**The Study of American Government**

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

 1. The financial position of the state and national governments under the Articles of Confederation could be best described as

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | sound, strong, and based on a large surplus of revenue. |
| b. | sound, strong, but uncertain around the edges. |
| c. | uniformly stable at the state level, but the national government struggled with debt. |
| d. | stable at the national level with little cause for concern in any of the states. |
| e. | growing debt at the national level and several states with financial crises. |

ANS: E

 2. Which of the following expressed sincere concern that ratification of the Constitution would result in “an immense increase in taxes”?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | James Madison |
| b. | Alexander Hamilton |
| c. | George Washington |
| d. | Patrick Henry |
| e. | John Jay |

ANS: D

 3. The federal budget initially opposed for 2012 called for almost \_\_\_\_ trillion dollars in spending.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | 1 |
| b. | 2 |
| c. | 4 |
| d. | 5 |
| e. | 7 |

ANS: C

 4. Debates over government finances have often, at bottom, been debates about

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | the size of government. |
| b. | the competency of government. |
| c. | the legitimacy of the federal government. |
| d. | how to divide responsibility between state and federal governments. |
| e. | All of the above. |

ANS: E

 5. Today, the U.S. federal income tax takes an average of what percent of taxpayers’ income?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | 10 |
| b. | 15 |
| c. | 21 |
| d. | 43 |
| e. | 45 |

ANS: C

 6. Most people holding national political office are

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | middle class. |
| b. | middle age. |
| c. | males. |
| d. | Protestant. |
| e. | All of the above. |

ANS: E

 7. The fact that the rich are taxed more heavily than the poor and that amendments that gave voting rights to minorities were passed by large majorities suggests that

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | few people pay close attention to political processes. |
| b. | government does not always adopt policies that are to the narrow advantage of those who hold political offices. |
| c. | power is distributed in such a manner that very few people can exercise it in a meaningful fashion. |
| d. | “Who governs?” and “To what ends?” are really the same question. |
| e. | Knowing who governs is usually a good predictor of what policies will be adopted. |

ANS: B

 8. The text argues that political power is inextricably bound with

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | mass media power. |
| b. | economic theories. |
| c. | an elitist attitude. |
| d. | religious and moral values. |
| e. | political purposes. |

ANS: E

 9. Individuals have power when they are able to

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | get elected to office. |
| b. | be present at behind-the-scenes political meetings. |
| c. | serve their fellow human beings. |
| d. | get others to do what they want them to do. |
| e. | vote without being influenced by outside forces. |

ANS: D

 10. The text notes a tendency for issues that once were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | simple; complicated |
| b. | public; secret |
| c. | social; political |
| d. | private; public |
| e. | economic; social |

ANS: D

 11. Compared with the 1950s, government’s involvement in the everyday lives of Americans in the 1990s is

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | about the same. |
| b. | slightly less. |
| c. | considerably less. |
| d. | slightly greater. |
| e. | considerably greater. |

ANS: E

 12. The text suggests that, during the 1950s, the federal government would have taken very little interest in

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | a factory closing its doors. |
| b. | a profession not accrediting a member. |
| c. | a university refusing an applicant. |
| d. | A, B, and C. |
| e. | Both A and C. |

ANS: D

 13. By *authority*, the authors mean

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | the right to use power. |
| b. | the manner in which power is spread. |
| c. | the use of power for good causes. |
| d. | the desire to have power. |
| e. | the desire to give power to others. |

ANS: A

 14. *Formal authority* refers to a right to exercise power that is derived from a(n)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | official ceremony. |
| b. | majority vote. |
| c. | consensus. |
| d. | popular consensus. |
| e. | governmental office. |

ANS: E -6

 15. Today, a primary source of legitimate political authority in the United States is the

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Bill of Rights. |
| b. | will of the people. |
| c. | U.S. Constitution. |
| d. | concept of civil liberty. |
| e. | notion of civil rights. |

ANS: C REF: 6

 16. The author cites the early presidential administrations, the Civil War, and the New Deal as examples of struggles over

