

Chapter 14

Multiple Choice

1. Iran's Hassan Rouhani won the presidency in 2013 running on a platform promising to
 - a. reverse many of the liberal changes implemented under former president Ahmadinejad.
 - b. take a hard line on Israel with the objective of crushing its defense forces.
 - c. reduce poverty and promote social justice and religious freedom.
 - d. strengthen the rule of law, fix the economy, and improve relations with the West.
2. Iran's heritage gives it a national identity distinct from the Arab and Turkish world. This heritage is best described as
 - a. Iranian.
 - b. Persian.
 - c. Safavid.
 - d. Pashtuun.
3. The primary difference between Sunni and Shi'i Islam is over
 - a. whether all Muslims have to make a pilgrimage to Mecca.
 - b. who should have succeeded the Prophet Mohammad following his death.
 - c. the extent to which one needs to comply to the Five Pillars of Islam.
 - d. whether the Prophet was divine.
4. Which of the following is a collection of Islamic religious laws, one that the Shi'is believe is based on the teaching of the Twelve Imams?
 - a. Shari'a
 - b. Madhi
 - c. Torah
 - d. Avesta
5. Which of the following pair of dynasties are most responsible for make Shi'I Islam the dominant form of Islam in Iran? The two dynasties most responsible for the dominance of Shi'i Islam in Iran include the _____ who were responsible for converting the majority of the population and the _____ who were responsible for making it their country's state religion.
 - a. Tudeh Pahlavis
 - b. Qajars Kurds
 - c. Safavids Qajars
 - d. Farsi Safavids
6. The Constitutional Revolution in the early 20th century was important because it
 - a. instituted a theocracy in Iran.
 - b. introduced features of modern government to Iran such as elections and a national assembly.
 - c. stated that Sunni Islam would be the official religion of Iran.
 - d. ceded authority to the Ottoman Empire.

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7. Iran's first highly centralized state with a standing army and a large administrative bureaucracy was established by

- a. Ayatollah Khomeini.
- b. Muhammad Reza Shah.
- c. the Safavids.
- d. Reza Khan

8. Muhammad Reza Shah Pahlavi was installed with absolute power in 1953

- a. by referendum.
- b. after a protracted civil war.
- c. by his father who abdicated the throne.
- d. After a vote by the *Majles*.

9. The White Revolution was an attempt by

- a. Ayatollah Khomeini to develop a version of Shi'i populism addressing socioeconomic grievances
- b. Muhammad Reza Shah to promote economic development and some forms of social reform
- c. Iran to enter the world of states as a militant force to spread its theocratic version of Islam
- d. Muhammad Reza Shah to replace the use of European code law with shari'a law

10. Which of the following organizations was created in 1975 by the Shah to create an organizational link between his government and the Iranian population, especially the bazaars, who had managed to escape direct governmental control.

- a. Resurgence Party
- b. Tudeh Party
- c. National Front
- d. Mojahedin

11. The leader of the Islamic Revolution was

- a. Jalal Al-e-Ahmand.
- b. Ayatollah Khomeini.
- c. Ali Shariati.
- d. Ayatollah Khamenei

12. Khomeini's version of Shi'ism is best labeled as

- a. Islamic fundamentalism.
- b. Shi'i populism.
- c. Islamic social conservatism.
- d. religious dogmatism.

13. Which of the following was NOT a factor that led to the Shah's fall from power?

- a. An economic crisis consisting of a rise in consumer prices and a decline in oil prices
- b. A military coup by generals unhappy with the Shah's reforms
- c. International pressure from human rights organizations
- d. Massive general strikes that brought the country's economy to a halt

