Chapter 9: Interest Groups

1. Participation in interest groups in the U.S. has
   (A) grown.
   (B) leveled off.
   (C) declined.
   (D) remained constant.
   Answer: A

2. An organization of people with similar goals who enter the political process to try to achieve those aims is called
   (A) a cabal.
   (B) a front.
   (C) an interest group.
   (D) a clique.
   Answer: C

3. Interest groups try to achieve their goals by lobbying
   (A) the federal government only.
   (B) the courts only.
   (C) Congress only.
   (D) every level and branch of government.
   Answer: D

4. Unlike political parties, interest groups
   (A) try to appeal to everyone.
   (B) are policy specialists.
   (C) are moderate.
   (D) nominate and run candidates for political office.
   Answer: B

5. Which of the following is not an assumption of pluralist theory?
   (A) Groups compete.
   (B) Groups are equal in strength and ability to get government’s attention.
   (C) Groups usually fight fair.
   (D) Groups provide a key link between people and the government.
   Answer: B
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6. Which of the following is not an assumption of elite theory?
   (A) Awesome power is held by the largest corporations.
   (B) The power of a few is fortified by an existing system of interlocking directorates.
   (C) Government is run by a few interests who look out for themselves.
   (D) Other groups, besides the powerful ones, win on big and small decisions.

   Answer: D

7. If environmentalists want clean air, the government imposes clean-air rules; if businesses complain that cleaning the air is expensive, government gives them a tax-write off for pollution control equipment. This is an example of
   (A) interest group liberalism.
   (B) fulfilling the public good.
   (C) subgovernments.
   (D) hypersensitivity.

   Answer: A

8. Those who argue that too many groups get too much of what they want, resulting in contradictory government policies which lack direction, are
   (A) hyperventilating.
   (B) hyped up.
   (C) hyperpluralists.
   (D) hyperelitists.

   Answer: C

9. The interconnectedness between the tobacco growers, the Department of Agriculture and the House Tobacco Subcommittee represents a(n)
   (A) unholy alliance.
   (B) filibuster.
   (C) stale network.
   (D) subgovernment.

   Answer: D

10. Which of the following is not true about what makes an interest group successful?
    (A) A group’s intensity is related to success.
    (B) The larger the group, the more likely it will be successful.
    (C) Having financial resources works to a group’s advantage.
    (D) Not all powerful lobbying groups are well known.

    Answer: B
11. All of the people who might be interest group members are called
(A) potential members.
(B) actual members.
(C) the share.
(D) producers.
Answer: A

12. When individuals ask—“why join an interest group, pay dues and work hard for a goal when non-members gain benefits from the group’s activity without doing anything?—they may be part of the
(A) lazy bum problem.
(B) sharing the load problem.
(C) free-rider problem.
(D) actual group problem.
Answer: C

13. Olson’s law of large groups holds that large groups are
(A) less likely to secure an optimal amount of the collective good.
(B) more likely to advocate for the public interest.
(C) more cohesive and demonstrate greater esprit de corps.
(D) more likely to share the believe that everyone can make a difference.
Answer: A

14. The primary way for large groups to overcome Olson’s law is to offer
(A) purposive benefits.
(B) participatory benefits.
(C) collegiality benefits.
(D) selective benefits.
Answer: D

15. Which of the following is not an example of a single-issue group?
(A) Anti-Vietnam War activists
(B) labor unions
(C) National Right to Life organizations
(D) nuclear power plant opponents
Answer: B

16. Which of the following is true about the American interest group system?
(A) Those who have money don’t get heard as often as those who are without significant monetary resources.
(B) The interest group system is biased toward the poor and uneducated.
(C) The big interests do not always win.
(D) Interest groups buy congressional votes through their campaign contributions.
Answer: C
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17. Political persuaders who represent organized interest groups are known as
   (A) lobbyists.
   (B) philanthropists.
   (C) loiterers.
   (D) philosophers.
   Answer: A

18. Which is not one of the ways that lobbyists can help a member of Congress?
   (A) provide information
   (B) help plot strategy for getting legislation passed
   (C) ensure a politician’s reelection
   (D) formulate a campaign strategy
   Answer: C

19. Studies on lobbying clearly indicate that lobbyists are
   (A) always influential.
   (B) always innovative.
   (C) likely to convert opponents.
   (D) likely to reinforce supporters.
   Answer: D

20. Political action committees, or PACs, are more likely to give their money to
   (A) incumbents.
   (B) challengers.
   (C) rank and file members of Congress.
   (D) the Federal Election Commission.
   Answer: A

21. Groups, such as civil rights groups, that fail in winning the support of Congress are more likely to rely on
   (A) electioneering.
   (B) lobbying.
   (C) litigation.
   (D) hearings.
   Answer: C

22. Which of the following is not a criticism of PACs?
   (A) They distort the democratic process by opening up the system to too many ordinary people.
   (B) Corporate PACs have created corporate welfare, costing taxpayers billions of dollars.
   (C) PACs contribute to the problem of hyperpluralism.
   (D) PACs produce a bias in our political system toward those who can raise the most money.
   Answer: A
23. When a group, such as flight attendants, combine their common grievances into a single lawsuit, this is called
   (A) bushwacking.
   (B) shot gunning.
   (C) a class action suit.
   (D) reverse discrimination.

   Answer: C

24. When the government instituted a requirement for tax-withholding on savings accounts, the American Bankers association appealed to their customers to protest to their congressional representatives and afterwards, 22 million postcards flooded Congress. This is an example of
   (A) dissent.
   (B) going public.
   (C) amicus curiae.
   (D) backbenching.

   Answer: B

25. Common Cause is an example of a(n)
   (A) business group.
   (B) public interest lobby.
   (C) labor group.
   (D) employer group.

   Answer: B

26. The NAACP is concerned primarily with the public policy goal of
   (A) freedom.
   (B) equality.
   (C) a strong defense.
   (D) individualism.

   Answer: B

27. Which of the following is an example of an environmental interest group?
   (A) AFL-CIO
   (B) National Association of Manufacturers
   (C) NOW
   (D) Sierra Club

   Answer: D
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28. Interest groups tend to proliferate when the scope of government
   (A) declines.
   (B) stays the same.
   (C) contracts.
   (D) expands.
   Answer: D

29. The requirement that new employees join the union representing them is known as
   (A) the right to work provision.
   (B) closed shop.
   (C) union shop.
   (D) indentured servitude.
   Answer: C

30. The unifying force for business groups is their support for
   (A) promoting greater profits.
   (B) free trade.
   (C) the public good.
   (D) foreign competition.
   Answer: A