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | what constitutes legitimate authority. |
| b. | who shall govern. |
| c. | who gets what, when, and how. |
| d. | when progress is possible. |
| e. | how power is accumulated. |

ANS: A REF: 6

 17. The text suggests that in the United States, no government at any level would be considered legitimate if it were not in some sense

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | democratic. |
| b. | altruistic. |
| c. | humanitarian. |
| d. | elitist. |
| e. | aristocratic. |

ANS: A REF: 6

 18. At the time of the Constitutional Convention, the view that a democratic government was desirable was

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | already waning. |
| b. | close to unanimous. |
| c. | beyond debate. |
| d. | held by the elite only. |
| e. | far from unanimous. |

ANS: E REF: 6

 19. Which delegate to the Constitutional Convention was worried that the new government that he helped to create might be too democratic?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | John Adams |
| b. | George Mason |
| c. | Alexander Hamilton |
| d. | Thomas Jefferson |
| e. | Patrick Henry |

ANS: C REF: 6

 20. The term *participatory democracy* applies most accurately to which of the following societies?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Greece in the fourth century B.C. |
| b. | Modern China |
| c. | The United States since 1787 |
| d. | The Soviet Union between 1917 and 1990 |
| e. | The southeastern United States before the Civil War |

ANS: A

 21. The Greek city-state, or *polis,* extended the right to vote to everyone *except*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | slaves. |
| b. | women. |
| c. | minors. |
| d. | those without property. |
| e. | All of the above. |

ANS: E

 22. In recent times, Aristotle’s ideal of democracy has been *most* closely approximated by

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | the AFL-CIO. |
| b. | the U.S. House of Representatives. |
| c. | the New England town meeting. |
| d. | the Constitutional Convention. |
| e. | the southeastern United States before the Civil War. |

ANS: C

 23. Democracy was defined as the competitive struggle for people’s votes by

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Joseph Stalin. |
| b. | Joseph Schumpeter. |
| c. | Max Weber. |
| d. | Karl Marx. |
| e. | Søren Kierkegaard. |

ANS: B

 24. Representative democracy allows individuals to gain political power through

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | media campaigns. |
| b. | quadrennial elections. |
| c. | nonpartisan elections. |
| d. | reciprocal elections. |
| e. | competitive elections. |

ANS: E

 25. Representative democracy is sometimes disapprovingly referred to as the \_\_\_\_ theory of democracy.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | limited |
| b. | aristocratic |
| c. | economic |
| d. | authoritarian |
| e. | elite |

ANS: E

 26. The Framers’ concerns about direct democracy are well illustrated by the fact that the Constitution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | uses the word *democracy only* once, in the Preamble. |
| b. | uses the word *democracy* only in reference to Congress. |
| c. | does not feature the word *democracy* at all. |
| d. | uses only the word *democratic.* |
| e. | frequently uses the word *democracy,* but never in reference to the enumeration of a formal power. |

ANS: C REF: 8

 27. When the Framers of the Constitution wrote “republican form of government,” they were referring to

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | direct democracy. |
| b. | democratic centralism. |
| c. | mob rule. |
| d. | town meetings. |
| e. | representative democracy. |

ANS: E REF: 8

 28. All of the following are requirements for representative democracy *except* that

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | there must be opportunity for genuine leadership competition. |
| b. | individuals and parties must be able to run for office. |
| c. | voters must perceive that a meaningful choice exists. |
| d. | political resources must be distributed in a roughly equal manner. |
| e. | communication must be free. |

ANS: D

 29. One distinctive feature of many European democracies is that very few offices are

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | independent. |
| b. | effective. |
| c. | elective. |
| d. | active. |
| e. | efficient. |

ANS: C

 30. Democracy in the United States is distinguished from many European democracies by the fact that in the United States,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | many more offices are elective. |
| b. | more campaign money comes from public sources. |
| c. | more people participate in the electoral process. |
| d. | the government plays a more active role in elections. |
| e. | the government frequently changes hands. |

