CHAPTER 1 The Comparative Study of Politics

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. The political outcomes NOT focused on in comparative politics include
   a. elections.
   b. conflicts between different actors in the international system.
   c. constitutional reforms.
   d. changes in government policies.
   e. mass protests and coups.

2. A political scientist described as a comparativist compares and contrasts
   a. the domestic politics of the United States with the domestic politics of other countries.
   b. the domestic politics of a country or countries with the domestic politics of another country or countries.
   c. how states interact with each other and other non-state actors.
   d. ideas about how government should be structured.
   e. the foreign policy of a country or countries with the domestic policy of another country or countries.

3. Politics is
   a. an official decision designed to organize people, resolve disputes, or address other collective problems.
   b. a set of activities that help organize individuals, systematically resolve disputes, and maintain order in society.
   c. a process by which one person gets another to do something even if that person does not want to do it.
   d. a process that allows one person to get another to do what the first person wants.
   e. a decision-making mechanism that generates policy.

4. Who famously defined politics as the study of “who gets what, when, and how”?
   a. Harold Lasswell
   b. Donald Tusk
   c. Max Weber
   d. Mark Lichbach
   e. Bent Flyvbjerg

5. A person in power getting what he or she wants because of legitimacy is known as
   a. coercive power.
   b. traditional authority.
   c. noncoercive power.
   d. legal authority.
   e. justice.

6. Legitimacy refers to
   a. recognition by other states of the right of a state to control events in the territory over which it claims sovereignty.
   b. belief by those obeying commands that those making the commands have the right to rule.
   c. a sense that the claims of the researcher about a causal relationship would apply to cases
the researcher did not examine.

d. existence of data that are consistent with a theory support that theory.

e. a sense that the claims of the researcher about a causal relationship in the case or cases examined are well-founded.

7. Authority is rule based on
   a. power.
   b. coercion.
   c. legitimacy.
   d. force.
   e. tradition.

8. What type of authority is derived from the widespread belief that a particular family deserves the throne, or even that the monarch has a divine right to rule?
   a. Traditional authority
   b. Policy authority
   c. Charismatic authority
   d. Legitimate authority
   e. Legal authority

9. Who first described the long-standing categorization of authority into three types that is still widely used today?
   a. Harold Lasswell
   b. Donald Tuck
   c. Max Weber
   d. Henry Kissinger
   e. Barrington Moore

10. An important contribution of Max Weber to political science was
    a. developing the comparative method.
    b. providing the classic definition of politics “who gets what, when, and how.”
    c. putting the “science” in “political science” by asserting that by using methods of scientific inquiry one could find laws of human behavior, just like those of the natural world.
    d. identifying and defining three types of authority.
    e. leading a movement of some comparative politics scholars to reject causality as central to the study of politics and instead focus on degrees of association between two or more variables.

11. This type of authority is based on the leader’s ability to inspire the population or make the people feel attached to the leader.
    a. Traditional authority
    b. Policy authority
    c. Charismatic authority
    d. Legitimate authority
    e. Legal authority

12. What type of authority is based on an established constitution to which the political leaders adhere?
    a. Traditional authority
    b. Policy authority
    c. Charismatic authority
d. Legitimate authority
e. Legal authority

13. Society refers to
   a. a set of rules that determine the way decisions are made.
   b. a large collective of people who are connected in some meaningful way.
   c. rules and conditions about how people relate to each other on a daily basis.
   d. a group of people that share a particular form of identity that binds them together.
   e. an organization with a specific purpose that tries to attain an agreed-upon set of goals.

14. Unwritten rules or expectations of behavior are called
   a. norms.
   b. informal laws.
   c. traditions.
   d. habits.
   e. society.

15. An important characteristic of society is
   a. physical proximity, allowing the group to function as a relatively closed and interdependent system of relations among individuals.
   b. a feeling that the group deserves to control its own affairs within a given territory.
   c. a group united by shared cultural features, especially myths and symbols.
   d. the presence of clear, consistent, agreed-upon goals.
   e. the existence of clear communication systems and monumental architecture.

16. Which type of authority is justified by the argument that supreme political power should go to those designated to hold it by due process of law?
   a. Traditional authority
   b. Policy authority
   c. Charismatic authority
   d. Legitimate authority
   e. Legal authority

17. The basic unit of political organization in the world is the
   a. state.
   b. government.
   c. regime.
   d. country.
   e. nation.

