

Chapter 1 – Democracy and American Politics

1.1 - The questions in this section appear only in this printed Test Bank and in the Computerized Test Bank.

Multiple Choice Questions:

- 1) Robert Parris Morris was
 - A) founder of the freedom schools.
 - B) the first African American appointed as a federal judge.
 - C) a leading opponent of the Civil Rights Acts of the 1950s and 1960s.
 - D) one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.
 - E) one of the authors of the US Constitution.

Answer: A
Page Ref: 3
Skill: Knowledge

- 2) In the 1960s, African Americans
 - A) were essentially deprived of the rights of citizenship and were excluded from the democratic political process.
 - B) were registered to vote in southern states in equal proportion to white Americans.
 - C) held national, state, and local elected positions roughly in proportion to their share of the population.
 - D) in the South enjoyed all of the same rights and privileges as the white majority.
 - E) none of the above

Answer: A
Page Ref: 3
Skill: Comprehension

- 3) Jim Crows represented
 - A) the official system of segregation in the West.
 - B) the official system of segregation in the North.
 - C) the official system of segregation in the East.
 - D) the official system of segregation in the South.
 - E) the institution of slavery.

Answer: D
Page Ref: 20
Skill: Knowledge

- 4) The idea that ordinary people want to rule themselves and are capable of doing so is associated with
 - A) political culture.
 - B) political socialization.
 - C) democracy.
 - D) government.
 - E) socialism.

Answer: C
Page Ref: 4
Skill: Knowledge

- 5) Some political thinkers believe that democracy is superior to other forms of government because it
- A) encourages dreams that can never be achieved.
 - B) is incapable of promoting progress on important decisions.
 - C) protects human rights.
 - D) is found only in the United States.
 - E) relies on the views of the masses.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 4

Skill: Comprehension

- 6) In what type of government is society ruled by the people?
- A) theocracy
 - B) aristocracy
 - C) oligarchy
 - D) democracy
 - E) monarchy

Answer: D

Page Ref: 5

Skill: Knowledge

- 7) Which of the following statements is TRUE with respect to democracy?
- A) Democracy was widely practiced by western European nations in the eighteenth-century.
 - B) Western European rulers of the 1700s believed that governing required little sophistication.
 - C) Eighteenth-century European rulers accepted that government was the province of common citizens.
 - D) Most Western philosophers and rulers before the eighteenth century were not friendly to the idea of rule by the many.
 - E) none of the above

Answer: D

Page Ref: 5

Skill: Comprehension

- 8) What was the major concern among those who were skeptical of democracy?
- A) The idea of having a few rulers reign over the masses.
 - B) The idea that ordinary people might rule themselves.
 - C) The requirement that in a democracy there must be a separation of church and state.
 - D) The idea that democracy must use capitalism as an economic system.
 - E) The idea that elites would have too much power and authority.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 5

Skill: Comprehension

- 9) More than other forms of government, democracy and democratic theory
- A) puts faith in the capacity of ordinary human beings.
 - B) puts faith in the capacity of a governing elite.
 - C) encourages citizens to follow the law.
 - D) ignores the rule of law.
 - E) places the important decisions of government in the hands of a few.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 5

Skill: Comprehension

- 10) Direct democracy
- A) means that citizens elect representatives in free elections.
 - B) is synonymous with the concept of "representative democracy."
 - C) best typifies government in the United States under the Articles of Confederation.
 - D) means that citizens are able to meet together regularly to debate and decide the issues of the day.
 - E) is an accurate depiction of the US government under the US Constitution.
- Answer: D
Page Ref: 6
Skill: Comprehension
- 11) Representative democracy is also known as
- A) direct democracy.
 - B) indirect democracy.
 - C) political equality.
 - D) popular equality.
 - E) popular sovereignty.
- Answer: B
Page Ref: 6
Skill: Comprehension
- 12)) Which of the following may be considered a significant difference between direct and representative democracies?
- A) There is no difference between direct and representative democracies.
 - B) Citizen participation is unnecessary in a representative democracy.
 - C) The only major difference is that direct democracies have been around longer than representative democracies.
 - D) Only direct democracy was practical in ancient Greece.
 - E) In a direct democracy, citizens themselves make decisions, whereas in a representative democracy, citizens choose intermediaries who make decisions for them.
- Answer: E
Page Ref: 6
Skill: Knowledge
- 13) In large societies like the United States, democracy means what in practice?
- A) direct rule by the people through protest movements
 - B) direct rule by the people through participation in local government and the workplace
 - C) rule by the people mainly through elected representatives
 - D) rule by the people mainly through referendums
 - E) rule by the people mainly through national initiatives
- Answer: C
Page Ref: 6
Skill: Comprehension
- 14) Representative democracy best describes government in
- A) ancient Greece.
 - B) Europe, until the 19th century.
 - C) the United States.
 - D) the former Soviet Union.
 - E) none of the above
- Answer: C
Page Ref: 6
Skill: Knowledge