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14. Iran's theocratic constitution following the Islamic Revolution was
- imposed upon Iran by Ayatollah Khomeini.
 - submitted to a vote by the *hojjat-al-Islams* and *ayatollahs*.
 - publicly endorsed by the *pasdaran*.
 - submitted by Khomeini to a popular vote.
15. Which of the following is NOT a factor that helped Iran's clerics consolidate power in Iran after the revolution?
- The highly charismatic leadership of Khomeini
 - The invasion of Iran in 1980 by Iraq
 - The increase in international petroleum prices, sustaining Iran's oil revenues
 - The U.S. embassy break-in
16. Which of the following factors undermined liberal President Khatami's rule and led to the victory of ultra conservative Mahmoud Ahmanadinejad?
- His government's pro-Israeli policies
 - Iran's support for the installation of a pro-American government in Iraq in 2003
 - His support to depose the Taliban in Afghanistan
 - U.S. president George Bush's hardline actions toward Iran, including his support for regime change
17. Khomeini pursued many policies that had the effect of isolating Iran from the Western world. Which of the following was NOT one of them?
- Calling for revolutions throughout the Muslim world
 - Opposing the U.S.-sponsored war on terror in the immediate aftermath of 9/11
 - Permitting Iran's intelligence services to assassinate opposition leaders living in Western Europe
 - Launching a research program to build medium-range missiles and nuclear power
18. Which of the following statements about nuclear power and Iran is NOT true?
- The Bush Administrations accepted Iran's right to enrich uranium so long as it guaranteed that it did not do so to the point of producing nuclear weapons.
 - Iran's plans to develop nuclear power have been delayed because of U.S. pressure on Europe not to transfer such technology to Iran.
 - The United States and Israel developed a cyber-sabotage program to infect Iranian computers used to control the production of enriched uranium.
 - The United States and other Western powers believe that any nuclear technology in the hands of Iran could be passed on to terrorist organizations.
19. The authority of clerics in the Iranian theocratic political system comes from
- their direct communications with God.
 - their direct lineage to Prophet Muhammad.
 - their scholarly knowledge of religious scriptures and God's law.
 - historical precedence of clerics ruling Iran.

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20. A country that earns much of its revenue by exporting raw materials, such as oil, or leasing out natural resources to foreign companies is known as
- a dual society.
 - an export substitution state.
 - a rentier state.
 - a dependent country.
21. From the 1950s through the 1970s, all of the following generally deterred foreigners from investing in Iran EXCEPT
- government corruption.
 - fear of government confiscation.
 - a small internal market.
 - clerical rule.
22. What consequences did Iran's vast amounts of oil revenues have on the country?
- Oil helped fuel democratic reforms within the state.
 - With tax incentives, foreign investment in the manufacturing sector increased.
 - The oil fields had a detrimental environmental impact on agriculture land.
 - The state became independent of society since it did not depend on society for tax revenue.
23. One of Iran's main economic problems under the Islamic Republic has been the
- rapidly declining birthrate.
 - constantly declining tax revenues.
 - instability in the world oil market.
 - flooding of local markets by cheap foreign imports.
24. The Shah's approach to economic development was best characterized as
- "trickle down," meaning growth of those better off will gradually benefit the poor.
 - a combination of rentier state and theocracy.
 - a combination of both "trick down" and "trickle up."
 - a combination of capitalism and communism.
25. The term *dual society* refers to a socioeconomic division between
- modern, usually richer, and a traditional, usually poorer, sectors.
 - a modern economy and a traditional society.
 - a religious society and a liberal, secular society.
 - ethnic and religious groups.
26. Which of the following describes the change in Islamic Republic's position on population issues in the late 20th century?
- It states that Islam approves of large families and that Iran's strength lies in having a large population.
 - It grants social benefits to families with three or more children.
 - It encourages families to have few children due to the social costs of having large families.
 - It offers financial incentives to families to limit themselves to one child.

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27. Various Iranian political administrations have undertaken all of the following measures to address Iran's environmental problems EXCEPT

- a. They have begun to produce highly refined gasoline to decrease air pollution.
- b. They have supported water conservation to combat the problem of aridity and the lack of regular rainfall.
- c. They have encouraged citizens to use public transport to decrease the use of private cars.
- d. They have supported reforestation efforts throughout the country.

