

CHAPTER 5 Political Systems and Their Rules

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Political scientists typically envision institutions as
 - a. informal norms, social understandings, or longtime customs.
 - b. an affiliation between two or more states not involving a strong central government.
 - c. the description of official major government bodies and positions, the powers these positions have, and the process for making new laws.
 - d. a set of inputs (demands and supports) that feed into the political system and outputs (policies) that flow from it.
 - e. organizations created for a particular purpose and the formal rules that structure them.
2. Democratic systems
 - a. are generally not established around the principles that constitutions should limit government power, that government officials must obey the country's laws, and that a government's legitimacy comes from obeying these limitations and laws.
 - b. provide for the free and fair selection of government representatives through elections in which the vast majority of adults are eligible to vote and the voters have a genuine choice between candidates, balance the principle of majority rule with the protection of minority interests, and limit the role of government by defining rights that the general population possess that government cannot restrict.
 - c. believe in transferring power from a central government to lower governments.
 - d. provide lower levels of government with designated powers that the central government cannot take away.
 - e. allow lower levels of government to enforce laws and policies made by the central government.
3. Majoritarian democracies are systems that
 - a. combine a presidential system with FPTP district voting for legislative elections.
 - b. combine strong executives, few checks on the power of the majority to pass laws and amend the constitution, and conflictual politics between two major political parties.
 - c. unite proportional representation elections and a multiparty system with the diffusion of power across branches and levels of government.
 - d. combine presidentialism with a proportional representation electoral system.
 - e. provide for the free and fair selection of government representatives through elections in which the vast majority of adults are eligible to vote and the voters have a genuine choice between candidates.
4. Consensus democracies
 - a. combine strong executives, few checks on the power of the majority to pass laws and amend the constitution, and conflictual politics between two major political parties.
 - b. have free and fair selection of government representatives through elections in which the vast majority of adults are eligible to vote and the voters have a genuine choice between candidates.
 - c. are affiliations between two or more states not involving a strong central government.
 - d. believe that there should be a limit to government power and that a government's legitimacy comes from obeying these limitations and laws.
 - e. unite proportional representation elections and a multiparty system with the diffusion of power across branches and levels of government.

5. What explanation is generally offered for why countries like Australia have voter turnout rates in excess of ninety percent?
 - a. They have higher levels of education and a more informed electorate.
 - b. Citizens who fail to vote can be fined or jailed.
 - c. The frontier experience created a political culture with a high degree of civic engagement.
 - d. The requirement to pay dues to a political party makes people highly invested in the political process.
 - e. Their work forces are highly unionized and the unions facilitate voter turnout.
6. Which best describes political scientist Arend Lijphart's conclusions about which type of democracy is best?
 - a. He concludes that majoritarian democracy is equally effective as others in maintaining order and managing the economy, but superior in its representation, so it is better.
 - b. He concludes that consensus democracy is equally effective as others in maintaining order and managing the economy, but superior in its representation, so it is better.
 - c. He concludes that consensus democracy provides better representation and protection of minority views, but majoritarian democracy leads to more effective government, therefore it is not that one is better, they just have different advantages.
 - d. He concludes that majoritarian democracy provides better representation and protection of minority views, but consensus democracy leads to more effective government, so, one is not better, they just have different advantages.
 - e. Lijphart is a critic of democracy and has provided the most intellectually respected defense of authoritarian political systems.
7. Which of the following is considered the model example of a consensus democracy?
 - a. The United States
 - b. Germany
 - c. France
 - d. the United Kingdom
 - e. India
8. The American model of democracy is characterized by
 - a. an affiliation between two or more states not involving a strong central government. The states involved maintain the vast majority of their sovereignty.
 - b. the belief that constitutions should limit government power, that government officials must obey the country's laws, and that a government's legitimacy comes from obeying these limitations and laws.
 - c. free and fair selection of government representatives through elections in which the vast majority of adults are eligible to vote and the voters have a genuine choice between candidates.
 - d. the combination of a presidential system with FPTP district voting for legislative elections.
 - e. proportional representation elections and a multiparty system with the diffusion of power across branches and levels of government.
9. The Westminster model of democracy
 - a. combines parliamentary and proportional representation (PR) arrangements.
 - b. combines a parliamentary approach with first-past-the-post (FPTP) district voting.
 - c. is an arrangement in which the central government has authority over all lower levels of government.