ANS: A

 31. Variants of direct democracy include programs of citizen participation and

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | interest group cooperation. |
| b. | guerrilla warfare. |
| c. | competitive elections. |
| d. | political party centralism. |
| e. | community control. |

ANS: E

 32. In a referendum, citizens express their opinions about issues by means of

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | letters. |
| b. | the ballot. |
| c. | town meetings. |
| d. | petitions. |
| e. | both A and D. |

ANS: B

 33. Which statement best reflects the views of the Framers of the Constitution?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Elected officials should register majority sentiments. |
| b. | The government should mediate, not mirror, popular views. |
| c. | The views of the people are trustworthy because most are informed and can make reasonable choices. |
| d. | A government should be able to do a great deal of good as quickly and as efficiently as possible. |
| e. | Majority opinion should be irrelevant to the policymaking process. |

ANS: B

 34. The Founders assumed that representative democracy would

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | prevent sweeping changes in policy. |
| b. | allow persons with higher levels of education to exercise more power. |
| c. | result in decisions that were generally efficient and timely. |
| d. | often proceed slowly. |
| e. | Both A and D. |

ANS: E

 35. Which of the following thought of democracy as the “rule of the many”?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Aristotle |
| b. | Plato |
| c. | Socrates |
| d. | Augustine |
| e. | Plutarch |

ANS: A

 36. An oligarchy would feature rule by

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | the poor. |
| b. | the military. |
| c. | the wise. |
| d. | the rich. |
| e. | the elderly. |

ANS: D

 37. The text suggests that the writings of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were a “decisive influence” on the Founders.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Thomas More |
| b. | Sir Edward Frothingham |
| c. | Richard Wilmington |
| d. | Thomas Hobbes |
| e. | John Locke |

ANS: E

 38. Locke argued that the desire for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will lead people to want a government.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | wealth |
| b. | self-preservation |
| c. | property |
| d. | justice |
| e. | equality |

ANS: B

 39. Hobbes believed the answer to the “all-out war” that existed in the state of nature was

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | an all-powerful government. |
| b. | a sense of political justice. |
| c. | an equal division of property and wealth. |
| d. | democratic institutions with limited power. |
| e. | a system of organized, state-sponsored religion. |

ANS: A

 40. Under what circumstances would majoritarian politics normally *not* be effective?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | When a political leader feels sharply constrained by what most people want |
| b. | When an issue is sufficiently important to command the attention of most citizens |
| c. | When an issue is too complicated or technical for most citizens to understand |
| d. | When an issue is sufficiently feasible so that what citizens *want* done can in fact *be*done |
| e. | All of the above. |

ANS: C

 41. A city council representative faces an important vote on how much, if any, money to spend on a new school. The representative relies on a poll of her constituents to make a decision. This is in keeping with the form of politics known as

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | participatory politics. |
| b. | majoritarian politics. |
| c. | pluralist politics. |
| d. | elitist politics. |
| e. | reciprocal politics. |

ANS: B REF: 10

 42. Elite theory is NOT based on the following premise.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Majoritarian politics is not always controlling. |
| b. | When majoritarian politics is not controlling, policy is likely to be shaped by those who go to the trouble to be active participants in politics. |
| c. | In general, the number of active participants in politics will be small (relative to the total number of potential participants). |
| d. | Despite their small numbers, those who are active participants in politics generally reflect the types of people in the general population and the viewpoints of most citizens. |
| e. | The actual distribution of power, even in a democracy, will depend importantly on the composition of the political elites. |

ANS: D REF: 10

 43. Karl Marx is associated with the view that elites reflect

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | a dominant social class. |
| b. | a group of business, military, labor-union, and elected officials. |
| c. | an array of appointed bureaucrats. |
| d. | a large number of organized interests. |
| e. | a flexible alliance of religious and cultural leaders. |

ANS: A REF: 10

 44. Marx would use the label \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to identify those who dominated government.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | “proletariat” |
| b. | “bourgeoisie” |
| c. | “power elite” |
| d. | “working class” |
| e. | “laborites” |