28. Iran's integration into the international system in the late nineteenth century led to economic dependency, a situation common in much of the developing world. Which of the following is a consequence of such economic dependency?

- a. Poorer nations are much less vulnerable to sudden fluctuations in richer economies.
- b. Poorer nations are much less dependent on the export of raw materials.
- c. The prices of raw materials that poorer nations export often stagnate or decline.
- d. Rich countries become too reliant on poor countries for raw materials.

29. Which of the following is NOT true of Iran's economy prior to the Islamic Revolution?

- a. Iran was an important member of OPEC.
- b. Iran was a major purchaser of arms, especially from the United States.
- c. The country was dependent on oil as a commodity that was subject to volatile market prices.
- d. Iran had significant trade relations with its neighbors and other developing countries.

30. Iran's state organizations must conform to all of the following "divine principles" as spelled out in the constitution's preamble EXCEPT

- a. Khomeini's doctrine of jurist's guardianship
- b. the Qur'an
- c. the eventual return of the Hidden Imam
- d. toleration of the People of the Book

31. The Islamic Republic is most aptly called a regime of the

- a. Ayatollahs.
- b. *Hojjat al-Islams*.
- c. *Majles*.
- d. Hezbollahis.

32. The Supreme Leader is elected by the

- a. general electorate.
- b. Assembly of Religious Experts.
- c. Guardian Council.
- d. Expediency Council.

33. Which of the following is NOT a power of the Supreme Leader?

- a. He can mediate between the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary.
- b. He chooses the president.

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- c. He is commander-in-chief.
 - d. He can nominate clerics to the Guardian Council.
34. The Guardian Council
- a. acts as the judiciary for Iran's government.
 - b. resolves differences between the President and the Leader.
 - c. reviews all candidates for elected office.
 - d. Resolves differences between the Assembly of Experts and the *Majles*.
35. The Expediency Council has been set up to mediate differences between the *Majles* and the
- a. Assembly of Religious Experts
 - b. Supreme Leader
 - c. Guardian Council
 - d. Military
36. The *Iman Jum'ehs* are
- a. prayer leaders at Iran's main city mosques.
 - b. the heads of Iran's main religious endowments.
 - c. the members of the Expediency Council.
 - d. the military heads of the pasdaran.
37. Which of the following describes the role of the Assembly of Experts?
- a. It chooses Iran's vice president to check the power of the president.
 - b. It helps the Supreme Leader select members of Iran's judiciary.
 - c. It approves candidates running for political office, including that of the presidency.
 - d. It oversees the work of the Leader and has the power to dismiss him if he is unable to fulfill his official duties.
38. The powers of the president include all of the following EXCEPT the power to
- a. determine whether laws conform to Islamic law.
 - b. sign international treaties.
 - c. chair the National Security Council.
 - d. draw up the annual budget.
39. Which of the following bureaucratic ministries are the most important in the Islamic Republic?
- a. SAVAK, Justice, Defense, and Reconstruction
 - b. Intelligence, Culture and Islamic Guidance, Interior, and Defense
 - c. Culture and Islamic Guidance, Intelligence, Reconstruction, and Heavy Industries
 - d. Interior, Heavy Industries, Justice, and Culture and Islamic Guidance
40. Which of the following describes the relationship of Iran's clerics with its most sensitive ministries?
- a. While the leaders of these ministries appear to be highly trained technocrats, they are fairly powerless individuals dependent on a powerful clergy.
 - b. The clergy clearly dominates Iran's bureaucracy, with clerical members controlling not only the top cabinet positions but the clear majority of subordinate positions within them.