- d. combines a presidential system with a PR electoral system for the legislature.
 - e. brings together presidentialism with FPTP district voting for legislative elections.
10. The Latin American model of democracy
- a. is a form of government in which the leaders of the government are also military leaders.
 - b. combines a parliamentary approach with a first-past-the-post (plurality) electoral system.
 - c. combines a presidential system with FPTP district voting for legislative elections.
 - d. combines presidentialism with a proportional representation electoral system.
 - e. is an arrangement in which the central government has authority over all lower levels of government, and those lower levels have no powers reserved for them.
11. Which model of democracy best reflects the ideal of consensus democracy?
- a. American model of democracy
 - b. British model of democracy
 - c. Westminster model of democracy
 - d. Latin American model of democracy
 - e. European model of democracy
12. A democratic system that combines parliamentary and PR arrangements is following the
- a. American model of democracy.
 - b. British model of democracy.
 - c. Westminster model of democracy.
 - d. Latin American model of democracy.
 - e. European model of democracy.
13. Which model of democracy best reflects the ideal of majoritarian democracy?
- a. American model of democracy
 - b. British model of democracy
 - c. Westminster model of democracy
 - d. Latin American model of democracy
 - e. European model of democracy
14. Totalitarianism is a regime type defined
- a. as having an economy that is modernized enough to require leaders to work closely with a large bureaucracy with expertise on policy matters.
 - b. by an effort to remake society and “atomize” the population.
 - c. as militaristic with an emphasis on remaking society along racial, religious, or ethnic lines.
 - d. by an effort to remake society in the name of the working class through, among other things, state ownership of the means of production.
 - e. as an arrangement in which the central government has authority over all lower levels of government, and those lower levels have no powers reserved for them.
15. Authoritarianism is a regime type
- a. that engages in militarism and emphasizes remaking society along racial, religious, or ethnic lines.
 - b. that includes an official ideology; a single mass political party, usually with a single leader, that has a monopoly of political power; a secret police force and the use of terror against the population; a monopoly over means of communication; a monopoly over weapons in society; and a command economy.
 - c. in which the central government has authority over all lower levels of government, and

- those lower levels have no powers reserved for them.
 - d. defined by its rule by a single leader or small group of leaders, limited political participation, existent but limited autonomy of society from state control, the lack of an overarching ideology, and limited control over the economy.
 - e. that combines strong executives and few checks on the power of the majority to pass laws and amend the constitution.
16. A communist regime
- a. has rule by a single leader or small group of leaders, limited political participation, existent but limited autonomy of society from state control, the lack of an overarching ideology, and limited control over the economy.
 - b. is characterized by an effort to remake society and “atomize” the population. It includes an official ideology; a single mass political party, usually with a single leader, that has a monopoly of political power; a secret police force and the use of terror against the population; a monopoly over means of communication; a monopoly over weapons in society; and a command economy.
 - c. seeks to remake society in the name of the working class through, among other things, state ownership of the means of production.
 - d. engages in militarism and emphasizes remaking society along racial, religious, or ethnic lines.
 - e. is one in which the central government has authority over all lower levels of government, and those lower levels have no powers reserved for them.
17. A fascist regime
- a. is defined by its rule by a single leader or small group of leaders, limited political participation, existent but limited autonomy of society from state control, the lack of an overarching ideology, and limited control over the economy.
 - b. combines strong executives, few checks on the power of the majority to pass laws and amend the constitution.
 - c. seeks to remake society in the name of the working class through, among other things, state ownership of the means of production.
 - d. engages in militarism and emphasizes remaking society along racial, religious, or ethnic lines.
 - e. is defined by an effort to remake society and “atomize” the population.
18. A semiauthoritarian system is very similar to
- a. bureaucratic authoritarianism.
 - b. party authoritarianism.
 - c. a semidemocratic system.
 - d. majoritarian democracy.
 - e. Latin American democracy.
19. For most of the twentieth century, Mexico was considered a
- a. party-authoritarian system.
 - b. bureaucratic-authoritarian system.
 - c. consensus democracy.
 - d. majoritarian democracy.
 - e. military-authoritarian system.