ANS: B REF: 10

 45. The bureaucratic view of political elites is associated with

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Marx. |
| b. | Mills. |
| c. | Weber. |
| d. | Truman. |
| e. | Dahl. |

ANS: C REF: 10

 46. In political analysis, the “cause” is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ variable.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | dependent |
| b. | independent |
| c. | recursive |
| d. | confounding |
| e. | exogenous |

ANS: B REF: 11

 47. The pluralist view of power focuses on

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | a dominant social class. |
| b. | a group of business, military, labor-union, and elected officials. |
| c. | an array of appointed bureaucrats. |
| d. | a large number of governmental interests and organized interests. |
| e. | a flexible alliance of religious and cultural leaders. |

ANS: D REF: 11

 48. Regarding the role of self-interest in the positions that people take on important issues, it is safest to say that

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | the self-interest of individuals is usually a complete guide to their actions. |
| b. | economic self-interest may be important but is usually not the only guide to people’s actions. |
| c. | organizational self-interest rather than economic self-interest is usually the best guide to people’s actions. |
| d. | political preferences can be predicted invariably by knowing an individual’s economic or organizational position. |
| e. | self-interest is rarely an important factor in understanding political attitudes and behavior. |

ANS: B REF: 12

 49. According to Tocqueville, Americans are fond of explaining their actions in terms of

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | self-interest. |
| b. | moral precepts. |
| c. | religious commitments. |
| d. | disinterested and spontaneous impulses. |
| e. | philosophical skepticism. |

ANS: A REF: 12

 50. During the 1920s, the federal government was expected to play a small role in our lives. The fact that there was a dramatic change in expectations from the 1930s to the 1970s suggests that

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | the Marxist view of power is probably the most accurate. |
| b. | no simple theory of politics is likely to explain both sets of expectations. |
| c. | Weber’s speculations concerning bureaucracy were largely correct. |
| d. | the assumptions of both Marx and C. Wright Mills concerning power were wildly incorrect. |
| e. | elite theories do not adequately take into account the self-interested nature of politics. |

ANS: B REF: 13

 51. Which of the following statements is *incorrect*?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | During the 1920s, it was widely assumed that the federal government would play a small role in our lives. |
| b. | From the 1930s to the 1970s, it was generally believed that the federal government should try to solve social and economic problems. |
| c. | Reagan sought to reverse the trend of expanding governmental power. |
| d. | No simple theory of politics is likely to explain both the growth and cutback of federal power. |
| e. | None of the above |

ANS: E REF: 13

 52. The text presents the historical involvement of the United States in foreign affairs as

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | alternating between outward and inward movements. |
| b. | consistently drifting toward imperialism. |
| c. | devoid of any pattern whatsoever. |
| d. | being buffeted about by external forces. |
| e. | fluid in times of economic prosperity. |

ANS: A REF: 13

 53. The text insists that if we wish to understand power, we must also understand

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | powerlessness. |
| b. | preferences. |
| c. | economics. |
| d. | ambiguities. |
| e. | weakness. |

ANS: B REF: 13

 54. Which of the following statements about political power, or “who governs?” is *most* accurate?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | The key to understanding power is to understand the monetary costs of different political decisions. |
| b. | Political power can usually be inferred by knowing what laws are on the books. |
| c. | Political power can usually be inferred by knowing what administrative actions have been taken. |
| d. | Power cannot be realized without institutional arrangements. |
| e. | Most power derives from psychological and social factors such as friendship, loyalty, and prestige. |

ANS: E REF: 13

 55. The trouble with trying to infer the distribution of political power from examining the laws on the books is that

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | laws may be enacted in a great variety of circumstances. |
| b. | laws are made to be broken. |
| c. | legislative codes may be so obscure as to defy anyone’s comprehension. |
| d. | many congressional enactments never get recorded at all. |
| e. | the judicial branch is rarely independent from the legislative branch. |

ANS: A REF: 13

 56. The authors suggest that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is arguably one of the best barometers of changes in who governs.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | PAC spending |
| b. | interest group activity |
| c. | the House of Representatives |
| d. | the Supreme Court |
| e. | the policy process |

ANS: E REF: 14

**TRUE/FALSE**

 1. Under the Articles of Confederation, the state governments paid very little of the monies requisitioned by the federal government.

