

CHAPTER 9 Political Parties and Electoral Systems

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Political scientists call the attachment that an individual has to a specific political party a person's
 - a. party preference.
 - b. party patronage.
 - c. party identification.
 - d. party dominance.
 - e. dominant party.

2. Which best describes the difference between a one-party system and a one-party dominant system?
 - a. In a one-party system, the party is ideological, coercive, and destructive of autonomous groups. In a one-party dominant system, it is less ideological and does not desire to destroy autonomous groups.
 - b. In one-party dominant systems, only one party exists. In one-party systems, other political parties are not banned, and smaller parties may even receive a sizable percentage of the vote combined, but one party always wins elections and controls the government.
 - c. In a one-party dominant system, the party is ideological, coercive, and destructive of autonomous groups. In a one-party system, it is less ideological and does not desire to destroy autonomous groups.
 - d. In one-party systems, one large party controls the political system but small parties exist and may even compete in elections. In one-party dominant systems, different parties control the government at different times, but one party always controls all branches of government, i.e., there is never divided government.
 - e. In one-party systems, only one party exists. In one-party dominant systems, other political parties are not banned, and smaller parties may even receive a sizable percentage of the vote combined, but one party always wins elections and controls the government.

3. Which type of party system often results in no party having a legislative majority and the need to form coalitions?
 - a. A multi-member district (MMD) system
 - b. A multiparty system
 - c. Two and a half party system
 - d. Single transferable vote (STV) system
 - e. Hybrid electoral system

4. What type of system is defined as one with several important political parties, none of which generally gain a majority of the seats in the national legislature?
 - a. Proportional representation system
 - b. Two and a half party system
 - c. Multi-member district system
 - d. Minority party system
 - e. Multiparty system

5. Which of the following countries has a two-and-a-half party system?
 - a. the United Kingdom
 - b. France
 - c. India
 - d. Germany

- e. Mexico
6. When a voter casts a vote for a particular party but also plays a role in the decision of which candidates receive the seats earned by that party, it is a(n)
 - a. preference system.
 - b. hybrid electoral system.
 - c. open list proportional representation electoral system.
 - d. run-off election.
 - e. single transferable vote (STV) system.
 7. First and foremost, political parties seek
 - a. money.
 - b. government offices.
 - c. status.
 - d. to eliminate all rivals.
 - e. to confuse and mislead voters.
 8. The form of conventional mass participation in which individuals express a preference for candidates or political parties seeking political office is called a(n)
 - a. preference system.
 - b. hybrid electoral system.
 - c. election.
 - d. party system.
 - e. multiparty system.
 9. What is the term for a rule that forces parties to receive a certain percentage of the vote in a PR system before they receive seats in the legislature?
 - a. Run-off rule
 - b. Duverger's Law
 - c. Closed list proportional rule
 - d. Primary rule
 - e. Threshold rule
 10. Plurality refers to getting
 - a. a majority of the votes.
 - b. the second most votes.
 - c. a super-majority of votes.
 - d. at least thirty percent of the vote.
 - e. the most votes, even if it is not a majority.
 11. What type of election is held if no candidate receives the required majority in the first round of elections?
 - a. General election
 - b. Primary election
 - c. Critical election
 - d. Runoff election
 - e. Nominating election
 12. In first-past-the-post (FPTP) systems, voters typically

- a. cast a vote for a particular party but also play a role in the decision of which candidates receive the seats earned by that party.
 - b. cast their votes for political parties, and the percentage of the vote that each party receives translates into the percentage of seats that the party receives in the legislature.
 - c. select both a party and a candidate, and the legislature is divided into PR and district seats.
 - d. select a particular candidate for each office on the ballot, and the candidate receiving a plurality of the vote is the winner.
 - e. rank candidates, and these rankings collectively determine who wins those district's seats.
13. A preference system favors
- a. candidates who are everyone's second choice but few people's first choice.
 - b. third parties.
 - c. candidates who win a plurality in the first round of voting.
 - d. the incumbent party.
 - e. no group or type of candidates in particular, it is highly sought after because of its neutrality.
14. The variant of the FPTP approach in which more than one candidate is selected from a particular electoral district is called
- a. hybrid electoral system.
 - b. multi-member district.
 - c. multiparty system.
 - d. open list proportional representation electoral system.
 - e. proportional representation.
15. Which system allows voters to rank candidates in a single-member or multi-member district race?
- a. Principle of the first minority
 - b. Hybrid electoral system
 - c. Majoritarian systems
 - d. Primary election systems
 - e. Preference systems
16. A single transferable vote (STV) system
- a. is one where multiple candidates from the same political party compete against each other for the right to represent the party in a general election for a particular political office.
 - b. is an election in which the two candidates who receive the most votes in the first round compete in a second round.
 - c. combines preference voting with multi-member districts.
 - d. has voters casting votes for a particular party that play a role in the decision of which candidates receive the seats earned by that party.
 - e. is an electoral system in which voters cast their votes for political parties and the percentage of the vote that each party receives translates into the percentage of seats that the party receives in the legislature.
17. When voters select both a party and a candidate, and the legislature is divided into PR and district seats, it is known as a(n)
- a. hybrid electoral system.
 - b. open list proportional system.
 - c. single transferable vote system.
 - d. multi-member district system.

