**Special Interest Groups**

1) In examining the causes of the savings and loan buyout, many critics charge that

a) Congress mandated tough government regulation, but interest groups lobbied the

regulators successfully, and the regulators ignored Congress

b) members of Congress lobbied regulators on behalf of shaky savings and loans in return

for banking privileges

c) some members of Congress helped to lobby regulators on behalf of various S&L’s in

return for secret, illegal cash payments

d) campaign contributions from S&L’s caused members of Congress to overlook the

public interest and discourage careful regulation

e) arrogant and financially irresponsible members of the House overdrew their savings

accounts at the House bank resulting in bankruptcy and then bailed it out at taxpayers’ expense

2) The case involving Charles Keating and Lincoln Savings and Loan illustrates how

a) little influence special interests actually have on Congress

b) special interests can still bribe members of Congress

c) special interests’ campaign contributions can taint Congressional action

d) Congress can regulate the activities of special interests

e) special interests use government to limit their competition and isolate their businesses

from the free market

4) The term interest group can be generally defined as

a) an organization that seeks a collective good, the achievement of which will not

specifically or materially benefit the membership or activists of the organization

b) a group that has a narrow interest, dislikes compromise, and single-mindedly pursues

its goal

c) all people who share some common interest regardless of whether they join an

organization promoting the interest

d) an organization of people with similar policy goals entering the political process to try

to achieve their goals

e) an organization of people sharing a common interest who run candidates in elections

sympathetic to that interest

6) Which of the following is NOT typical of American interest groups?

a) They frequently look to the bureaucracy of the judicial process to achieve their policy

goals

b) They run their own slate of candidates for office in many parts of the country

c) Most have a handful of key policies to push and are policy experts in those areas

d) Unlike political parties, they are not faced with the constraint of trying to appeal to

everyone

7) American political parties differ from interest groups in that parties

a) are policy specialists

b) are policy generalists

c) are policy driven

d) do not take positions on policy issues

e) have a narrower scope than interest groups

8) In the Federalist Papers, Madison indirectly referred to interest groups and parties in using the term

a) faction

b) partisanship

c) mass movement

d) prioritizing publics

e) social cleavage

16) According to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ theorists, interest groups compete and counterbalance one another in the political marketplace.

a) elitist

b) hyperelitist

c) pluralist

d) hyperpluralist

e) free market

17) Which of the following theories offers the most positive interpretation of the effect of interest groups on American democracy?

a) elitist

b) hyperelitist

c) pluralist

d) hyperpluralist

e) free market

19) The principal method of controlling dishonest lobbying has been through

a) FBI sting operations

b) disclosure laws

c) laws forbidding interest groups from contributing to congressional campaigns

d) elections

e) Internal Revenue Service audits

25. Elitist theorists argue that

a. groups weak in one resource can use another, and all legitimate groups are able to

affect public policy by one means or another

b. the fact that there are numerous groups proves nothing, because most groups are

extremely unequal in power.

c. the government had treated all interest group demands as legitimate, and unwisely

chosen to advance them all

d. the larger the group, the further it will fall short of providing an optimal amount of a

collective good

e. governments should be controlled by a select group of well educated, cultured, wealthy

persons who understand the laws of economics and can run the most efficient government.

31. The presence and power of multinational corporations illustrates

a. elite theory

b. pluralist theory

c. hyperpluralist theory

d. democratic theory

e. global unity theory

35. Interest group liberalism holds that

a. the fact that there are numerous interest groups proves nothing, because groups are

extremely unequal in power

b. interest groups win some and lose some, but no group wins or loses all the time

c. when one interest group throws its weight around too much, its opponents are likely to

intensify their organization and thus restore balance to the system

d. virtually all pressure group demands are legitimate, and the job of government is to

advance them all

e. the role of government is to leaven the natural inequalities of the free market system

and that entails paying more attention to the needs of economically weak interest groups and less attention to economically powerful groups

36. Interest group liberalism is attacked with which of the following criticisms?

a. in an effort to please and appease every interest, agencies proliferate, conflicting

regulations expand, programs multiply, and the budgets skyrocket

b. real power is held by relatively few people, key groups, and institutions who get nearly

all they want from government

c. interest groups win some and lose some, but no group wins or loses all the time, and

democratic government is well served by their competition

d. the framers of the Constitution intended that groups serve to bargain for various

interests in American society, and this has proven a wise and relatively fair, open system.

e. the interest group system is dominated by liberal interest groups who have been

successfully pushing an agenda that has made it hard for the police to fight crime, contributed to declining moral values, and bankrupted the government with giveaways to welfare freeloaders.

