

Chapter 02: Majoritarian or Pluralist Democracy?

1. The ancient Greeks classified governments as autocracies, oligarchies, or democracies based on which of the following?

- a. The fundamental purpose for which the government was instituted
- b. The extent of government power
- c. The types of elected officeholders
- d. The kinds of decisions the government was responsible for
- e. The number of citizens involved in governing

ANSWER: e

2. A politician who appeals to and often deceives the masses by manipulating their emotions and prejudices is which of the following?

- a. Politico
- b. Delegate
- c. Oligarch
- d. Legacy
- e. Demagogue

ANSWER: e

3. Which of the following is not a principle of procedural democracy?

- a. Government responsiveness to public opinion
- b. Minority rights
- c. Universal participation
- d. Majority or plurality rule
- e. Political equality

ANSWER: b

4. A country abiding by the principle of "one person, one vote" is practicing which of the following?

- a. Direct democracy
- b. Political equality
- c. Equal suffrage
- d. Substantive democracy
- e. Participatory democracy

ANSWER: b

5. The procedural view of democracy is most concerned with which of the following?

- a. The level of popular participation in decision making
- b. The equality of government decisions
- c. Minority protections
- d. The impact of government decisions
- e. How government decisions are made

ANSWER: e

6. A form of government that puts power in the hands of an elite is which of the following?

- a. Oligarchy

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- b. Democracy
- c. Autocracy
- d. Dictatorship
- e. Theocracy

ANSWER: a

7. A government in which one person has the power to make all, or almost all, important decisions is known as which of the following?

- a. Oligarchy
- b. Democracy
- c. Autocracy
- d. Socialist republic
- e. Democratic monarchy

ANSWER: c

8. Most scholars believe that the world's democracies include all but which of the following countries?

- a. The United States
- b. France
- c. Germany
- d. Russia
- e. Ireland

ANSWER: d

9. The theory of democracy that no adult should be excluded from voting and being involved in government is known as which of the following?

- a. Procedural democracy
- b. Substantive democracy
- c. Majority rule
- d. Participatory democracy
- e. Universal participation

ANSWER: e

10. Over 20 percent of the world's political parties contain some form of which of the following terms?

- a. Socialist
- b. Democratic
- c. Republican
- d. Participatory
- e. Representative

ANSWER: b

11. To whom do most democracies give power to make laws?

- a. Business leaders
- b. Political parties
- c. Expatriates

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- d. Representatives
- e. All citizens

ANSWER: d

12. The basic standard of substantive democracy is that government must guarantee which of the following?

- a. Economic rights
- b. Social equality
- c. Civil rights and liberties
- d. Economic equality
- e. Equality of outcome

ANSWER: c

13. In a system of participatory democracy, which of the following is true?

- a. Neighborhoods are the basic unit of civic engagement.
- b. Representatives are required to interact regularly with citizens.
- c. Citizens govern themselves, without electing representatives.
- d. The national government always defers to the state government.
- e. The Supreme Court decides who should be president.

ANSWER: c

14. According to procedural theory, the government should do which of the following?

- a. Whatever the majority wants
- b. Whatever the most insistent interest group wants
- c. Whatever they judge to be right
- d. Whatever the most influential elites want
- e. Whatever they think the framers of the Constitution would have done

ANSWER: a

15. Most democracies give the power to make laws to which of the following?

- a. The business community
- b. Political parties
- c. Expatriates
- d. Representatives
- e. Citizens

ANSWER: d

16. An important problem with the procedural view of democracy is that it can clash with which of the following?

- a. Minority rights
- b. The majoritarian view
- c. Voting rights
- d. Political parties
- e. Democratic government

ANSWER: a

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17. Participatory democracy today meets which of the following criteria?
- a. Rare in the United States, but regularly practiced in Europe
 - b. Common in the United States and other democracies
 - c. Common in the United States, but rare in other democracies
 - d. Common in the United States and Europe, but rare in the rest of the world
 - e. Rare in the United States and other democracies