15) That people are the ultimate source of authority in a government is known as

- A) popular sovereignty.
- B) political freedom.
- C) the right to self-governance.
- D) political equality.
- E) political liberty.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 7

Skill: Knowledge

16) According to the principle of popular sovereignty,

- A) power should be exercised by an educated elite.
- B) the final or ultimate source of authority rests with the people.
- C) a democratic system is based on the concept of material equality.
- D) majority rule is unacceptable because it may be tyrannical.
- E) minority rule trumps majority power in close elections.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 7

Skill: Comprehension

17) Which of the following is an observable condition for determining whether popular sovereignty is realized?

- A) the majority rules
- B) people participate in the political process
- C) government policies reflect the wishes of the people
- D) government leaders are selected in competitive elections
- E) all of the above

Answer: E

Page Ref: 7

Skill: Comprehension

18) Democracies are typically stronger with what level of political participation?

- A) less
- B) more
- C) coercive
- D) mandatory
- E) all democracies are strong, regardless of participation levels.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 10

Skill: Comprehension

19) _____ is the idea that each person, being of equal intrinsic value as other human beings, carries the same weight in voting and other political decision.

- A) Popular sovereignty
- B) Majority rules
- C) High quality information
- D) Political liberty
- E) Political equality

Answer: E

Page Ref: 11

Skill: Knowledge

- 20) The notion of political equality is found where in the US Constitution?
A) The equal protection clause of the 14th amendment
B) Article VI of the US Constitution
C) Throughout the original and unamended Constitution
D) Political equality is expressed nowhere in the Constitution
E) Article I, section 7
Answer: A
Page Ref: 11
Skill: Knowledge
- 21) With respect to the distribution of wealth in a nation, according to Aristotle and Jefferson, the ideal society for the practice of democracy is one
A) where inequality is not too extreme.
B) where a small elite controls most wealth.
C) without a middle class.
D) in which men and women share equally.
E) in which all citizens are generally equal.
Answer: A
Page Ref: 11-12
Skill: Comprehension
- 22) Political equality means that
A) the opinions and preferences of citizens are combined into a binding decision through the principle of majority rule.
B) each person carries the same weight in voting and other political decision making.
C) protection will be provided for basic freedom essential to the formation and expression of the popular will and its translation into policy.
D) the will of the majority should not be the ultimate determinant of what government does.
E) each person should have the same opportunities to succeed in society.
Answer: B
Page Ref: 11
Skill: Comprehension
- 23) Political liberty refers to
A) the concept that government draws its power from the people.
B) the equal rights afforded to individuals when voting.
C) nonexclusionary rights.
D) basic freedoms essential to the formation and expression of majority opinion and its translation into public policies.
E) absolute rights protected by the states.
Answer: D
Page Ref: 12
Skill: Knowledge
- 24) When taken together, political equality and equal treatment are known as
A) civil rights.
B) direct democracy.
C) the deliberative will.
D) representative government.
E) majority tyranny.
Answer: A
Page Ref: 11
Skill: Knowledge

- 25) Civil rights are a combination of
- A) popularity sovereignty and majority rule.
 - B) equal treatment and majority rule.
 - C) political equality and equal treatment.
 - D) majority rule and political liberty.
 - E) civil liberties and equality.
- Answer: C
Page Ref: 11
Skill: Knowledge
- 26) _____ refers to basic freedoms essential to the formation and expression of majority opinion and its translation into public policies.
- A) Popular sovereignty
 - B) Political liberty
 - C) Political equality
 - D) Majority rules
 - E) Tyranny of the majority
- Answer: B
Page Ref: 12
Skill: Knowledge
- 27) Freedom of speech, religion, association, and the press are examples of
- A) civil rights.
 - B) state mandates.
 - C) nonexclusionary rights.
 - D) political liberties.
 - E) absolute equalities.
- Answer: D
Page Ref: 12
Skill: Comprehension
- 28) The constitutional system was designed to
- A) support the majority in nearly all instances.
 - B) protect liberties against violations by the majority.
 - C) promote direct democracy.
 - D) establish a Bill of Rights to promote majority preferences.
 - E) centralize power.
- Answer: B
Page Ref: 13
Skill: Comprehension
- 29) James Madison feared majority rule because he thought it would have which of the following negative effects?
- A) It would increase the political influence of wealthy elites.
 - B) It would prohibit swift decision making.
 - C) It would make it easy for large numbers of people to agree on decisions.
 - D) It would undermine freedom and threaten individual rights.
 - E) It would promote less responsiveness of elected officials to citizens.
- Answer: D
Page Ref: 13
Skill: Comprehension