18. Which of the following is NOT a necessary characteristic of a state?
   a. A defined territory
   b. A population with a particular form of identity that unites and binds it together
   c. Sovereignty over the territory it claims
   d. Governing institutions
   e. International recognition

19. The term for official membership that a state confers to most of its permanent population is
   a. permanent residency.
b. national identity.
c. civic nationality.
d. internal recognition.
e. citizenship.

20. Who is credited with introducing the concept that an important characteristic of a state is its claim to the monopoly of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory?
a. Mao Zedong
b. Lenin
c. Max Weber
d. Adolph Hitler
e. Karl Marx

21. Sovereignty refers to
a. a set of rules that determine the way decisions are made.
b. the formal government structure over a territory.
c. unwritten rules or expectations of behavior.
d. a state’s governing institutions having ultimate control over affairs within the state’s territory.
e. the desire of a nation to have control of its own territory.

22. Political scientists see institutions as
a. organizational arrangements.
b. lacking official rules.
c. sets of unwritten norms.
d. often irrelevant to the reality of how government is conducted.
e. important, but too problematic to study.

23. The external acceptance, sanctioning, and legal endorsement of a state’s sovereignty by other states in the international state system is known as
a. world citizenship.
b. nation-building.
c. international recognition.
d. uncontested homeland.
e. territorial autonomy.

24. A country’s regime is usually officially described in its
a. government.
b. national identity.
c. constitution.
d. leading political party’s platform.
e. declaration of sovereignty.

25. A regime is
a. a set of rules that determine the way decisions are made.
b. a large collective of people who are connected in some meaningful way.
c. a political system’s chief executive and cabinet officials, particularly in parliamentary systems.
d. a group of people that share a particular form of identity that unites and binds them together.
26. A political system in which religious leaders control political decisions and religious law provides the basis for policy decisions is known as a
   a. plutocracy.
   b. Godarchy.
   c. Westminster political system.
   d. theocracy.
   e. dictatorship of the clergy.

27. The ruling institutions of a given state and the people who occupy positions of power in that state are known as the
   a. regime.
   b. political party.
   c. government.
   d. political society.
   e. electorate.

28. In its most narrow sense, government refers to
   a. a set of rules that determine the way decisions are made.
   b. a political system’s chief executive and cabinet officials, particularly in parliamentary systems.
   c. a large collective of people who are connected in some meaningful way.
   d. a group of people that shares a particular form of identity that unites and binds them together.
   e. the instruments of state sovereignty.

29. Which of the following is NOT characteristic of a nation?
   a. Self-awareness and recognition of itself as a group
   b. Recognition by other nations
   c. Shared cultural features
   d. Belief in the right to political control over a certain territory
   e. Sense of unity and distinctiveness from others

30. To political scientists, nation refers to a
   a. sovereign, independent country.
   b. comprehensive bureaucracy and a detailed list of laws.
   c. government ruling over specific territory.
   d. group of people that share a particular form of identity that unites and binds them together to believe they should have political control over a particular territory.
   e. large collective of people who are connected in some meaningful way.

31. Which of the following groups represent a nation without a state?
   a. French
   b. Azeris
   c. Estonians
   d. Kurds
   e. There can be no nation without a state.
32. The feature of a nation that distinguishes it from other forms of collective identity is 
   a. its unilingual nature.
   b. achievement of control of its own affairs within a specific territory.
   c. a feeling of loyalty to the government of a particular territory.
   d. the belief that it deserves to control its own affairs within a specific territory.
   e. size, as nations are larger than other forms of collective identity, such as ethnic groups.

33. A nation whose membership boundaries are based primarily on an adherence to a set of political 
   values and by citizenship in an existing state is known as a(n) 
   a. civic nation.
   b. civil society.
   c. secular nation.
   d. ethnic nation.
   e. nation-state.

34. Ethnic nations are most common in 
   a. Africa and the Middle East.
   b. Asia and Eastern Europe.
   c. Europe.
   e. South America.