20. The belief that constitutions should limit government power, that government officials must obey the country's laws, and that a government's legitimacy comes from obeying these limitations and laws is known as
- the American model of democracy.
 - consensus democracy.
 - constitutionalism.
 - the Westminster model of democracy.
 - laissez faire government.
21. Which best describes a unitary system?
- An arrangement in which the central government has authority over all lower levels of government, and those lower levels have no powers reserved for them
 - A system with an economy is modern enough to require leaders to work closely with a large bureaucracy with expertise on policy matters
 - A system in which the executive and legislative branches are controlled by the same political party
 - A system with an official ideology; a single mass political party, usually with a single leader, that has a monopoly of political power; a secret police force and the use of terror against the population; a monopoly over means of communication; a monopoly over weapons in society; and a command economy
 - A regime type defined by its rule by a single leader or small group of leaders, limited political participation, existent but limited autonomy of society from state control, the lack of an overarching ideology, and limited control over the economy
22. A system in which the central government and regional governments within the state share power is known as a(n)
- unitary system.
 - constitutional democracy.
 - federal system.
 - consensus democracy.
 - confederation.
23. Reserved powers in a federal system refer to
- issues left to the central government alone about which lower levels of government have no direct say.
 - powers given exclusively to lower levels of government that the central government cannot take away.
 - provisions that hold government officials accountable and explicitly state that they are not above the law.
 - powers that both the central government and lower level governments each have.
 - limits on the power of government to take away specified rights of citizens.
24. An affiliation between two or more states not involving a strong central government in which the states involved maintain the vast majority of their sovereignty is called a(n)
- confederation.
 - constitutional system.
 - American model of democracy.
 - consensus democracy.
 - Westminster model of democracy.

25. The transfer of power from a central government to lower governments, usually at the regional (i.e., provincial) level is called
- localism.
 - devolution.
 - confederation.
 - new institutionalism.
 - constitutionalism.
26. Which country is the real world expression of the Westminster model of democracy?
- the United States
 - the United Kingdom
 - France
 - Germany
 - China
27. Which state is currently in the process of devolution?
- France
 - Germany
 - the United Kingdom
 - Russia
 - India
28. In which case might a Presidential System have fewer veto points than a Parliamentary system?
- Presidential systems will always have fewer veto points than Parliamentary systems.
 - A Presidential system with one party controlling the presidency and another controlling both houses of a bicameral legislature and a Parliamentary system with a coalition government
 - A Presidential system with one party controlling the presidency and one both house of a bicameral legislature and a Parliamentary system with a clear majority government
 - A Presidential system with one party controlling the presidency and both houses of a bicameral legislature and a Parliamentary system with a coalition government
 - A Presidential system will never have fewer veto points than a Parliamentary system.
29. Which of the following political arrangements typically would have the **fewest** veto points?
- A presidential system with a bicameral legislature
 - A parliamentary system with a bicameral legislature
 - A parliamentary system with a unicameral legislature
 - A presidential system with a unicameral legislature
 - A system following the Latin American model of democracy
30. Which of the following states does not have a constitution written in a single document?
- France
 - Germany
 - the United Kingdom
 - Iran
 - China
31. Which state is officially designated in its constitution as a “Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic?”
- France

