Second Exam—Study Guide  
American Government PSCI 1201-001 Fall, 2001

Instructions: This study guide has 80 questions. For the makeup exam, you will be given 40 questions and asked to select the one response that best answers the question. True-false questions should be marked 1 if true, 2 if false. You should complete either Scantron Form 882-ES or 883-ES. All exams must be completed in class. Grades will be based upon the total number of correct answers out of 40. No adjustments will be made.

Please write your name, and test number on the Scantron form. The test number is indicated as either Makeup Test #1, #2 or #3. Tests without proper identification will not be graded. Cheating on any test is strictly prohibited. Any student caught cheating will automatically fail the course.

1. The process through which political values are passed on from one generation to the next is called:
   A. communitarianism.  
   B. multiculturalism.  
   C. political socialization.  
   D. patriotism.

2. The term that refers to the sum of our most cherished shared values is our
   A. ideology.  
   B. belief system.  
   C. patriotic idealism.  
   D. political culture.

3. Public opinion is an important element in understanding American politics because:
   A. it can be used to legitimate public authority.  
   B. it makes political actors less responsive and effective.  
   C. political candidates and parties usually ignore public opinion.  
   D. it is always indicative of continuity in American political culture.

4. A poll that uses loaded questions to propel a respondent toward a particular answer is called:
   A. a "push" poll.  
   B. a straw poll.  
   C. the Hawthorne effect.  
   D. canvassing.

5. All of the following are main factors upon which the accuracy of a poll depends EXCEPT:
   A. polling the largest number of respondents possible.  
   B. the survey and data collection methods used.
C.  the wording and ordering of the questions.
D.  the interpretation of the data.

6. Polls that concentrate on people who happen to be around or are easy to contact are called:
   A.  straw polls.
   B.  random samples.
   C.  quantitative polls.
   D.  "push" polls.

7. The advance implemented by George Gallup and others that made public opinion polling more scientific was:
   A.  the use of straw polls.
   B.  random sampling.
   C.  so-called "public opinion baths."
   D.  the General Social Surveys.

8. A standard measure of a particular poll's accuracy is:
   A.  its margin of error.
   B.  the number of questions asked.
   C.  how recently the poll was taken.
   D.  the number of media outlets that report the poll.

9. Most polling is currently done by:
   A.  mail.
   B.  computer.
   C.  telephone.
   D.  face-to-face interviews.

10. When many people on opposing sides feel intensely about an issue—such as abortion or the Vietnam War—voters' opinions will be distributed along the following type of curve
     A.  bell shaped.
     B.  positively skewed.
     C.  negatively skewed.
     D.  bimodal.

11. Proper sampling methodology is based on selecting the appropriate set of people. When every individual in that population has an equal chance of being selected for the sample, it is said to be
     A.  open ended.
     B.  random choice.
     C.  specific sampling.
     D.  appropriate.

12. Sources of American public opinion include
     A.  mass media.
     B.  religious and ethnic heritage.
     C.  schools.
     D.  all of the above.
13. The electorate is defined as those:
   A. who are permitted by law to vote.
   B. who are legally registered to vote.
   C. who cast a ballot in an election.
   D. who cast a vote for the winning candidate.

14. The power to regulate voting is primarily granted to:
   A. cities.
   B. counties.
   C. the states.
   D. municipal courts.

15. The legal right to vote is called the:
   A. electorate.
   B. initiative.
   C. franchise.
   D. franking privilege.

16. Prior to 1820, many states based voter eligibility on:
   A. British decent.
   B. membership in a political party.
   C. militia service.
   D. property ownership.

17. The poll tax was made illegal by:
   A. an act of Congress in 1944.
   B. the Fourteenth Amendment.
   D. the Twenty-fourth Amendment.

18. An important stimulus that led states and the national government to lower the voting age to 18 years old was:
   A. youth protest.
   B. the wartime draft.
   C. economic depression.
   D. more widely available university education.

19. Socioeconomic status is defined:
   A. solely by one's occupation.
   B. solely by one's income level.
   C. by the combination of occupation, income, and education.
   D. by the combination of income and location of one's residence.

20. All of the following are ways in which electronic communication currently affects political action EXCEPT:
   A. Ballots for primary and national elections can be cast via e-mail.
   B. Government officials use e-mail and Web sites to communicate with constituents.
C. Individual citizens use Web sites to express independent support for candidates.
D. Citizens use the Internet to organize and provide public services.

T F 21. Voter turnout measures the number of registered voters who actually show up to vote in an election.

T F 22. The referendum and the recall allow citizens to voice their opinions on controversial issues faced by the national government.

T F 23. California has more members of the U.S. House of Representatives than any other state.

24. All of the following are functions that parties are expected to perform EXCEPT:
   A. aggregating interests.
   B. recruiting candidates.
   C. organizing election campaigns.
   D. maintaining the separation of government powers.

25. Members of Congress who serve as committee chairpersons are always:
   A. selected by the president.
   B. members of the majority party.
   C. the senior members in each chamber.
   E. members of the president's party.