35. Which nation do many social scientists consider to be close to the ideal of a civic nation? 
   a. American
   b. German
   c. Russian
   d. Iranian
   e. Chinese

36. National identity in the United States has centered on 
   a. speaking English and being of Anglo-Saxon descent.
   b. accepting a general set of values about personal liberty and political equality.
   c. considering oneself Christian, even if it is more a cultural identifier than firm religious 
      conviction.
   d. subscribing to the idea that there is unity in diversity.
   e. having a deep distrust of the government of the United States.

37. A nation-state is 
   a. the same as a country, because all countries are nation-states.
   b. a state with clearly defined boundaries.
   c. a country with lower levels of government, such as states and provinces.
   d. a state comprised almost exclusively of people from the same nation.
   e. a state comprised almost exclusively of people from the same ethnic group.

38. Territorial autonomy means 
   a. a people have complete sovereignty over a certain territory.
   b. a people live in close physical proximity, allowing them to have a relatively closed and 
      interdependent system of relations among their individual members.
   c. a state has the capacity to produce effective government policy and to penetrate society to
extract resources to fund government programs, and to protect the state against internal instability and external threat.

d. the international community has accepted a group’s right to rule a certain area.
e. a people control much of the daily happenings of a particular area of a county, but they surrender authority over some matters (e.g., national defense) to the country’s central government.

39. Political scientists call someone who pursues a set of rights for a nation, including the right of political control over a certain territory, a
   a. patriot.
   b. nationalist.
   c. citizen.
   d. freedom fighter.
   e. revolutionary.

40. The value or existence of this is NOT affected by the set of factors under examination in a research design.
   a. Research question
   b. Independent variable
   c. Whether the conclusion is a tautology
   d. Dependent variable
   e. Whether there is an ecological fallacy

41. In scientific research, what is the term for an item whose existence or value is subject to change?
   a. Truth
   b. Observation
   c. Conceptualization
   d. Internal validity
   e. Variable

42. A relationship between two or more variables where changes in the presence or value of one or more of them brings a change in the presence or value of another is called
   a. internal validity.
   b. causality.
   c. operationalization.
   d. conceptualization.
   e. external validity.

43. The backbone of scientific inquiry is
   a. theory.
   b. statistics.
   c. case study.
   d. anecdotal evidence.
   e. defining variable.

44. A set of generally accepted information about how and why phenomena relate to one another in a variety of settings is called
   a. science.
   b. ecological fallacy.
   c. case study.
45. The establishment of a particular measurement scheme for a concept is known as
   a. correlation.
   b. qualification.
   c. conceptualization.
   d. operationalization.
   e. quantification.

46. The stage of research in which a researcher decides which aspects of an issue are most important to consider when studying it is
   a. correlation.
   b. causality.
   c. conceptualization.
   d. operationalization.
   e. external validity.

47. A tentative statement by a researcher about the expected relationship between what the researcher is seeking to understand and what the researcher is examining as potential cause(s) is called a(n)
   a. hypothesis.
   b. theory.
   c. research question.
   d. tautology.
   e. statement of variable.

48. Statements that are true by definition are known as
   a. internally valid.
   b. tautologies.
   c. fallacies.
   d. deductively valid.
   e. externally valid.

49. Stating that democracy can be measured by the degree to which the population had a voice in selecting members of the executive and legislative branches of government is an example of
   a. causal relationships.
   b. a hypothesis.
   c. conceptualization.
   d. a research question.
   e. operationalization.

50. A functioning hypothesis must be
   a. true.
   b. false.
   c. objective and without bias.
   d. applicable to cases the researcher did not examine.
   e. falsifiable.

51. Which type of study allows the researcher to see the causal mechanism in progress?
a. Valid studies
b. Qualitative studies
c. Case studies
d. Quantitative studies
e. Empirical studies

52. Which of the following relies only on the use of statistical techniques to analyze the data?
   a. Science
   b. Qualitative studies
c. Case studies
d. Quantitative studies
e. Empirical studies

53. Which of the following involve a smaller number of cases and does not allow the researcher to analyze the data through statistical analysis?
   a. Empirical studies
   b. Qualitative studies
c. Tautologies
d. Quantitative studies
e. “Large N” studies

54. Internal validity is the
   a. sense that the claims of the researcher about a causal relationship in the case(s) examined are well-founded.
b. existence of data that are consistent with a theory support that theory.
c. sense that the claims of the researcher about a causal relationship would apply to cases the researcher did not examine.
d. belief by those obeying commands that those making the commands have the right to rule.
e. recognition by other states of the right of a state to control events in the territory over which it claims sovereignty.

