

2.12 The Bureaucracy



ESSENTIALS

Tasks performed by departments, agencies, commissions, and government corporations are represented by:

- Writing and enforcing regulations
- Issuing fines
- Testifying before Congress
- Issue networks and “iron triangles”

Political patronage, civil service, and merit system reforms all impact the effectiveness of the bureaucracy by promoting professionalism, specialization, and neutrality.

1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon? [Write your response as a thesis using a “because” statement]
2. What bureaucratic agencies are represented in this cartoon? Is this cartoon critical of Wall Street or critical of the government bureaucracy? Explain.

Fill in the chart below by providing current examples. For each example provide name, number of federal employees, budget and primary responsibility.

	<i>Executive Departments</i>	<i>Independent Agencies</i>	<i>Gov’t Commissions</i>	<i>Gov’t Corporations</i>
1				
2				

Today we read about “the administrative state.” This implies a “deep state,” one that operates outside of the view of most citizens. “The Administrative state” utilizes the functions of all three branches – often unchecked. **Choose one example from above in each category and fill in the chart below:**

	Executive Department	Independent Agency	Gov’t Corporations
Example of			
1. Writing and enforcing regulations [Legislative function]			
2. Enforcing regulations [Executive function]			
3. Issuing fines [Judicial function]			

DEFINE: IRON TRIANGLE
Find a contemporary example

DEFINE: ISSUE NETWORK
Find a contemporary example

How do IRON TRIANGLES and ISSUE NETWORKS help to explain how public policy is made?

What was the significance of the Pendleton Civil Service Act (1883)?

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

Americans' Ratings of Job: Key Federal Departments and Agencies

How would you rate the job being done by...Would you say it is doing an excellent, good, only fair or poor job?

	Excellent Good %	Only Fair %	Poor %
The U.S. Postal Service	74	18	8
The Secret Service	69	19	8
The Centers for Disease Control	64	22	12
The Central Intelligence Service	60	25	12
NASA, the U.S. Space Agency	60	26	5
The Federal Bureau of Investigation	57	23	19
The Department of Homeland Security	55	26	17
The Federal Emergency Management Agency	52	29	16
The Internal Revenue Service	50	30	19
The Federal Reserve Board	48	34	14
The Food and Drug Administration	44	33	22
The Environmental Protection Agency	43	30	26
The Veterans Administration	39	31	28

Gallop April 17-30, 2019

Use the chart above to answer the following questions.

- Identify the Federal Department or Agency with the highest and lowest approval ratings.
- Describe a difference between the departments or agencies mentioned in your response A that might explain the variance in approval ratings.
- Explain how the data in the chart might be used by a candidate running for president.
- Explain how the data in the chart could affect policy making interactions between the president and Congress.