- e. first past the post system.
18. In which type of electoral system are women more likely to get elected?
- a. Single member district system
 - b. Proportional representation system
 - c. First-past-the- post system
 - d. Hybrid electoral system
 - e. Preference system
19. Which of the following reserves seats in a particular body for the party that finishes second in a district election?
- a. A run-off election
 - b. Principle of the first minority
 - c. Primary election
 - d. Secondary election
 - e. Hybrid electoral system
20. For which party has the country's use of FPTP election rules consistently caused it to have significantly disproportionately fewer seats in the legislature than its percentage of the votes in the elections?
- a. Labor
 - b. Conservatives
 - c. Christian Democrats
 - d. Social Democrats
 - e. Liberal Democrats
21. Tony Blair brought the Labour Party in Britain to power by
- a. moving the party to the right to attract middle-class votes.
 - b. moving the party to the left to attract working-class votes.
 - c. championing a series of long-demanded constitutional reforms.
 - d. moving the party to the right to attract working-class votes.
 - e. moving the party to the left to attract middle-class votes.
22. Duverger's Law argues
- a. that understanding parties requires considering the ways in which they are similar to and different from businesses, interest groups, and government agencies.
 - b. a country's party system is less a function of its electoral rules than of its underlying socioeconomic divisions.
 - c. the fortunes of major political parties remain stable for long periods followed by a dramatic change.
 - d. that parties that adopt a range of ideologically moderate policies designed to capture broad segments of the population are the most successful.
 - e. that FPTP electoral systems generate two-party systems.
23. A catch-all party would be least likely in which kind of party system?
- a. One party dominant system
 - b. Two party system
 - c. Two-and-a-half party system
 - d. Multiparty system
 - e. Majoritarian party system

24. In which country do the results of the election determine exactly how many seats are in the lower house of the legislature?
- France
 - the United Kingdom
 - Germany
 - India
 - Nigeria
25. Which German party attracts mainly professionals and the self-employed?
- Greens
 - Social Democrats
 - Christian Democrats
 - Free Democrats
 - Conservatives
26. The Left Party in Germany differs from the former East German Communist Party in that
- the old East German Communist Party was not willing to enter into coalitions, but the Left Party is.
 - the Left Party has support in all areas of Germany including the former communist areas of the East.
 - the Left Party was not willing to enter into coalitions, but the old East German Communist Party is.
 - the old East German Communist Party would meet the threshold requirement, but the Left Party does not.
 - the only difference between them is the name.
27. Realignment theory contends that
- parties that adopt a range of ideologically moderate policies designed to capture broad segments of the population are the most successful.
 - a country's party system is less a function of its electoral rules than of its underlying socioeconomic divisions.
 - the fortunes of major political parties remain stable for long periods followed by a dramatic change.
 - FPTP electoral systems generate two-party systems.
 - understanding parties requires considering the ways in which they are similar to and different from businesses, interest groups, and government agencies.
28. Elections that mark the beginning of a realignment are known as
- critical elections.
 - primary elections.
 - runoff elections.
 - redefining elections.
 - defining elections.
29. Which country, often considered a classic example of a one-party dominant system, had a one-party dominant system for most of the twentieth century, but currently does not have such a system?
- Germany
 - Russia
 - China

- d. Mexico
 - e. Nigeria
30. The party that has become the leading party in Mexico at the federal level, as its candidates have won the last two presidential contests, is best described as
- a. catch-all.
 - b. pro business, but secular.
 - c. clientist.
 - d. pro-Catholic and socialist.
 - e. both pro-business and pro-Catholic.
31. Party organization theory suggests that
- a. the fortunes of major political parties remain stable for long periods followed by a dramatic change.
 - b. FPTP electoral systems generate two-party systems.
 - c. understanding parties requires considering the ways in which they are similar to and different from businesses, interest groups, and government agencies.
 - d. parties that adopt a range of ideologically moderate policies designed to capture broad segments of the population are the most successful.
 - e. a country's party system is less a function of its electoral rules than of its underlying socioeconomic divisions.
32. Nigeria has a
- a. one-party system.
 - b. one-party dominant system.
 - c. two-party system.
 - d. two-and-a-half party system.
 - e. multiparty system.
33. Which of the following led a party with a center-left ideology?
- a. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
 - b. Boris Yeltsin
 - c. Helmut Kohl
 - d. Olusegun Obasanjo
 - e. Fernando Henrique Cardoso
34. Perhaps in an effort to avoid dominance of a political party controlled by one ethnic group, in which country must the president win at least 25 percent of the vote in two-thirds of the country's political regions, in addition to a majority of the vote overall?
- a. Nigeria
 - b. Brazil
 - c. Iran
 - d. Mexico
 - e. Russia
35. During the 1990s, which Russian political party was the most popular and won the most votes in parliamentary elections?
- a. All Russia Party
 - b. Liberal Democrats
 - c. Communists