38. The criticism that government refuses to make tough choices between Y or X, instead pretending there is no need to choose and trying to favor both is most often made by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ theorists.

a. pluralist

b. hyperpluralist

c. elitist

d. hyperelitist

e. rational choice

43) Subgovernments are composed of key interest group leaders interested in policy X, the government agency in charge of administering policy X, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ handling policy X.

a) congressional committees and subcommittees

b) federal courts

c) public relations officers

d) political candidates

e) local governments

44) Which of the following is NOT one of the major elements of the subgovernment system at the national level?

a) interest group

b) congressional committee

c) federal court

d) federal agency

e) bureaucrats

46) A hyperpluralist interpretation of group politics would maintain that

a) groups weak in one resource can substitute other resources to influence policy

decisions

b) groups have become so powerful that government ends up aiding every possible

interest

c) the fact that there are numerous groups proves nothing, because groups are extremely

unequal in power

d) groups provide a key linkage between people and government

e) all of these are true

49) The free-rider problem refers to

a) unrelated amendments being added to a piece of legislation in order to bypass usual

procedures

b) potential members of a group failing to join the actual group, as they know they will

receive the same benefits whether they are active members or not

c) legislators who face no election opponents, and thus are automatically re-elected

d) mass transit scofflaws who endanger government aid to subways, buses, and commuter

trains by not being officially counted

e) welfare fraud and the costs it imposes on government and taxpayers

50) Part of Olsen’s law of large groups is the argument that

a) the larger the potential group, the less likely potential members are to contribute

b) the larger the potential group, the more likely potential members are to contribute

c) potential group size does not have any measurable affect on the willingness of

potential members to contribute

d) an actual group and a potential group are virtually the same when it comes to

effectiveness

57) Which of the following groups has the largest potential membership?

A. The NAACP

B. The National Organization for Women

C. The American Medical Association

D. The Air Transport Association of America

58) Which of the following groups claims the smallest share of its potential members?

A. National Consumers League

B. U.S. Savings and loan league

C. Tobacco Institute

D. Air transport Association

59) A “collective good” refers to

A. Goods and services that are publicly owned.

B. Benefits that accrue to the group that sought them

C. something of value that benefits both the actual and potential members of a group

D. A public policy that is in the public interests.

65) An advantage of single-issue groups is their

A. Financial resources

B. pool of potential members

C. pool of actual members

D. intensity

67) Single-issue groups

A. Include members with narrow, uncompromising interests.

B. Have had little effect on the outcomes of the elections

C. Mainly focus on the issue of abortion

D. Are not taken seriously because they lack a large constituency.

E. tend to focus on their specific economic interest rather than on collective social issues.

69. Technological improvements in communication have caused interest groups to

A. consolidate

B. sharply grow in number

C. sharply decline in number

D. move out from Washington D.C.

E. form broad coalitions to expand their clout

70. Since the 1960’s, participation in interest groups has

A. remained constant

B. risen rapidly

C. declined slightly

D. declined slightly

E. fluctuated up and down as new issues develop and others fade away

72. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a communication by someone other than a citizen acting on his or her own behalf, directed to a government decision maker, particularly in the legislative and executive branch, with the hope of influencing his or her decision.

A. electioneering

B. an amicus curiae brief

C. lobbying

D. litigation

E. campaigning

73. The three traditional strategies employed by interest groups are all of the following EXCEPT:

A. lobbying B. implementation C. electioneering D. litigation

76. Which of the following is NOT a way in which a lobbyist can help a member of Congress?

A. obtaining group support for the politician’s re-election

B. introducing legislation in Congress

C. providing valuable information on specialized policy areas

D. helping with political strategy

77. According to the text, one of the most common functions of lobbyists is to

A. provide information and ideas to members of Congress

B. recruit former officeholders to help with public relations

C. convert members of Congress to the point of view the lobbyists represent

D. actually introduce new legislation

E. raise funds for preferred political candidates

79. Political Action Committees are primarily a means used by interest groups for

A. lobbying

B. electioneering

C. litigation

D. policymaking

E. political action

81. Which of the following is NOT true about Political Action Committees?

A. there are far more PACs now than there were in 1974

B. most PAC money goes to challengers rather than incumbents

C. some PACs contribute to both challenger and incumbent, playing it safe

D. only a handful of candidates have completely resisted the lure of PAC money

82. According to the text, the least effective activity of lobbyists in Congress is

A. contributing to campaigns

B. providing information

C. activating members of Congress to vote on legislation

D. converting members of Congress to the lobbyists’ positions

84. Political action committee (PAC) money goes overwhelmingly to

A. independents

B. challengers

C. incumbents

D. Democrats

E. Republicans

85. Most PAC money goes overwhelmingly to incumbents because incumbents

A. need more money due to the restraints of being in office

B. have already been “bought off” by interest groups

C. have already become friends and supporters of lobbyists

D. are the most likely to be able to return the investment

E. have the need for large amounts of money to maintain themselves in power

87) The most successful tactic that civil rights and environmental groups have used to influence policy is

* 1. Litigation
  2. Electioneering
  3. Lobbying
  4. Media advertising
  5. Protest demonstration

89) An amicus curiae brief is

1. One which enables a group of similarly situated plaintiffs to combine similar grievances into a single suit to pursue a remedy for past wrongs
2. An oral or written appeal of a court decision made by an interest group which is party to the particular case
3. An oral or written appeal of a court decision made by an interest group which is party to the particular case
4. A written argument submitted to the courts in support of one side of a case
5. The written statement of a court’s decision in a case explaining the reasons for the decision

92) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ enables a group s of similarly situated plaintiffs to combine similar grievances into a single suit.