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- c. The clergy is prevented from holding cabinet positions in these ministries, although they dominate and control the rest of Iran's ministries.
 - d. Iran's clerics are confined to working for only these five ministries and they are clearly subordinate to the ministers of these cabinet departments.
41. Which of the following about the recent 2013 presidential elections is CORRECT?
- a. The Supreme Leader refused to back the conservative candidates ensuring the Revolutionary Guards and conservative clerical institutions would not interfere with the elections.
 - b. Rouhani ran a platform emphasizing that Iran should not compromise on its foreign policy stances, including its nuclear program.
 - c. Massive uprisings occurred after the election, protesting the unfair nature of Iranian elections.
 - d. A hardline conservative, Rouhani ran on a populist platform including the need to provide a monthly stipend to Iran's citizens.
42. Which one of the following statements is NOT correct about Iran's judicial system?
- a. The central state retains the right to intervene in the local judicial process.
 - b. Iran utilizes an extremely severe penal code called the Retribution Law.
 - c. Following the Iranian Revolution, the government purged the clergy from the judicial system.
 - d. Today, those guilty of breaking the law are fined or imprisoned rather than flogged in the public square.
43. Following the Iranian Revolution, which of the following steps was NOT taken to control Iran's armed forces?
- a. The regime placed officers promoted from the Revolutionary Guards in command positions over the regular divisions.
 - b. The Leader placed chaplains in military units to watch over military officers.
 - c. The regime built up the Revolutionary Guards as a parallel military force.
 - d. The regular military and Revolutionary Guards have been placed under the authority of the fundamentalist ideologically-inclined *Basej*.
44. Despite the constitution's mandate that the management of local affairs in the Islamic Republic would be under the supervision of directly-elected councils, council elections were not held until which of the following leaders came to power?
- a. President Khatami
 - b. Supreme Leader Khamenei
 - c. President Rouhani
 - d. President Ahmadinejad
45. Iran's semipublic institutions
- a. existed under the Shah and were retained by the Islamic Republic.
 - b. are important autonomous political actors in the Islamic Republic.
 - c. are important economic actors due to their extensive economic holdings and their exemption from state taxes.
 - d. have become weaker as a result of the state's move to privatize state enterprises.
46. The Association of the Militant Clergy, otherwise known as populists or reformers
- a. support the removal of price ceilings on essential goods.
 - b. rely on middle-class support, especially the bazaars.

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- c. support the cutting of red tape and balancing the budget.
 - d. stress the importance of individual rights and the rule of law.
47. Which of the following principles was introduced by Ayatollah Khomeini to enhance the role of the state, allowing it to suspend important religious rulings in order to protect the public interest?
- a. *qanun*
 - b. *maslahat*
 - c. *motalaq*
 - d. *fedayin*
48. The *Majles* is elected by the
- a. Supreme Leader
 - b. Guardian Council
 - c. Assembly of Experts
 - d. general electorate
49. Political parties in Iran
- a. are banned.
 - b. only became active during the Ahmadinejad regime.
 - c. must be licensed by the Interior Ministry.
 - d. were only allowed to exist after the constitution was revised after Khomeini's death.
50. What has been the biggest obstacle to fair elections in Iran since 2013?
- a. The participation of the Revolutionary Guards in the supervision of voting
 - b. The ability of the Interior Ministry to ban dissident political organizations
 - c. Assaults on regime opponents by club-wielding gangs
 - d. The power of the Guardian Council to approve all election candidates
51. Language minorities in Iran
- a. have always been suppressed throughout the country's history.
 - b. enjoy little freedom under the Islamic Republic but were given much freedom under the Shah.
 - c. were dying out but have enjoyed a renaissance under Ahmadinejad's administration.
 - d. are legally protected under the Islamic Republic, but, in practice, support for these has been minimal.
52. Which of the following is TRUE about Iran's religious minorities?
- a. Iran's recognized religious minorities are equally harassed because they are viewed as heretics by Iran's Shi'i population.
 - b. Although Jews have been harassed as "pro-Israeli Zionists," only a small fraction of them have left the country since the revolution.
 - c. Sunni Muslims are treated in theory as full citizens, but their actual status is not spelled out which contrasts sharply with that of the country's Christian, Jewish, and Zoroastrian population.
 - d. Some ultra-conservative clerics view Zoroastrians as part of the "international Zionist conspiracy" since their main shrine is located in Israel.
53. Which three groups harbor the most resentment regarding the lack of civil rights from the Islamic Republic?

