

5.3 Political Parties

Describe linkage institutions.

Explain the function and impact of political parties on the electorate and the government.

1. What is the political science term for those institutions that allow individuals to communicate their preferences to policy-makers?

- a. Policy-making institutions
- b. Linkage institutions
- c. Partisan institutions
- d. Publicly held institutions

2. In our democracy political parties, interest groups, elections and media are examples of

- a. Policy-making institutions
- b. Linkage institutions
- c. Partisan institutions
- d. Publicly held institutions

3. Political parties have the primary purpose to

- a. Nominate candidates
- b. Raise money
- c. Run campaigns
- d. Win elections

4. All of the following are examples of how political parties link us to the government EXCEPT

- a. Party leaders pass agreeable pieces of legislation
- b. Partisan presidents follow through on campaign promises
- c. Politically motivated court appointees rule favorably in partisan judicial hearings
- d. Fat cats raise large sums of money to fund issue advocacy ads

5. Interest groups have the primary purpose to

- a. Impacting the nomination process
- b. Impacting the policy-making process
- c. Impacting media coverage
- d. Impacting voting procedures

6. Why do you suppose interest groups are vital to any civil society?

- a. Healthy democracies cannot grow without the freedom to join groups of our choosing
- b. Civil societies require frequent elections
- c. Healthy democracies cannot grow without a well-funded two party system
- d. Civil societies require an independent judiciary

7. Which of the following linkage institutions give “we the people” the most direct way to influence our government?

- a. Political parties
- b. Interest groups
- c. Elections
- d. Media

8. Which of the following statements about American elections is NOT true

- a. We are election crazy – we have so many
- b. Elections are held at the national, state and local levels
- c. No democracy has as many elected positions to fill as we do
- d. No democracy has as high a voter turnout as we do

9. Today’s media plays all of the following roles EXCEPT

- a. Nominator
- b. Gatekeeper
- c. Scorekeeper
- d. Watchdog

10. Perhaps the most important role of the media is to “police” our government. What does this mean?

- a. The media sends elected officials to jail
- b. The media holds the government accountable
- c. The media moderates political choices
- d. The media is responsible for picking qualified candidates

11. All of the following would be considered a linkage institution EXCEPT:

- a. Political parties
- b. Interest groups
- c. Elections
- d. Congress

12. The U.S. Constitution says NOTHING about political parties. Why?

- a. The founding fathers feared factions
- b. There were no parties at that time in history
- c. There was only one party at that time in history
- d. It was considered an oversight

13. Which of the following political party objectives is considered their primary goal?

- a. Staff the government
- b. Nominate candidates
- c. Fund campaigns
- d. Win elections

14. Political parties create broad-based coalitions. Which of the following provides the best example?

- a. Tom and Ken agree on every issue but rarely participate in civic activity
- b. Tom and Ken disagree on every issue and join two different groups to fight it out
- c. Tom and Ken disagree on a number of issues but agree on enough to join together
- d. Tom and Ken disagree on a number of issues but agree to respect each others differences

15. According to political science, what is the number one determining factor of a person's vote?

- a. Age
- b. Race
- c. Income
- d. Partisan identification (ID)

16. Which of the following scenarios exemplifies a split-ticket vote?

- a. Tom votes for a Democrat for president and a Democrat for the Senate on the same ballot
- b. Tom votes for a Democrat for president and chooses not to vote for anybody else on the same ballot
- c. Tom votes for a Republican for president and a Democrat for the House in the next election
- d. Tom votes for a Democrat for president and a Republican for the Senate on the same ballot

17. Which of the following best describes the political party system in the United States?

- a. Dominant party system
- b. Multi-party system
- c. Two-party system
- d. Three-party system

18. The primary functions of the modern political party include all of the following EXCEPT

- a. Educate voters
- b. Nominate candidates
- c. Raising money to support candidates
- d. Negotiate trade agreements

19. Political parties play all of the following important roles in our democracy EXCEPT

- a. Provide labels to voters
- b. Educate citizens
- c. Choose court justices
- d. Nominate candidates

20. Though partisan identification (ID) continues to be a major determinant of ones vote, today's political parties are generally

- a. Stronger
- b. Weaker
- c. Similar
- d. Bipartisan