ANSWER: e

18. Portland's incorporation of neighborhood associations into its municipal government is an example of which of the following?
- a. Pluralism
 - b. Majoritarianism
 - c. Political equality
 - d. Participatory democracy
 - e. Universal participation

ANSWER: d

19. The principle of responsiveness requires that legislators do which of the following?
- a. Cast their ballots based on what people think back home
 - b. Pay special attention to groups that are highly organized
 - c. Follow the general contours of public opinion
 - d. Support public opinion in all matters related to electoral politics
 - e. Consider the views of their fellow legislators more than the views of their constituents

ANSWER: c

20. Pluralist theory proposes that people's interests are protected by which of the following?
- a. Interest groups
 - b. Political parties
 - c. The majority
 - d. Elected representatives
 - e. Elites

ANSWER: a

21. What is the political theory that holds that government should do what most of the people want it to do?
- a. Pluralism
 - b. Majoritarianism
 - c. Elite theory
 - d. Proportionalism
 - e. Democratic centralism

ANSWER: b

22. When a state legislature places a policy question on the ballot for citizens to vote on, this is known as which of the following?
- a. A charter

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- b. An initiative
- c. A recall
- d. A referendum
- e. A primary

ANSWER: d

23. What rules govern the use of the referendum at the federal level?
- a. They can only be used to propose constitutional amendments.
 - b. They require a two-thirds vote of all Americans.
 - c. They require a two-thirds vote of Congress.
 - d. They can only be used for a declaration of war.
 - e. No provisions exist for the use of referenda at the federal level.

ANSWER: e

24. Established procedures and organizations that translate public opinion into government policy, like elections, are known as which of the following?
- a. Institutional initiatives
 - b. Institutional folkways
 - c. Institutional norms
 - d. Institutional mechanisms
 - e. Institutional policies

ANSWER: d

25. Any organization of individuals formed on the basis of common interest to influence public policy is known as which of the following?
- a. An interest group
 - b. A majority
 - c. An elite group
 - d. A substantive group
 - e. A primary organization

ANSWER: a

26. Although they are instruments of majoritarian democracy, initiatives are often sponsored by which of the following?
- a. Interest groups
 - b. Government officials
 - c. Members of the judiciary
 - d. Foreign multinational corporations
 - e. Small numbers of average citizen

ANSWER: a

27. Although public opinion does not fluctuate erratically, change can occur when which of the following happens?
- a. When the president makes his State of the Union address
 - b. When older voters change their minds collectively on an issue
 - c. When different generations with different experiences enter the electorate

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- d. When pollsters refine their questions to get the answers that they're looking for
- e. When everyone maintains the same opinion about current topics

ANSWER: c

28. Cohesive political parties with well-defined programs contribute to which of the following?
- a. The pluralist model of democracy
 - b. The majoritarian model of democracy
 - c. The republican theory of democracy
 - d. The elite theory of democracy
 - e. The substantive theory of democracy

ANSWER: b

29. Studies on decision making concerning public policy issues suggest that much of the elite's power comes from the ability of the elites to do which of the following?
- a. Win seats in Congress
 - b. Become state legislators and executives
 - c. Finance candidates for president of the United States
 - d. Keep issues off the political agenda
 - e. Lobby effectively

ANSWER: d

30. A sign that pluralist democracy might not be working well in the United States is which of the following?
- a. A decentralization of the American government
 - b. A declining number of interest groups in Washington, D.C.
 - c. The fact that the best represented sectors in Washington are business and professional groups
 - d. The increased representation for low-income Americans
 - e. The generally low levels of political knowledge among Americans

ANSWER: c

31. Which of the following perspectives holds that society is really ruled by a small number of people who exercise power to further their self-interest?
- a. Majoritarian theory
 - b. Personality theory
 - c. Elite theory
 - d. Pluralistic theory
 - e. Interest group theory

ANSWER: c

32. The idea that most important government decisions are made by an identifiable and stable minority that shares certain characteristics—especially wealth and business connections—is known as which of the following?
- a. Oligarchy
 - b. Elite theory
 - c. Pluralist theory
 - d. The interest group model

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e. Aristocracy

ANSWER: b

33. If top political jobs for both political parties are filled only from an inner circle of top corporate leaders, this would be evidence for which of the following?