ANS: T

 2. The interest on the national debt is well over $300 billion a year.

ANS: T

 3. During the early 1930s, very few American families paid income tax.

ANS: T

 4. The text argues that we can know who governs without knowing to what end.

ANS: T

 5. Today, the average income tax rate for a family is above 20 percent.

ANS: T

 6. Most people holding national political offices are middle-class, middle-aged, white Protestant males.

ANS: T

 7. Government policies do not always favor the people who are in the government.

ANS: T

 8. The text suggests that presidential speechwriters have the opportunity to exercise power.

ANS: T

 9. Power is to be found in all human relationships.

ANS: T

 10. Political power is the ability to influence who rules and how rulers behave.

ANS: T

 11. Increasingly, matters once thought to be private are becoming objects of governmental action.

ANS: T

 12. During the 1950s, the federal government would have taken little interest in a factory closing down.

ANS: T

 13. During the 1950s, the federal government would have taken little interest in a university refusing to accept an applicant.

ANS: T

 14. One can have political power even if one does not possess formal authority.

ANS: T

 15. What makes power rightful varies from time to time and from country to country.

ANS: T

 16. None of the Founders was particularly concerned about the government being too democratic.

ANS: F REF: 6

 17. The terms participatory democracy and rule of the many are synonymous.

ANS: T

 18. In the Greek city-state, only property holders were allowed to be citizens.

ANS: T

 19. A modern example of the Aristotelian ideal of the rule of the many is a New England town meeting.

ANS: T

 20. Representative democracy is sometimes referred to as the “elitist theory of democracy.”

ANS: T

 21. The term *democracy*, as used in the text, means an arrangement for arriving at political decisions in which leaders acquire power by means of a competitive struggle for people’s votes.

ANS: T

 22. Many of the Framers of the Constitution thought direct democracy would probably lead to bad decisions.

ANS: T REF: 8

 23. The word *democracy* does not appear in the U.S. Constitution.

ANS: T REF: 8

 24. The U.S. Constitution was modeled on Aristotelian notions of democracy.

ANS: F

 25. When the Framers spoke of a republic, they were referring to a representative democracy.

ANS: T

 26. The free flow of communication is a prerequisite for representative democracy.

ANS: T

 27. Representative democracy requires that most public officials be elected.

ANS: F

 28. More public officials are chosen by election in Europe than in the United States.

ANS: F

 29. Community control of citizen participation is urged today as a variant of classical democracy.

ANS: T

 30. The Framers of the U.S. Constitution believed that the “will of the people” was synonymous with the common interest or the “public good.”

ANS: F

 31. The writers of the U.S. Constitution placed their trust in the collective wisdom of the American people.

ANS: F

 32. The Framers of the Constitution feared that even highly educated people could be manipulated by demagogues.

ANS: T

 33. The Framers of the Constitution thought that majority opinion should be completely irrelevant to the policymaking process.

ANS: F

 34. The Framers embraced representative democracy because they saw it as a way of minimizing the chances that power would be abused by a tyrannical popular majority or by self-serving officeholders.

