Chapter 12: The Federal Bureaucracy

1. Who is responsible for ensuring that our food supply is safe?
   (A) Congress
   (B) the president
   (C) bureaucrats
   (D) the private sector
   Answer: C

2. Which of the following is not true about bureaucracies?
   (A) They possess critical information and expertise.
   (B) They do much more than simply follow orders.
   (C) They exercise considerable discretion.
   (D) They are referred to constantly in the Constitution.
   Answer: D

3. According to Max Weber’s definition, which of the following is not an essential element of bureaucratic organization?
   (A) power flowing from the bottom up
   (B) hiring on the basis of abilities
   (C) treating clients impartially
   (D) relying on experts
   Answer: A

4. Which of the following is not a myth about bureaucracy in the United States?
   (A) Americans dislike bureaucrats.
   (B) Most federal bureaucrats work in local offices.
   (C) Bureaucracies are growing bigger each year.
   (D) Bureaucracies are ineffective, inefficient and always mired in red tape.
   Answer: B

5. The federal agency which employees the most civilians is the
   (A) Department of Defense.
   (B) postal service.
   (C) Department of Veteran Affairs.
   (D) Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
   Answer: B
6. Which of the following institutions is more broadly representative of the American people?
   (A) the permanent bureaucracy
   (B) Congress
   (C) the judiciary
   (D) presidential appointees
   Answer: A

7. Working in a congressional campaign, making large campaign donations and having the right connections have helped people secure government jobs. This is known as
   (A) nonpartisan system.
   (B) good ole boy recruitment.
   (C) comparative advantage.
   (D) patronage.
   Answer: D

8. The Pendleton Civil Service Act of 1883 was passed in part due to
   (A) President Lincoln’s desire to send the office seekers away.
   (B) President Andrew Jackson’s endorsement of the merit principle.
   (C) President Washington’s support of commonsense governance.
   (D) President James A. Garfield’s assassination.
   Answer: D

9. The civil service protects civil servants from
   (A) bad performance.
   (B) poor ratings.
   (C) political firings.
   (D) bad press coverage.
   Answer: C

10. The Hatch Act of 1939 prevents civil service employees from
    (A) getting involved in political campaigns.
    (B) participating in partisan politics while on duty.
    (C) expressing religious faith while on duty.
    (D) voting.
    Answer: B

11. To obtain a civil service job, a candidate must
    (A) take a test.
    (B) have the right connections.
    (C) have a promotion rating.
    (D) be politically involved.
    Answer: A
12. The publication that lists top federal jobs available for direct presidential appointment is known as the
(A) yellow pages.
(B) plum book.
(C) spoils book.
(D) gold standard book.
Answer: B

13. A government entity that has responsibility for some sector of the economy, making and enforcing rules
designed to protect the public interest, is called a(n)
(A) government corporation.
(B) independent executive agency.
(C) independent regulatory agency.
(D) independent government commission.
Answer: C

14. Which of the following is not an example of a government corporation?
(A) Tennessee Valley Authority
(B) Amtrak
(C) the U.S. Postal Service
(D) General Services Administration
Answer: D

15. Interest groups, concerned with their rule making authority, are more prone to capture
(A) independent executive agencies.
(B) independent regulatory agencies.
(C) government corporations.
(D) cabinet-level departments.
Answer: B

16. Unlike other parts of the government, government corporations
(A) sell stocks.
(B) collect dividends.
(C) provide a public service.
(D) charge for their services.
Answer: D

17. Bureaucracies are primarily concerned with
(A) making laws.
(B) interpreting laws.
(C) implementing laws.
(D) lobbying Congress.
Answer: C
Chapter 12 The Federal Bureaucracy  Study Questions

18. Which of the following is not a factor that hinders policy implementation?
   (A) clear orders
   (B) contradictory goals
   (C) fragmentation
   (D) insufficient staff

   Answer: A

19. Rules of thumb that help bureaucrats handle routine everyday decisions are called
   (A) iron rules of procedure.
   (B) rules of uniformity.
   (C) standard operating procedures.
   (D) impersonality rules.

   Answer: C

20. Harry Carey and Sara Pratt provide examples of how to
   (A) create bureaucratic rigidity.
   (B) cut through red tape.
   (C) regulate.
   (D) create jobs.

   Answer: B

21. Which of the following is not an example of a street-level bureaucrat?
   (A) the Secretary of State
   (B) a highway patrol officer
   (C) an Internal Revenue Service agent
   (D) a lower-court judge

   Answer: A

   the challenge of
   (A) centralized authority.
   (B) insufficient staff.
   (C) bureaucratic red tape.
   (D) diffusion of responsibility.

   Answer: D
23. The requirement for pollution-control, energy saving and safety devices in automobiles is an example of
(A) administrative discretion.
(B) regulation.
(C) policy implementation.
(D) a standard operating procedure.
Answer: B

24. Which of the following is not part of the regulatory process?
(A) congressional grant of power
(B) courts provide the agencies a set of directions
(C) the agency develops rules and guidelines
(D) the agency enforces its rules and guidelines
Answer: B

25. Which of the following is true about the incentive system?
(A) It requires programs to meet certain goals.
(B) It requires the development of voluminous standards.
(C) It is easier to develop than command-and-control policy.
(D) It provides no rewards for socially valuable behavior.
Answer: C

26. Which of the following arguments is not made by deregulation supporters?
(A) Regulations, although easy to enforce, are cumbersome.
(B) Regulations raise prices.
(C) Regulations are too complex.
(D) Regulations hurt America’s competitive position abroad.
Answer: A

27. Which of the following is not used by presidents to control the bureaucracy?
(A) appointing agency heads
(B) holding hearings
(C) issuing orders
(D) reorganizing agencies
Answer: B

28. Which of the following is not used by Congress to control the bureaucracy?
(A) issuing orders
(B) tinkering with the agency’s budget
(C) rewriting legislation
(D) influencing the appointment of agency heads
Answer: A
Chapter 12 The Federal Bureaucracy Study Questions

29. Which of the following three components combines to form an iron triangle?
(A) think tanks, interest groups and executive agencies
(B) standing committees, subcommittees and conference committees
(C) executive agencies, interest groups and congressional committees
(D) policy experts, street level bureaucrats and committee chairpersons

Answer: C

30. The complex web of federal agencies with overlapping jurisdictions was created by
(A) the president.
(B) bureaucratic ingenuity.
(C) Congress.
(D) dumb luck.

Answer: C