Chapter 06: Interest Groups

Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following is a purpose of interest groups in American politics?
   a. They help bridge the gap between citizens and government.
   b. They help conduct campaigns for candidates of primary elections.
   c. They restrict citizens from taking action on certain issues.
   d. They dictate the duties of government officials.
   e. They keep the public from interfering in government affairs.

2. Which of the following is an example of a professional interest group?
   a. The American Political Science Association
   b. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
   c. The National Urban League
   d. The Tea Party movement
   e. The National Wildlife Federation

3. Which of the following is true of the provisions under the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act of 1946?
   a. Every registered lobbyist had to make quarterly reports on his or her activities.
   b. Anyone violating the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act could be imprisoned for up to six years.
   c. No person or organization was allowed to receive money to influence legislation.
   d. Any group or person seeking to influence legislation indirectly was needed to register with the government.
   e. Anyone violating the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act could be fined a maximum amount of $1000.

4. Which of the following is one of the two umbrella organizations that include small and large corporations and businesses in the United States?
   a. The Young Entrepreneur Council
   b. The Consumers Cooperative Services
   c. The National Council of Agricultural Employees
   d. The National Association of Manufacturers
   e. The Produce Marketing Association

5. The _____ banned unlimited donations to campaigns and political parties, called soft money.
   a. Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003
   b. Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002
   c. Trade Act of 2002
   d. Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007
   e. Economic Stimulus Act of 2008

6. _____ deal with problems such as substandard housing, discrimination in the granting of credit, and business inaction on complaints of buyers.
   a. Identity interest groups
   b. Consumer interest groups
   c. Professional interest groups
   d. Business interest groups
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 e. Labor interest groups

7. ________ is the apt label that has been given to campaigns that masquerade as grassroots mobilizations, but are not.
   a. Demonstrating
   b. Astroturf lobbying
   c. Stare decisis
   d. Amicus curiae briefing
   e. Flashmob

8. Which of the following is true of pluralists?
   a. They contend that conflicts among interest groups can only divide a nation into hostile camps.
   b. They contend that no one interest group can dominate the political process.
   c. They state that politics is the result of collaboration of interest groups and not competition among them.
   d. They contend that the influence of interest groups on government is undemocratic.
   e. They state that the influence of interest groups on government is undemocratic.

9. Which of the following is an example of a public-interest group?
   a. The National Association of Manufacturers
   b. The American Federation of Labor
   c. The American Medical Association
   d. The American Civil Liberties Union
   e. The American Farm Bureau Federation

10. Which of the following is true of the right to petition the government?
    a. It prohibits citizens from suing the government.
    b. It is guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution.
    c. It is a right limited to the members of Congress.
    d. It forbids citizens from demanding redress of grievances.
    e. It allows citizens and groups of citizens to lobby members of Congress.

11. In Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, the Court ruled that political action committees could accept unlimited contributions for _____.
    a. making dispersed costs
    b. providing concentrated benefits
    c. making bundled expenditures
    d. making independent expenditures
    e. granting tax-exempt status

12. ________ are expenditures that are not coordinated with a candidate's campaign or a political party.
    a. Bundled expenditures
    b. Dispersed costs
    c. Concentrated costs
    d. Independent expenditures
    e. Unexpected costs
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13. Which of the following is an example of an ideological interest group?
   a. The National Education Association
   b. The Club for Growth
   c. The National Grange
   d. The Farm Bureau
   e. The American Medical Association

14. Which of the following is true of interest group representatives or lobbyists?
   a. Their movement between their groups' headquarters and congressional offices is restricted.
   b. They are frequently asked to testify before congressional committees on the effect or potential effect of particular legislation.
   c. They are seldom consulted when Congress formulates new regulations.
   d. Since interest groups are a temporary feature of American government, lobbying has not yet developed into a profession.
   e. A professional lobbyist can represent only a single interest group throughout his or her career.

