

## Policy and the Branches of Government

**Explain the extent to which government branches can hold the bureaucracy accountable given the competing interests of Congress, the president, and the federal courts.**

1. Max Weber, a German sociologist who studied rational organizations in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, compared modern bureaucracies to

- a. A beehive
- b. A well-oiled machine
- c. An anthill
- d. Giant jigsaw puzzles

2. Which of the following best characterizes what most people think about bureaucracies?

- a. Negative connotation
- b. Positive but nuanced
- c. Indifference
- d. Enthusiastic about the quality of service

3. Presidents are empowered to “faithfully execute” the laws. This includes managing the vast federal bureaucracy. Recent presidents have all vowed to “reinvent” the government. How did President Bill Clinton attempt to “reinvent” government?

- a. Initiated a National Performance Review – each federal agency had to reevaluate its mission
- b. Issued Ex. Orders to encourage federal agencies to use “behavioral science” to remake themselves
- c. Encouraged a business model including more privatization of some federal agency responsibilities
- d. Chose to refrain from any political attempts to “reinvent” government. Bureaucracies work well.

4. Presidents are empowered to “faithfully execute” the laws. This includes managing the vast federal bureaucracy. Recent presidents have all vowed to “reinvent” the government. How did President George W. Bush attempt to “reinvent” government?

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5. Presidents are empowered to “faithfully execute” the laws. This includes managing the vast federal bureaucracy. Recent presidents have all vowed to “reinvent” the government. How did President Barack Obama attempt to “reinvent” government?

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- b. Issued Ex. Orders to encourage federal agencies to use “behavioral science” to remake themselves
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6. Congress attempts to control and check the power of federal agencies in all of the following ways EXCEPT

- a. The federal budget
- b. Oversight hearings
- c. Statutory law
- d. Eradicating iron triangles

7. All of the following weaken Congressional attempts to check federal agencies EXCEPT

- a. Infrequent budget process
- b. Iron triangles
- c. Issue networks
- d. Agency specialization

8. Throughout our history the Supreme Court has helped to define and clarify the statutory power given to federal agencies. At times the Court serves as a check and at other times it emboldens federal agencies. How did the Court decision in *Wilder v. Virginia Hospital Association* (1990) affect the federal bureaucracy?

- a. Limited the Dept. of Health and Human Serv. by reducing federal reimbursements
- b. Limited the Dept. of Education by preventing schools from hiring nurses
- c. Empowered the Dept. of Health and Human Serv. to guarantee “adequate quality” in their facilities
- d. Empowered the Dept. of Homeland Security to collect meta-data from federal VA hospitals

9. All of the following have been used to explain why it is difficult to hold the federal bureaucracy accountable EXCEPT

- a. Unrealistic expectations
- b. Foreign intelligence obstacles
- c. Political conflicts
- d. Improbable crises

10. In *Federalist 51* (1788) James Madison wrote:

*“If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself. A dependence on the people is, no doubt, the primary control on the government; but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions...”*

Which of the following best reflects how the original U.S. Constitution embodied Madison’s argument?

- a. Checks and balances
- b. Republicanism
- c. Authoritarianism
- d. The Bill of Rights

11. According to our studies this semester, our limited government is rooted in all of the following EXCEPT

- a. Historical traditions
- b. Political theory
- c. Conflict and compromise
- d. Authoritarianism masquerading as democracy