- b. Russia
 - c. China
 - d. India
 - e. Germany
32. Which of the following states has been a democracy since independence?
- a. Mexico
 - b. Brazil
 - c. Russia
 - d. Nigeria
 - e. India
33. Old institutionalism studied politics by
- a. examining how institutions limit the options of individuals seeking to make efficient and effective policy.
 - b. looking at how political institutions reflect society's underlying culture rather than as the product of rational choices in the pursuit of increased efficiency.
 - c. focusing on the broader process of translating political inputs into political outputs.
 - d. examining how political institutions determine the choices that government officials make.
 - e. focusing on descriptions of formal institutions of a country's political system like its constitution.
34. Systems theory is associated with which political scientist?
- a. Ronald Inglehart
 - b. David Easton
 - c. Duane Swank
 - d. William Zimmerman
 - e. Samuel Huntington
35. New institutionalism differs from old institutionalism in that it
- a. sees political institutions as a reflection of socioeconomic structures.
 - b. emphasizes political institutions as a central determinant of the choices that government officials make.
 - c. argues that institutions are both the product of rational calculations on the part of individuals and limit the options of rational individuals seeking to make efficient and effective policy.
 - d. focuses on the broader process of translating political inputs into political outputs.
 - e. stresses the importance of differences in institutional arrangements and the extent to which the political system is an actor in politics with a certain degree of autonomy from society.
36. By the end of Putin's term in 2008, Russia could best be considered to have a(n)
- a. authoritarian system.
 - b. semiauthoritarian system.
 - c. majoritarian democracy.
 - d. totalitarian system.
 - e. system based on the American model of democracy.
37. The method by which Vladimir Putin retained political power in Russia after stepping down from the presidency reflects partial adherence to
- a. old institutionalism.

- b. bureaucratic authoritarianism.
 - c. party authoritarianism.
 - d. military authoritarianism.
 - e. constitutionalism.
38. Which of the following has a unitary system?
- a. Germany
 - b. the United Kingdom
 - c. Russia
 - d. Mexico
 - e. India
39. China's current political system is best described as
- a. party authoritarian.
 - b. bureaucratic authoritarian.
 - c. fascist.
 - d. military authoritarian.
 - e. totalitarian.
40. Which of the following sees institutions as reflecting society's underlying culture rather than as the product of rational choices in the pursuit of increased efficiency?
- a. Sociological new institutionalism
 - b. Behavioralism
 - c. Historical new institutionalism
 - d. Rational choice new institutionalism
 - e. Old institutionalism
41. Which approach suggests that although institutions narrow the field of possible choices, they are also designed and updated by individuals in an ongoing effort to increase institutional efficiency?
- a. Old institutionalism
 - b. Behavioralism
 - c. Historical new institutionalism
 - d. Rational choice new institutionalism
 - e. Sociological new institutionalism

ESSAY

1. Describe the American model of democracy. Explain which of the Topic-in-Country countries you believe is closest to that model.
2. Describe the characteristics of a majoritarian democracy and a consensus democracy as well as the Latin American model of democracy. Explain whether the Latin American model of democracy leans closer to the majoritarian or consensus style of democracy.
3. Discuss the government structure of Iran and the developments between conservatives and Reformers. Explain whether these developments demonstrate that Iran is headed toward a more authoritarian, democratic, or semiauthoritarian/democratic regime now than 10 years ago. Given recent developments, toward what style of government does Iran's current trajectory suggest it is heading.

4. Compare the approaches to studying political science of the three variants of new institutionalism. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of each.
5. Explain how a unitary system and a federal system work and how they are different. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each system. Evaluate which system you believe is the better one.
6. Discuss the process of devolution in the United Kingdom and explain the degree to which it is moving from a unitary state to a federal one.
7. Describe the relations between the central government and lower levels of government in both China and Russia. Explain whether each country is more federal or unitary based on that discussion. Analyze recent changes in how the levels of government relate to each other in the two countries. Compare the degree of similarity in these recent changes. Are both countries changing in the same direction?
8. Describe the characteristics of a majoritarian democracy and a consensus democracy. Explain how the political structure of France combines elements of both.