15. Which of the following is the largest and most effective broad-based agricultural interest group?
   a. The American Farm Bureau Federation
   b. The National Association of Social Workers
   c. Common Cause
   d. Consumers Union
   e. The National Grange

16. The ______ guarantees the right of the people "to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."
   a. First Amendment
   b. Fifth Amendment
   c. Seventh Amendment
   d. Fourteenth Amendment
   e. Nineteenth Amendment

17. ________ contends that, as a practical matter, the government is controlled by one or more exclusive groups, typically drawn from the wealthiest members of society.
   a. Disturbance theory
   b. Elite theory
   c. Naturalist theory
   d. Entrepreneurial theory
   e. Communist theory

18. Which of the following types of interest groups has aims other than benefiting narrow economic interests?
   a. A labor interest group
   b. A professional interest group
   c. A business interest group
   d. An agricultural interest group
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e. A public-interest group

19. Which of the following is true of tax breaks for special interest?
   a. They require the government to spend more on interest groups than subsidies.
   b. Demanding tax breaks is becoming an increasingly unpopular objective of interest groups.
   c. Tax breaks for a special interest can be harder to obtain than subsidies.
   d. They do not look like government spending.
   e. Tax breaks are also referred to as subsidies.

20. The _____ syndrome refers to the frequent transition of those who leave positions with the federal government to become lobbyists or consultants for the private-interest groups they helped to regulate.
   a. "democratic doorway"
   b. "revolving door"
   c. "political portal"
   d. "glass ceiling"
   e. "political breach"

21. If the Senate passes a bill opposed by an interest group, which of the following is the immediate next step that can be taken by the group before it is signed by the president?
   a. It can lobby trial court judges to oppose the bill.
   b. It can shift its lobbying efforts to the Supreme Court.
   c. It can lobby the executive agency that implements laws.
   d. It can file a brief as an amicus curiae.
   e. It can shift its lobbying efforts to the House of Representatives.

22. Since the 1970s, corporations, labor unions, and special interest groups have been allowed to raise funds and make campaign contributions through _____.
   a. political action committees
   b. Congress members
   c. executive members
   d. senate committees
   e. Advertising Standards Authorities

23. Which of the following is true of interest groups?
   a. They are usually disorganized and chaotic.
   b. They consist of a group of people sharing diverse interests.
   c. Their influence on the government is limited to the use of direct methods.
   d. They pursue their goals in every branch of government.
   e. Their influence on the government is limited to the use of indirect methods.

24. Traditionally, business interest groups have been viewed as staunch supporters of the _____.
   a. Federalist Party
   b. Democratic Party
   c. Communist Party
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d. Republican Party  
e. Egalitarian Party

25. Which of the following statements is true of trade organizations?  
   a. They are required to fund the Chamber of Commerce.  
   b. They usually support policies that benefit specific industries.  
   c. They are formed with the primary goal of working for the public good.  
   d. They primarily represent the people over the age of sixteen who are working.  
   e. They are formed with the main purpose of protecting consumer rights.

26. Which of the following statements is true of labor unions?  
   a. In the private sector, it is compulsory for workers to join unions.  
   b. It is much easier to form and maintain unions in the United States than in most other industrial nations.  
   c. Most business owners in the United States make enormous efforts to ensure that their own businesses are unionized.  
   d. Today, members of organized labor make up more than 30 percent of all wage and salary workers.  
   e. The political power of labor unions has waned over the last several decades.

27. The freedom to form interest groups and to lobby the government is protected by _____.  
   a. the Twenty-fourth Amendment  
   b. Magna Carta  
   c. the Bill of Rights  
   d. the Massachusetts Body of Liberties  
   e. the Seventeenth Amendment

28. A major complaint by critics of interest groups is that the benefits these groups obtain are not in the general public interest. Which of the following is a reason for this criticism?  
   a. They allow only wealthy and influential people to join their groups.  
   b. There is a lack of funds for the development of interest groups.  
   c. They cannot directly influence public policy.  
   d. They are considered undemocratic by political scientists.  
   e. There is an enthusiasm gap between supporters and opponents of any given subsidy.