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- a. Military officers, the bazaari, and religious minorities
- b. Modern middle class, educated women, and organized labor
- c. Modern middle class, students, and military officers
- d. Organized labor, the lower classes, and students

54. Educated women in Iran

- a. harbor numerous grievances against the regime, especially the imposition of the veil.
- b. have benefited from the mostly sympathetic support of the judiciary.
- c. have established their own organizations and journals to reinterpret Islam.
- d. are allowed to hold any job, including president and court judges.

55. All of the following about the role of technology in Iran is correct EXCEPT

- a. the Iranian regime places great importance on scientific education in part because of security concerns.
- b. Iran's top high school graduates gravitate toward the sciences because it is seen as the cutting edge of modernity.
- c. the access of urban households to cell phones and the Internet decreased following the 2009 protests.
- d. Iran's nuclear and space program benefit from the regime's interest in scientific and technological education.

56. In contrast to the mass demonstrations in Egypt and Tunisia, Iran's political system has survived partly because of

- a. electoral manipulation and rising support among its youth.
- b. the conservatives' significant base of support within the electorate.
- c. its control over the Internet and social media domestically.
- d. the support of the armed forces for the Iranian regime.

57. The George W. Bush Administration accused Iran of all of the following EXCEPT

- a. sabotaging the Arab-Israeli peace process..
- b. helping terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah.
- c. developing a nuclear weapons program.
- d. complicity in the 9/11 attacks.

58. Youth politics in Iran centers mainly on the

- a. lack of pensions, medical benefits, and old-age care.
- b. rising unemployment among the young college-educated.
- c. suppression of civil liberties and political rights.
- d. creation of a comprehensive welfare state.

Essay

59. The 1979 Islamic Revolution has been variously described as a religious one and a nationalistic one. First, describe both the religious and nationalistic elements of the revolution. Next, construct an argument as to whether the revolution was predominately religious or nationalistic, or a mixture of both.

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60. Discuss the role and powers of the Supreme Leader within the Iranian political system. How would you explain was the impact of the death of Ayatollah Khomeini upon this political office? How would you assess the relative authority and power of this office today in relation to the rest of Iran's political institutions?
61. Compare and contrast Iran's reformers and conservatives. How do the beliefs of these two groups compare to one another? Explain the impact of these two groups upon Iranian politics.
62. Some scholars see abundant oil resources as a resource curse, while others see it as a means for rapid development. First, define the term, *resource curse*. Second, describe the impact oil has played in Iran's economy and political system. Finally, construct an argument concerning which description you find to be the most appropriate in the case of Iran.
63. Describe the elements of democracy that are found in Iran's theocratic political system. Explain the concessions that the country has made to democracy. Assess the relative balance between democracy and theocracy within this political system. How would you respond to the argument made by some scholars that democracy and Islam are incompatible? Does Iran prove or disprove this argument?
64. Discuss any two challenges facing Iran today, including the Democratic idea, the economy, and foreign policy. Explain which one of these is the most pressing challenge for the country. Assess whether the current regime is well suited to address this challenge.
65. Describe the impact of the Constitutional Revolution upon the Iranian state, highlighting several of the political reforms implemented by the resulting 1906 constitution. Explain several reasons why this regime failed.
66. Discuss the relative role and powers of the Iranian *Majles*. Explain two major limitations on the role and powers of this political institution.
67. Describe Ayatollah Khomeini's re-invention of the Shi'i term, *velayat-e faqih* (or jurist's guardianship). Explain the necessity of this to the establishment of a theocracy in Iran.