to change behaviour

8. A country whose success in providing wealth and harmony to its population convinces other countries to follow its example is an example of power exercised through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. cultural imperialism

b. inducements

c. leadership

d. persuasion

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-1-08

Answer: c. leadership

9. 'People power' refers to the ability of ordinary or disadvantaged people to challenge the powerful through determined and skillful action. The successful use of 'people power' occurred when the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. people demonstrated against the communist governments of some Eastern European countries in 1989

b. US senators from small states were able to challenge the majority opinion of the American people

c. government of China suppressed student-led demands for democratization in 1989

d. governments failed to agree to firm targets for greenhouse gas emissions in Copenhagen in 2009

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-1-09

Answer: a. people demonstrated against the communist governments of some Eastern European countries in 1989

10. A situation resulting when at least one member of a political group benefits from a group action without having contributed or participated is known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. emancipation

b. social welfare

c. the free-rider problem

d. the common good

Difficulty: easy Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-1-10

Answer: c. the free-rider problem

11. The 'tragedy of the commons' may be solved by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. encouraging people to have larger families

b. developing trust and discussion among the community

c. encouraging free riders to use the commons

d. building roads around the commons for public use

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-1-11

Answer: b. developing trust and discussion among the community

12. Authority that is generally accepted by the members of a political community is described as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. totalitarian

b. rational

c. authoritarian

d. legitimate

Difficulty: easy Learning Objective: 1.2

Question ID: 01-1-12

Answer: d. legitimate

13. Which of the following is one of the three basic forms of authority described by German sociologist Max Weber?

a. powerful

b. traditional

c. identifiable

d. intellectual

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.2

Question ID: 01-1-13

Answer: b. traditional

14. Charismatic authority is based on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. the personal qualities of a leader

b. legal rules and procedures

c. tradition and custom

d. the processes of election

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.2

Question ID: 01-1-14

Answer: a. personal qualities of a leader

15. Which of the following heads of state is LEAST likely to be considered an example of charismatic leadership?

a. Winston Churchill

b. Charles de Gaulle

c. Stephen Harper

d. Mao Zedong

Difficulty: easy Learning Objective: 1.2

Question ID: 01-1-15

Answer: c. Stephen Harper

16. Which statement describes charismatic authority?

a. "Political leaders must follow the same rules as everybody else."

b. "Political leaders are born, not made"

c. "Power flows from the barrel of a gun "

d. "Power is corrupt "

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.2

Question ID: 01-1-16

Answer: b. "Political leaders are born, not made"

17. Queen Elizabeth II is best considered an example of which of the following form of authority?

a. Charismatic

b. Legal-rational

c. Totalitarian

d. Traditional

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.2

Question ID: 01-1-17

Answer: d. Traditional

18. According to Max Weber, modern societies are characterized by efficient management and bureaucratic organization and the right to rule is based on rules and procedures rather than the individuals holding authority. This is known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. authoritarianism

b. traditional authority

c. legal-rational authority

d. totalitarian authority

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.2

Question ID: 01-1-18

Answer: c. legal-rational authority

19. Which of the following is LEAST likely to be the cause of a legitimacy crisis in a democratic system?

a. Corruption

b. Policies leading to widespread unemployment

c. Elections held too frequently

d. Long-term pattern of mistreatment of some groups

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.2

Question ID: 01-1-19

Answer: c. Elections held too frequently

20. The democratic government of Germany in the aftermath of World War I was viewed as having been imposed by the foreign rulers of the countries who had won the war. This is an example of the government’s \_\_\_\_\_\_ being doubted by its citizens.

a. legitimacy

b. platform

c. responsiveness

d. transparency

Difficulty: easy Learning Objective: 1.2

Question ID: 01-1-20

Answer: a. legitimacy

21. An individualist perspective on society argues that humans \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. are naturally harmonious in their interaction with others

b. act primarily in their own interests when making decisions

c. pursue the common good even if it conflicts with their own interests

d. follow strong authoritarian individuals

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.3

Question ID: 01-1-21

Answer: b. act primarily in their own interests when making decisions

22. Which theorist suggested that if individuals pursue their own economic self-interest in a competitive free-market system, the result will be maximization of the wealth of society?

a. Adam Smith

b. David Riccardo

c. Max Weber

d. Nelson Mandela

Difficulty: challenging Learning Objective: 1.3

Question ID: 01-01-22

Answer: a. Adam Smith

23. Which of the following is not discussed in the text as a factor that complicates the pursuit of the common good?

a. unequal distribution of costs

b. diversity

c. individualist perspective

d. bureaucracy

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.3

Question ID: 01-1-23

Answer: d. bureaucracy

24. The pluralist perspective asserts that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. power is highly concentrated in a few hands

b. governments are highly split between different levels

c. groups tend to share similar values and goals in a political community

d. a wide variety of groups are able to influence the government

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.3

Question ID: 01-1-24

Answer: d. a wide variety of groups are able to influence the government

25. According to Plato, what mechanism would ensure that a philosopher-king would rule for the common good rather than out of personal interest?

a. Citizens would have meetings to discuss and vote on the most important decisions.

b. Philosopher-kings are to be rotated every 10 years.

c. Philosopher-kings are prevented from having families or owning property.

d. Recall procedures would be in place in case of corruption.