- a. Elite theory
- b. Substantive democracy
- c. Pluralist theory
- d. The interest group model
- e. Authoritarianism

ANSWER: a

34. Studies of the agenda of the U.S. Congress demonstrate that it is characterized by an emphasis on which of the following?

- a. Legislation concerned with the poor
- b. Legislation concerned with increasing taxes on the wealthy
- c. Legislation concerned with immigration
- d. Business-related legislation
- e. Social welfare legislation

ANSWER: d

35. According to elite theory, which of the following groups would be the most successful if the issue were the management of national forests?

- a. Environmentalists, who are trying to protect the forests
- b. Recreational campers, who visit and enjoy the national forests
- c. Hunters, who want to keep down the number of animals in national forests
- d. Park rangers, who want to keep the parks open and keep their jobs
- e. Logging companies that have plenty of money to convince Congress members to allow logging in the forests

ANSWER: e

36. What kind of democracy makes a virtue out of the struggle between competing interests?

- a. Elitist democracy
- b. Pluralist democracy
- c. Popular sovereignty
- d. Majoritarian democracy
- e. Oligarchical democracy

ANSWER: b

37. Democratization is which of the following?

- a. The process of moving from procedural to substantive democracy
- b. The process of transition as a country attempts to move from an authoritarian form of government to a democratic one
- c. The act of electing leaders in a way that conforms to the criteria of substantive democracy
- d. The process of moving from a demand to a market economy

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- e. The requirement that freedom and rights need to be protected by written covenant

ANSWER: b

38. The main disadvantage of the pluralist model is that it does which of the following?

- a. It doesn't adequately take public opinion into account.
- b. It has been used by authoritarian regimes to repress their citizens.
- c. It favors groups that need help the least.
- d. It gives an "unfair" advantage to poor people.
- e. It has been shown to be a poor method of representation.

ANSWER: c

39. Over the past few years, what has happened to the total number of democracies around the world?

- a. A large decline
- b. A large increase
- c. Little change
- d. An approximately 10 percent increase
- e. An approximately 10 percent decline

ANSWER: c

40. According to the text, it is difficult for a country with a market economy to also have which of the following characteristics in its internal politics?

- a. Democratic
- b. Responsive
- c. Decentralized
- d. Undemocratic
- e. Pluralistic

ANSWER: d

41. The text suggests that what type of forces may be pushing authoritarian governments towards democratization?

- a. Religious
- b. Moral
- c. Philosophical
- d. Ethical
- e. Economic

ANSWER: e

42. The text suggests that the United States struggled to promote democracy in countries with which of the following characteristics?

- a. Were transitioning from socialism
- b. Were previously totalitarian
- c. Could not accept pluralism
- d. Could not accept the high degree of tolerance and freedom allowed to all members of society
- e. Were dominated by religious groups

ANSWER: d

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43. The process of transition as a country attempts to move from an authoritarian form of government to one where the people have more say is known as which of the following?

- a. Pluralism
- b. Majoritarianism
- c. Democratization
- d. Oligarchalization
- e. Economic moralism

ANSWER: c

44. Identify three of the four principles of procedural democracy, and discuss the difficulties with their implementation.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

45. Identify and discuss some of the problems with participatory democracy and ways to respond to those problems.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

46. Explain the difference between procedural democratic theory and substantive democratic theory,

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

47. Discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of the majoritarian and pluralist models of democracy.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

48. The United States is not truly a majoritarian democracy, as there is nothing in our Constitution providing for a national referendum. Should we have national referenda? How would that affect American government?

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

49. Explain the role that interest groups play in the pluralist democratic model.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

50. Do you believe that pluralism or elite theory is the more accurate description of American politics? Why?

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

51. Discuss why democratization can be difficult to achieve in different parts of the world and why there is a strong relationship between economic prosperity and democracy.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

52. Is the pluralist model truly an adequate expression of democracy, or does it portray America as democratic when it is not? Explain your reasoning.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

53. Explain some reasons that political and economic instability affect the process of democratization.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.