ANS: T

 35. Aristotle believed democracy can easily decay into oligarchy (the rule of the rich).

ANS: T

 36. The authors suggest that Thomas Hobbes was a “decisive influence” on the Founders.

ANS: F

 37. John Locke thought it was necessary to have an absolute, supreme government, or ruler, in order to avoid civil war.

ANS: F

 38. John Locke believed it was important for the powers of government to be separated and for branches to compete.

ANS: T

 39. Majoritarian politics require politicians to follow the preferences of citizens very closely.

ANS: T REF: 10

 40. Marx argued that governments were basically dominated by business owners.

ANS: T REF: 10

 41. Marx referred to laborers as the “proletariat.”

ANS: T REF: 10

 42. Max Weber is associated with the pluralist view of power in society.

ANS: F REF: 10

 43. One view of elite power argues nameless, faceless bureaucrats actually make policy.

ANS: T REF: 10

 44. In political analysis, independent variables are the effects.

ANS: F REF: 11

 45. Pluralists see power as being widely distributed throughout society.

ANS: T REF: 11

 46. If we know the motives of the person who produced a particular policy, we can judge whether it is good or bad.

ANS: F REF: 12

 47. The self-interest of individuals often is an incomplete guide to their actions.

ANS: T REF: 12

 48. Alexis de Tocqueville found that Americans explained almost all of their actions as products of self-interest.

ANS: T REF: 12

 49. The great shifts in the character of our government have reflected changes in elite or mass beliefs about what government is supposed to do.

ANS: T REF: 12

 50. Throughout its history, the United States has consistently taken an expansionistic approach to foreign affairs.

ANS: F REF: 13

 51. Politics, according to the text, is not simply about “who gets what.”

ANS: T REF: 13

 52. Political scientists are primarily interested in how people’s preferences for various goods and services are satisfied.

ANS: F REF: 13

 53. The enactment of a consumer protection law does not necessarily mean that consumers are powerful.

ANS: T REF: 13

 54. The policy process is one of the best barometers of changes in who governs.

ANS: T REF: 14

**ESSAY**

 1. Explain what power involves and differentiate it from authority.

ANS:

a. Power is the ability of one person to get another to act in accordance with the first person’s intentions.

b. Power may be obvious, or subtle.

c. Power may be found in all human relationships.

d. Authority refers to the right to use power.

e. Power varies from time to time and from country to country.

f. Power is a key feature of the struggles throughout much of American history.

 2. Explain what a Democracy is and note some prominent examples of this form of government throughout history.

ANS:

a. According to Aristotle’s rule of the many: Democracy is where all or most citizens participate directly in either holding office or making policy.

b. Examples: Ancient Greece (4th century B.C.); New England town meetings

 3. Explain the primary justifications for representative democracy.

ANS:

a. Limits of time, information, energy, interest, and expertise make it impractical for the people to decide on policies.

b. It is not impractical for them to choose between competing leadership groups.

c. Democracy can lead to bad decisions, because people often decide large issues on the basis of fleeting passions and in response to popular demagogues.

 4. Identify the requirements for representative democracy to work.

ANS:

a. There must be an opportunity for genuine competition of leadership.

b. Individuals and parties must be free to run for office.

c. There needs to be freedom of speech and press.

d. Voters much perceive that a meaningful choice exists.

 5. Explain the Framer’s view of democracy and the role of the “will of the people” in a government with “representative democracy.”

ANS:

a. The “will of the people” and the “public good” or “common interest” were not synonymous.

b. Government should mediate, not mirror, public views.

c. Representatives should represent, not register, majority sentiment.

d. Representative democracy may move slow and prevent sweeping change, but it minimizes the potential abuse of power by self-serving officeholders or tyrannical majorities.

 6. Identify, and briefly describe, the basic premises of four elite theories.

ANS:

a. *Class View:* Marx governments are dominated by business interests, the “bourgeois”.

b. *Power Elite View:* American democracy is dominated by a few top leaders who do not hold elective office (military officers, labor union leaders, media executives, and so on).

c. *Bureaucratic View:* Power is concentrated in the hands of appointed bureaucratic officials who manage the government.

d. *Pluralist View:* Power is shared among many institutions and shared so widely, no single group can dominate politics.

 7. Explain why we should be cautious about viewing political activity as merely “self-serving” or purely driven by “self-interest”?

ANS:

a. Policy may be good or bad independent of the motives of the person who decided it.

b. Self-interest can be an incomplete guide to an individual’s action; sometimes there are no obvious benefits to their choices, or they behave in a selfless manner.

c. Sometimes people fight against long odds, when success seems impossible.