Difficulty: challenging Learning Objective: 1.3

Question ID: 01-1-25

Answer: c. Philosopher-kings are prevented from having families or owning property.

**Chapter 01 True/False Questions**

1. Efforts by environmental groups to influence forestry companies in British Columbia by encouraging product boycotts are an example of political activities although they do not involve the decisions of government.

a. True

b. False

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-2-01

Answer: a. True

2. Power necessarily means that one individual or group is able to control and manipulate another.

a. True

b. False

Difficulty: challenging Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-2-02

Answer: b. False

3. Power cannot be exercised by the 'non-decisions' of influential figures.

a. True

b. False

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-2-03

Answer: a. False

4. Power can be thought of in a positive way as the ability to achieve worthwhile collective goals.

a. True

b. False

Difficulty: easy Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-2-04

Answer: a. True

5. Legal–rational forms of authority are based on the personal qualities of a leader.

a. True

b. False

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.2

Question ID: 01-2-05

Answer: b. False

6. A legitimacy crisis may occur in democracies when governments persistently fail to deal with serious problems.

a. True

b. False

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.2

Question ID: 01-2-06

Answer: a. True

7. A government whose rule is considered legitimate never relies on coercion to have its population obey the laws.

a. True

b. False

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.2

Question ID: 01-2-07

Answer: b. False

8. The pluralist perspective in politics assumes that all actors have an equal amount of political power.

a. True

b. False

Difficulty: challenging Learning Objective: 1.3

Question ID: 01-2-08

Answer: b. False

09. Democracy tends to reflect the minority opinions of the population.

a. True

b. False

Difficulty: simple Learning Objective: 1.3

Question ID: 01-2-09

Answer: b. False

10. Appeals to the common good are sometimes used to justify brutal political actions.

a. True

b. False

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.3

Question ID: 01-2-10

Answer: a. True

**Chapter 01 Short Answer Questions**

1. What is meant by the political agenda?

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-3-01

Answer: The political agenda consists of the issues that are considered important and given priority in political deliberations.

2. What is the free-rider problem?

Difficulty: easy Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-3-02

Answer: The free-rider problem describes a situation in which an individual can enjoy the benefits of a voluntary group action without contributing.

3. Describe the three basic types of authority described by Max Weber.

Difficulty: easy Learning Objective: 1.2

Question ID: 01-3-03

Answer: Weber examined three basic types of authority:

1. Charismatic authority is based on the personal qualities of a leader;

2. Traditional authority is based on customs;

3. Legal-rational authority is based on legal rules and procedures

4. What is one important benefit enjoyed by governments that are widely perceived as legitimate by their citizens?

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.2

Question ID: 01-3-04

Answer: Governments that enjoy legitimacy spend fewer resources to persuade or coerce the population to obey its laws and maintain order. A government whose rule is considered legitimate can rely more on authority than on coercion to get people to obey the laws it adopts.

5. Briefly explain how globalism and considerations of the future pose important questions about the idea of the common good.

Difficulty: challenging Learning Objective: 1.3

Question ID: 01-3-05

Answer: We all belong to larger and smaller political communities. What may be done in the interest of the larger global community may not match our national or local political interests. The future also needs to be considered as short-term interests may pose problems for future generations.

**Chapter 01 Short Essay Questions**

1. Define what is described as “people power” in this chapter and provide two historical examples where this has occurred.

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-4-01

Answer: People power is the mobilization of ordinary citizens around a popular cause. Frequently lacking resources and positioned outside of traditional seats of power, groups and individuals can still affect change in the political community. Examples: Black South Africans against apartheid; Eastern European protests against communist regimes in 1989; protests against dictatorial governments in Tunisia and the Arab Spring movement throughout the Arab world; Chinese student protests for democracy in 1989.

2. Discuss Garrett Hardin’s explanation of the tragedy of the commons and three solutions to the problem discussed in the chapter.

Difficulty: challenging Learning Objective: 1.1

Question ID: 01-4-02

Answer: In Garrett Hardin’s famous example demonstrating the tragedy of the commons, he imagines a group of herders who overuse a common pasture when access is equally available to all members of the community. One solution to the tragedy of the commons is the privatization of the commons and charging a fee to use it. Hardin favoured a coercive government regulating the users of the commons. Elinor Ostrom argued that under the right circumstances (such as the development of a sense of community, shared values, and mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing), cooperation among the users of a common resource can result in its proper management or by using.

3. How can the common good be achieved, from an individualistic perspective on politics?

Difficulty: moderate Learning Objective: 1.3

Question ID: 01-4-03

Answer: It seems idealistic to assume that an individualistic perspective will result in the common good of a political community. According to this perspective, a political community is composed of a collection of individuals acting in his or her own interests rather than with a view to the interests of the larger community. However, those who favour the individualist perspective argue that when individuals are free to pursue their own interests, the result will be in the best overall interests of the community. Adam Smith’s discussion of self-interest in a free-market system is an example of this position.