26. Parties' attempts to "compete for the middle:"
   A. cost Democrats some support of the conservative wing of their party.
   B. require most Democrats to move leftward on the political spectrum.
   C. require most Republicans to move rightward of the political spectrum.
   D. cost Republicans some support from the conservative wing of their party.

27. All of the following take place at the national party conventions EXCEPT:
   A. formal nomination of the presidential candidate.
   B. formal nomination of the vice-presidential candidate.
   D. adoption of a platform.

28. The innovation that gave voters, rather than party bosses, power to choose candidates was:
   A. the direct primary.
   B. the secret caucus.
   C. proportional representation.
   D. the winner-take-all system.
29. All of the following are types of primary elections EXCEPT:
   A. closed.
   B. blanket.
   C. recall.
   D. open.

30. An election in which voters must declare their party affiliation and choose from among the candidates of that party's ballot is a(n):
   A. open caucus.
   B. open primary.
   C. closed primary.
   D. blanket primary.

31. Voters select the candidate who will occupy public office in the:
   A. direct primary.
   B. general election.
   C. referendum.
   D. non-secret caucus.

32. Thomas Jefferson's election to the presidency ended the control of the presidency by the:
   A. Whigs.
   B. Federalists.
   C. Democrats.
   D. Anti-Federalists.

33. A consequence of the election of most public officials from single-member districts by plurality voting is that:
   A. parties and candidates appeal to narrowly focused, ideological voters.
   B. only candidates belonging to the strongest parties tend to win elections.
   C. third parties are rewarded for second and third place showings.
   D. the Libertarian party consistently outperforms other third parties.

34. The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1974 provides:
   A. free and equal media time for all presidential candidates.
   B. equal funding to all Presidential candidates regardless of their party.
   C. guarantees that third party candidates are included in televised debates.
   D. federal matching funds to candidates who meet qualifications.

35. A significant reason why American citizens and elites support the two-party system is because of the contribution it makes to maintaining:
   A. political stability.
   B. economic growth.
   C. honesty in politics.
36. The greatest impact third parties have had on politics is that their:
   A. policies are often adopted by the major parties.
   B. candidates often move on to become major party candidates.
   C. funding neutralizes the advantages of the major parties.
   D. supporters knowingly "throw away" their vote.

37. Third-party candidates have frequently prevented winning presidential candidates from:
   A. getting a majority of the popular vote.
   B. adopting third-party issues as their own.
   C. entering office with a congressional majority.
   D. choosing their preferred vice-presidential candidate.

38. Voting for all of the candidates of one party in an election is called:
   A. split-ticket voting.
   B. independent voting.
   C. straight-ticket voting.
   D. a de-alignment pattern.

39. Minor parties in the United States have usually been organized around:
   A. race.
   B. a candidate.
   C. ideology.
   D. both b and c.

40. The institutional characteristics of political parties include:
   A. national party leadership.
   B. grass roots organizations.
   C. party platforms.
   D. all of the above.

41. When any voter, regardless of party, can participate in whichever primary he or she may choose, it is called a(n)
   A. horse race.
   B. open primary.
   C. closed primary.
   D. crossover primary.

42. When parties receive the proportion of the legislators corresponding to their percentage of the vote, winners are said to be determined by
   A. direct election.
   B. winner-take-all.
   C. proportional representation.
   D. none of the above.

43. African American women gained the right to vote in
   A. 1870 with the passage of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution.
B. 1920 with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.
C. 1964 with the passage of the 24th Amendment to the Constitution.
D. 1971 with the passage of the 26th Amendment to the Constitution.

44. Most political science researchers believe that we have not experienced any major political party realignment since
   A. 1917.
   B. 1932.
   C. John F. Kennedy's New Frontier in the early 1960s.
   D. Ronald Reagan's administration in the early 1980s.

T  F  45. In 1996 Californians initiated a blanket primary system.

T  F  46. According to Gerston & Christensen, California has a strong party system.

T  F  47. In 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court declared California's blanket primary system unconstitutional.

48. An organization that seeks to convert the interests or goals of its members into public policies is a(n):
   A. bureaucracy.
   B. political party.
   C. interest group.
   D. peak association.

49. Attempting to influence public officials in order to win their support is called:
   A. lobbying.
   B. an inside strategy.
   C. political corruption.
   D. spending hard money.

50. People who do not join a group, including interest groups, because they know they can enjoy group benefits without contributing to the effort to obtain them are called
   A. free riders.
   B. split groups.
   C. vested interests.
   D. charter members.

51. The increase in the influence of interest groups has come at the expense of:
   A. women.
   B. political parties.
   C. business interests.
   D. ethnic and racial minorities.
52. All of the following are functions performed by interest groups EXCEPT:
   A. agenda setting.
   B. educating the public.
   C. educating the government.
   D. coordinating election campaigns.

53. All of the following are strategies typically used by successful interest groups EXCEPT:
   A. engaging in acts of uncivil disobedience.
   B. contributing to political candidates.
   C. building coalitions with other groups.
   D. bringing grassroots pressure to bear on lawmakers.