- d. United Russia Party
 - e. Russia's Choice Party
36. Which of the following countries has a one-party system?
- a. Iran
 - b. Russia
 - c. China
 - d. Brazil
 - e. India
37. Which best describes what Chinese Communist leaders learned from the turmoil in Eastern European communist countries in 1989?
- a. Allowing protesters to blow off steam was much more effective than trying to crush them.
 - b. Travel restrictions were necessary to keep people from spreading discontent after seeing the freedoms and prosperity of the West.
 - c. Protests could bring down Communist governments and without a significant show of force the Chinese Communist Party could suffer the same fate.
 - d. Allowing citizens to visit other countries gave them a sense of freedom and greatly diffused discontent.
 - e. Acting on the demands made by protesters, rather than just letting them blow off steam, would help diffuse discontent and preserve Communist Party power.
38. Which best describes the status of political parties in Iran since the Islamic Revolution?
- a. Although not illegal, there have been no political parties in Iran since the revolution.
 - b. There were political parties in the first years after the revolution, but the government abolished them and none of any consequence has reformed.
 - c. There has and continues to be only one party, and it is an Islamic Fundamentalist party.
 - d. Multiple parties exist and have alternated control of the executive and legislative branches of government.
 - e. All organized political activity that political scientists would associate with political parties has been banned since the revolution.
39. Iran's current Supreme Leader is
- a. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.
 - b. Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.
 - c. Mohammed Khatami.
 - d. Ruhollah Khomeini.
 - e. Ali Khamenei.
40. Whose reelection sparked massive protests and street demonstrations?
- a. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
 - b. Tony Blair
 - c. Goodluck Jonathan
 - d. Vladimir Putin
 - e. Carlos Salinas
41. Which of the following Iranian leaders favor an increase in political and social freedoms within the broad framework of an Islamic state?
- a. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
 - b. Ali Khamenei

- c. Ruhollah Khomeini
 - d. Mohammed Khatami
 - e. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani
42. Current Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad belongs to a faction in Iranian politics that
- a. supports the regime as it is currently constituted, including its relationship with the business class.
 - b. wants an extreme theocratic state and questions the vast wealth of the business sector in the country.
 - c. calls for an increase in political and social freedoms within the broad framework of an Islamic state.
 - d. advocates a blend of socialist ideas and Islamic character.
 - e. has much less ideological focus than others and a desire to destroy autonomous groups.
43. The key issue in the election that originally brought Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to power was
- a. economic.
 - b. opposition to the existence of Israel.
 - c. women's rights.
 - d. defense of Iran's right to a nuclear energy program.
 - e. reaffirmation of Iran's hard-line interpretation of social and cultural practices.
44. What does the occurrence of the Green Revolution in Iran suggest?
- a. Much of the population supports hard-line interpretations of social and cultural practices.
 - b. Although the protests collapsed, they suggest a base of support for a future pro-reform candidate.
 - c. The control of hard-line, Islamic Fundamentalists is impossible to break.
 - d. Global warming is such a threat that even Islamic Fundamentalists regimes like Iran take it seriously.
 - e. The Iranian regime is embracing the spirit of allowing political dissent.
45. Which of the "Topic in Countries" cases has what is best described as a "no party system"?
- a. Iran
 - b. China
 - c. Russia
 - d. Nigeria
 - e. India

ESSAY

1. Discuss the evolution of the Russia electoral system. Explain the type of elections Russia has had in the past ten years, which parties have won, and the degree to which the elections were "free and fair." Evaluate the degree to which the patterns emerging in the Russian electoral and party systems are consistent with creeping authoritarianism.
2. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a multiparty system. Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

3. Identify the type of party system in Germany. Discuss the results of the most recent federal and regional elections in Germany and evaluate whether German politics seems to be headed toward greater fragmentation or unity.
4. Discuss the advantages of a first-past-the-post electoral system and compare those with the advantages of a proportional representation electoral system. Given this discussion, evaluate which type of electoral system is better.
5. Compare the views of Ayatollah Khomeini and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad about the appropriate type of political system and structure for Iran. Evaluate the degree of similarity between the two views.