29. Under the 1946 Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act, _____.  
   a. lobbying was prohibited  
   b. bundled campaign contributions were banned  
   c. only those lobbyists who sought to influence federal legislation directly were covered  
   d. only persons whose lobbying was directed at agencies in the executive branch were required to register as lobbyists and file quarterly reports  
   e. members of Congress were prohibited from accepting gifts or travel paid for by lobbyists

30. _____ are special provisions benefitting a lawmaker's constituents, also known as "pork barrel legislation."  
   a. Profits  
   b. Incentives
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c. Perks
d. Wages
e. Earmarks

31. In the context of American democracy, which of the following is true of majoritarianism?
   a. It is a belief that public policy should be in accordance with the opinion of the most powerful in the nation.
   b. It is popular but political scientists find it to be a startlingly poor description of how politics actually works.
   c. It is believed to contain elements of truth and practicality.
   d. It contends that the government is controlled by one or more elite groups.
   e. It supports the elite theory that explains how politics works.

32. Indirect techniques of influencing government policy can be particularly effective because:
   a. they provide a large amount of election support to public officials.
   b. they require considerably less effort from interest groups than direct methods.
   c. public officials are often more impressed by contacts from voters than from lobbyists.
   d. they are better planned than direct lobbying techniques.
   e. lobbyists demand more benefits than common voters.

33. Which of the following is true of consumer interest groups?
   a. They represent all trade organizations.
   b. They are organized to protect the rights of buyers.
   c. They are organized to work on behalf of agricultural interests.
   d. They help protect the rights of private-sector workers.
   e. They represent people who share the same race.

34. A group becomes an interest group when it:
   a. seeks to entertain its members with no broader purpose.
   b. facilitates worship and community.
   c. seeks to affect practices of the government.
   d. does not have explicit political aims.
   e. has a tax-exempt status.

35. Which of the following is true of a purposive incentive?
   a. It is the satisfaction gained from being in a group that stands for what a person believes in.
   b. It is the satisfaction gained from feeling a sense of belonging to a group.
   c. It is the satisfaction gained from receiving benefits such as discounts for being a part of a group.
   d. It is the satisfaction gained from making friends.
   e. It is the satisfaction gained from being able to dictate the actions of the members of a group.

36. In March 2010, the _____ banned earmarks that benefit profit-making corporations.
   a. Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act
   b. Republican-led House Appropriations Committee
   c. Honest Leadership and Open Government Act
   d. Lobbying Disclosure Act
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e. Democratic National Committee

37. Lobbying is best defined as:
   a. the attempts to shape public opinion through online campaigns.
   b. the indirect techniques used by government officials to gain the confidence of interest groups.
   c. the direct attempts by individuals or organizations to influence administrative decisions of government.
   d. the peaceful demonstrations that are designed to make a statement about a group's interests.
   e. the evaluation of performance of legislators based on how often they have voted with an interest group's position on particular issues.

38. Which of the following statements is true of right-to-work laws?
   a. These laws have helped reduce the free rider problem for unions.
   b. These laws ban foreign immigrants from being promoted to high managerial positions in a government organization.
   c. These laws are followed by 45 states in the United States.
   d. These laws ban unions from collecting dues from workers whom they represent but who have not joined the union.
   e. These laws have made it compulsory for workers over the age of 35 to join unions.

39. Which of the following is true of the entrepreneurial theory?
   a. This line of thought focuses on the importance of the leaders who establish an organization.
   b. This line of thought focuses on the ideologies of an organization.
   c. This line of thought focuses on the people who are affected by an organization.
   d. This line of thought focuses on the importance of funds necessary to run an organization.
   e. This line of thought focuses on the problem of free riders who benefit from an organization.

40. The__________is a system by which a particular interest group evaluates the performance of legislators based on how often the legislators have voted with the group's position on particular issues.
   a. grassroot system
   b. rating system
   c. shaping system
   d. mobilizing system
   e. reserve system

41. The Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995:
   a. restricted lobbyists from engaging in direct lobbying.
   b. exempted all lobbyists from registering with the clerk of the House.
   c. exempted lobbyists from disclosing the name of the agency or chamber of Congress they contacted.
   d. required lobbyists to report their clients.
   e. increased the tax imposed on lobbyists.