55. Deviant case studies are valuable because they
   a. prove hypotheses.
b. explain why cases that do not fit the hypothesis being tested do not undermine the validity of the hypothesis.
c. can prove hypothesis wrong.
d. lead researchers to consider different explanations that they might have ignored if they had also ignored the deviant case.
e. apply findings to countries with very different values of the dependent variable.

56. Which state would call into question the hypothesis that democracies are the result of high levels of economic development?
   a. India
   b. Britain
c. China
d. Germany
e. Russia

57. The comparative method
   a. seeks to explain political outcomes by looking at the effects of individual political actors
and gaining an understanding of their decision-making process.

b. combines aspects of most similar and most different studies by looking at sets of similar cases, each set coming from a particular region, and then comparing the findings across different regions.

c. is a research design which seeks to understand the effects of a particular dependent variable by examining a small number of cases.

d. is a project that examines a particular research question in a case that exhibits characteristics very different from a generally-known pattern. Understanding why such an “outlier” exists may give researchers new insight into the topic of their study.

e. is a logical process in which existing general laws are used to explain specific events.

58. The major strength of the most similar approach is that
   a. it is the easiest method to generate a statistically significant number of cases.
   b. the findings apply only to countries with roughly the same value of the dependent variable as those in the study.
   c. researchers can generalize the findings to a wide range of different countries.
   d. the findings would seem to apply to countries with very different values of the dependent variable.
   e. it limits the chance that researchers will generalize from the findings to countries that are quite different from the ones examined in the study, which prevents them from drawing false conclusions.

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   d. it is the easiest method to generate a statistically significant number of cases.
   e. it limits the chance that researchers will generalize from the findings to countries that are quite different from the ones examined in the study, which prevents them from drawing false conclusions.

60. Which method/approach seeks to explain political outcomes by examining underlying economic, social, and political structures in an effort to understand the political outcomes in which the researcher is interested?
   a. Case study method
   b. Structural approach
   c. Comparative method
   d. Choice approach
   e. Cross-regional approach

61. Followers of which method would be least interested in the decision-making process and are generally not interested in a specific decision by a single individual?
   a. Comparative method
   b. Structural approach
   c. Choice approach
   d. Case study method
   e. Most similar approach
62. Which method/approach seeks to explain political outcomes by looking at the effects of individual political actors and gaining an understanding of their decision-making process?
   a. Choice approach
   b. Critical case study method
   c. Comparative method
   d. Structural approach
   e. Single case study method

63. The level of analysis used most often in the choice approach is the
   a. group.
   b. state.
   c. region.
   d. global system.
   e. individual.

64. The level of analysis used most often in the structural approach is the
   a. judiciary.
   b. bureaucracy.
   c. state.
   d. leader.
   e. individual.

65. Which of the following is an example of an ecological fallacy?
   a. Suggesting that the correlation in increased ice cream sales and incidents of mugging shows a casual relationship between ice cream sales and mugging without factoring other variables like good weather
   b. Claiming that large states have more territory to defend than small ones
   c. Believing in global warming
   d. Denying the existence of global warming
   e. Claiming that because a researcher discovers that members of the middle class tend to be more supportive of immigration than members of the working class, that the researcher could say with certainty how two specific individuals, one middle class and one working class, feel about immigration

ESSAY

1. Briefly explain Weber’s three forms of authority and discuss which one you believe is the most stable.

2. Discuss how “scientific” the field of political science is. Explain what a science is and what a science does. Given that, is political science a true science? Why or why not?

3. Explain what a case study is, and evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using case studies in comparative politics.

4. Discuss the obstacles to the comparative study of politics and what strategies are useful in overcoming those obstacles. Explain how those strategies help overcome those obstacles.

5. Discuss the concepts of ethnic nation and civic nation. Explain what distinguishes the two, and evaluate the degree to which you think one of the types would be more cohesive than the other.
6. Explain the concepts of state, sovereignty, and nation as they relate to comparative politics. To what do they refer? How can you identify situations in which they exist?