1. An amicus curiae brief
2. A public interest suit
3. Olson’s law of large groups
4. A class action lawsuit
5. A collective civil suit

93) Flight attendants won \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against the airline industry’s regulation that all stewardesses had to be unmarried.

1. An amicus curiae brief
2. A writ of habeas corpus
3. A bill of attainder
4. A class action lawsuit
5. An administrative appeal

95) In “going public” interest groups

1. Extend membership to a broader range of people
2. Use advertising and public relations to enhance their image
3. Bring class action suits against their opponents
4. Open their decision making meetings to the general public

96) Which of the following statements about interest groups going public is false?

1. Interest groups carefully cultivate their public images
2. Interest groups market not only their stand on issues but their reputations as well
3. More and more organizations have launched expensive public relations efforts
4. The public relations of most groups tends to be characterized by hard sell and bias

99) Right-to-work laws are most strongly supported by

1. Unemployed citizens
2. Business groups
3. Union officials
4. The feminist and civil rights movement
5. Illegal immigrants

101) Right-to-work laws \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the union shop.

1. Take a neutral stance toward
2. Require
3. Legalize
4. Outlaw
5. Regulate

105) Agribusiness refers to

A. Global markets for agriculture commodities.

B. Large-scale farming that has replaced many traditional family farms.

C. The business of forming commodity associations

D. The creation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to regulate the farming industry.

E. The close self-serving relationship between farmers and the government agencies that

ostensibly regulate them in the public interest

106) Business PACs

A. Have so far been associated only with multinational corporations

B. Are the most visible of Washington lobbies

C. have increased more dramatically then any other category of PACs

D. Have not been as effective as labor and consumer PACs

107) The two umbrella organizations that include most corporations and businesses and speak for them when general business interests are at stake are

A. The National Business Council and the Congress of Industrial Organization.

B. The Chamber of Commerce and the Better Business Bureau.

C. The Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufactures.

D. The Federal League of American Businesses and the Trade Council.

E. the Business Roundtable and the Chamber of Commerce

110) Environmental groups

A. Are an example of an economic interest group

B. grew dramatically after the first Earth day in 1970

C. Support nuclear power as a clean alternative to coal mining

D. Have had very little influence on Congress and state legislature.

E. Tend to avoid energy issues, while concentrating on the preservation of wilderness

111) The \_\_\_\_is the oldest and largest of the African-American groups which have fought for equality at the polls, in housing, on the job, in education, and in all other facets of American life.

A. Urban League

B. Congress of Racial Equality

C. NAACP

D. Rainbow Coalition

E. National African-American Organization

112) Environmental groups have been most successful at

A. Stopping strip mining

B. Halting the trans-Alaskan pipeline

C. Thwarting the expansion of the nuclear power industry

D. Stopping the development of commercial supersonic aircraft

E. Protecting the reefer toad and other endangered species

113) The Fair Share program is an effort by the

A. NOW to renew the fight for the equal rights amendment

B. NAACP to negotiate agreements with business to increase minority hiring and the use of minority contractors.

C. NOW to get equal pay for comparable work

D. NAACP to desegregate private clubs

E. American Taxpayers’ Union to raise the wages and cut the taxes of lower – and

middle- income people.

115) Common Cause is an example of

a. a public interest lobby

b. a subgovernment

c. interest group liberalism

d. a single issue group

117) The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ movement was spurred by the single person of Ralph Nader.

a. American labor

b. modern civil rights movement

c. consumer

d. anti-Vietnam

e. gay rights

**LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS**

While interest groups and political parties each play a significant role in the United States political system, they differ in their fundamental goals.

(a) identify the fundamental goals of interest groups in the political process. (1)

(b) identify the fundamental goal of major political parties in the political process. (1)

(c) describe two different ways by which interest groups support the fundamental goal of

political parties in the political process. (4)

(d) for one of the forms of support you described in (c), explain two different ways in which that form of support helps interest groups to achieve their fundamental goal in the political process. (4)

Answers:

1) D 2) C 4) D 6) B 7) B 8) A 16) C 17) C 19) B

25) B 31) A 35) D 36) A 38) B 43) A 44) C 46) B 49) B 50) A 57) B 58) A 59) C

65) D 67) A

69) B 70) B 72) C 73) B 76) B 77) A 79) B 81) B 82) D 84) C 85) D

87) A 89) D 92) D 93) D 95) B 96) D 99) B 101) D

105) B 106) C 107) C 110) B 111) C 112) C 113) B 115) A 117) C