

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