54. The political power of interest groups is directly related to
   A. the size of the group.
   B. the extent to which members are actively involved.
   C. the focus of policy objectives.
   D. all of the above.

55. PACs tend to:
   A. give money to the neediest candidates.
   B. give money to the most influential candidates.
   C. spread the money among as many candidates as possible.
   D. give money to challengers who promise special access.

56. An interest group that is entitled to legally raise funds for making campaign contributions is called a:
   A. NRA
   B. FBI.
   C. PAC.
   D. PCI.

57. Interest groups are like political parties in all of the following ways except
   A. raising money for candidates.
   B. encouraging active citizen participation in public issues.
   C. developing public agendas.
   D. nominating candidates for public office.

58. The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 limits PACs to:
   A. $1,000 per candidate.
   B. $2,000 per candidate.
   C. $5,000 per election.
   D. $3,000 per election cycle.

59. Elections perform all of the following functions EXCEPT:
   A. improve the economy.
   B. reveal public opinion.
   C. influence government policy.
   D. evaluate officials' performances.
60. When citizens cast their votes based on their evaluation of a candidate's performance while in office, they are engaging in:
   A. primary voting.
   B. prospective voting.
   C. retrospective voting.
   D. the incumbency effect.

61. People who engage in prospective voting base their vote on:
   A. their understanding of their economic interests.
   B. one issue that is of primary importance to them.
   C. expectations of candidates' future performance.
   D. evaluations of incumbents' performance while in office.

62. A candidate competing for reelection while holding office is:
   A. an incumbent.
   B. a faithless elector.
   C. running on coattails.
   D. engaging in base politics.

63. Most voters' major source of campaign information is:
   A. television.
   B. the Internet.
   C. a daily newspaper.
   D. a weekly newsmagazine.

64. To be eligible to receive federal matching funds, presidential candidates must:
   A. agree not to allow their party to spend soft money.
   B. get their names on the ballot in every state in the country.
   C. win at least one of their party's primary elections or caucuses.
   D. raise $5,000 in private contributions of $250 or less in each of 20 states.

65. Political action committees give most heavily to:
   A. Democrats.
   B. Republicans.
   C. challengers.
   D. incumbents.

66. Voting for candidates of different parties in the same election is called:
   A. split-ticket voting.
   B. prospective voting.
   C. retrospective voting.
   D. incumbency advantage.

67. The redistribution of representation among the states in the House of Representatives that takes place after every census is called:
   A. urbanization.
B. reapportionment.
C. gerrymandering.
D. the silent primary.

68. Redrawing the lines that divide populations into approximately equal, geographically based units to be represented in the House of Representatives is called:

A. redlining.
B. redistricting.
C. gerrymandering.
D. reapportionment.

69. Writing redistricting plans is the responsibility of the:

A. states.
B. President.
C. Federal courts.
D. House of Representatives.

70. The Supreme Court decision in Baker v. Carr held that state legislative districts must be reapportioned as population shifted because:

A. gerrymandering was an unconstitutional practice.
B. failure to redistrict denied citizens their free speech rights.
C. failure to redraw district lines violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
D. unequal representation denied citizens equal protection under the law.

71. In the first U.S. presidential elections, presidential electors were chosen by:

A. the Senate.
B. state legislatures.
C. property-owning citizens.
D. the House of Representatives.

72. Which of the following stages occurs earliest in the contest to be elected president?

A. a popular election
B. national party conventions
C. state primaries and caucuses
D. the official Electoral College election

73. A gathering of party supporters who vote their presidential preferences face to-face in precinct meetings is called a(n):

A. primary election.
B. Electoral College.
C. silent primary.
D. primary caucus.

74. The primary purpose of contemporary national party conventions is to:
A. select a presidential candidate.
B. provide a forum for congressional candidates.
C. make important decisions about the party's policy decisions.
D. showcase the parties' presidential candidates before the American public.

75. Voters who are expected to remain loyal to a candidate unless he or she does something to alienate them are considered:
   A. swing voters.
   B. faithless electors.
   C. a candidate's base.
   D. independent voters.

76. All of the following are groups that presidential candidates strategically try to attract EXCEPT:
   A. unregistered voters.
   B. a candidate's base of voters.
   C. first-time and independent voters.
   D. a candidate's opponent's base of voters.

77. A state is allocated a number of electoral votes based on:
   A. its representation in both houses of Congress.
   B. its representation in the House of Representatives.
   C. its proportion of the total population of the United States.
   D. the number of popular votes cast in the presidential election.

78. All of the following are true concerning voter turnout EXCEPT:
   A. voter turnout is highest in presidential elections.
   B. voter turnout is higher in general elections than in primary elections.
   C. voter turnout is higher in local elections than in national elections.
   D. voter turnout is higher in primary elections than in special elections.

79. The level of voting increases with increases in:
   A. education.
   B. age.
   C. income.
   D. all of the above.

80. Most election districts in the United States are:
   A. single member districts.
   B. proportionately distributed districts.
   C. multiparty districts.
   D. defined by race and class.