42. Interest groups may form—and existing groups may become more politically active—when:
   a. the number of privately owned companies increases.
   b. the government expands its scope of activities.
   c. the government fails and there is anarchy.
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d. the president declares an emergency.
e. the private sector increases its scope of activities.

43. The_________ included provisions requiring the disclosure of lawmakers' requests for earmarks in legislation.
   a. Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act of 1946
   c. Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002
   d. Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995
   e. Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970

44. Which of the following is true of American interest groups?
   a. Interest groups are considered undemocratic.
   b. Interest groups have become a permanent part of American government.
   c. Each interest group can only be represented by a single lobbyist throughout its existence.
   d. All the major interest groups have headquarters in Los Angeles.
   e. Interest group representatives are seldom consulted when Congress drafts new legislation.

45. _____ is an indirect technique used by interest groups to influence government policy.
   a. Lobbying
   b. Providing election support
   c. Forming political action committees
   d. Mobilizing constituents
   e. Participating in elections

46. In the context of public interests, which of the following statements is true?
   a. A clear public interest does not exist.
   b. The American Civil Liberties Union, a public-interest group, represents all American people.
   c. All lobbying groups represent public interests.
   d. Public-interest groups do not include environmental groups.
   e. All political parties represent public interests.

47. _____ maintain that the influence of interest groups on government is not undemocratic because individual interests are indirectly represented in the policymaking process through these groups.
   a. Marxists
   b. Textualists
   c. Naturalists
   d. Pluralists
   e. Secularists

48. What effect does the diverse nature and large size of the United States have on interest groups?
   a. There are fewer interest groups.
   b. The government has enacted tighter controls on interest groups.
   c. Interest groups have less power than in other countries.
   d. There are many interests and therefore many interest groups.
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e. Political parties have more power that interest groups.

49. Pleasure in associating with like-minded individuals is a _____ to join an interest group.
   a. material incentive
   b. purposive incentive
   c. solidary incentive
   d. monetary incentive
   e. tangible incentive

50. Practical benefits such as discounts, subscriptions, or group insurance is a _____ to join an interest group.
   a. material incentive
   b. purposive incentive
   c. solidary incentive
   d. monetary incentive
   e. tangible incentive

51. Which of the following is true of the elite theory?
   a. Describes the majorities’ fight against the wealthy elite.
   b. Contends that politics is a contest among various interest groups.
   c. Describes the Federalist vision for America.
   d. Is based on monetary incentive.
   e. Contends that the government is controlled by one or more elite groups.

52. Which of the following is a way that interest groups differ from political parties?
   a. Interest groups attempt to operate the government.
   b. Interest groups are often financed through contributions or dues-paying memberships.
   c. Interest groups care about broad spectrum issues.
   d. Political parties are policy specialists.
   e. Interest group’s main sphere of influence is the electoral system.

53. The Tea Party movement has been described as which type of interest group?
   a. Identity
   b. Environmental
   c. Ideological
   d. Consumer
   e. Professional

54. Which of the following type of interest groups has supported pollution controls, wilderness protection, and clean-air legislation?
   a. Identity
   b. Environmental
   c. Ideological
   d. Consumer
   e. Professional
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55. MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) is an example of which of the following types of interest groups?
   a. Identity
   b. Single-issue
   c. Ideological
   d. Religious
   e. Professional

56. Any method used by an interest group to interact with government officials directly to further the group’s goals is known as a(n) _____.
   a. political action
   b. indirect technique
   c. direct technique
   d. independent expenditure
   e. relational technique

57. When a lobbyist provides expertise and research results for legislators they are using a(n) _____.
   a. political action
   b. indirect technique
   c. direct technique
   d. independent expenditure
   e. scientific argument

Essay

58. Discuss the major provisions of the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act of 1946 and the reasons why it failed to regulate lobbying to a great degree.

59. Discuss the difference between interest groups and political parties.

60. Discuss the difference between public-sector unions and private-sector unions.

61. Describe 527 and 501(c)4 organizations.

62. Discuss lobbying as a direct method of influencing government policy.