

Test Bank for Party Politics in America 18th Hershey

TEST BANK SAMPLE PREVIEW

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Chapter 2

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Which of the following is true of party systems?
 - a. There are no democracies with a one-party system.
 - b. The U.S. party system has been a one-party system most of the time.
 - c. Some democratic nations have had extensive periods of one-party rule.**
 - d. Almost all democracies have a two-party system.

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

2. In a _____, when one single party fails to win a majority of the votes, then two or more parties come together in a coalition in order to govern.
 - a. winner-take-all system
 - b. local election
 - c. multi-party system**
 - d. separation of powers system

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

3. Most *state* party systems in the U.S. are:
 - a. relatively safe for one party or the other**
 - b. extremely competitive
 - c. nonpartisan
 - d. multi-party

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

4. The Ranney Index measures:
 - a. the strength of minor parties in the states
 - b. the proportion of landslide victories in state elections
 - c. the effects of national events on state elections
 - d. competition between the Democrats and Republicans in the states**

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

5. Since 1964, the average success rate for incumbents seeking reelection to the U.S. House was _____ percent.
 - a. About 50
 - b. Over 90**
 - c. Under 25

d. About 78

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

6. Which of the following is NOT an advantage that incumbents have in congressional elections?

- a. Name recognition.
- b. Fund-raising.
- c. **Term limits.**
- d. Media coverage.

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

7. Which is true about “swing districts” in the U.S. Congress?

- a. They have become much more common during the past 25 years.
- b. **They have become much less common during the past 25 years.**
- c. They are normally won by minor-party candidates.
- d. They are typically won by landslides.

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

8. When the number of swing districts declines, the result has been to eliminate most of the ____.

- a. radicals in Congress
- b. ideologically extreme members of Congress
- c. need to raise large sums of money
- d. **moderate members of Congress**

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

9. The assertion that plurality elections in single-member districts tend to produce two-party systems is called:

- a. proportional representation
- b. **Duverger’s Law**
- c. Obama’s Law
- d. institutional forces

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

10. Minor parties tend to be weaker in a system with ____ because they do not have a realistic chance of winning the presidency.

- a. **a single executive**
- b. proportional representation

- c. multi-member districts
- d. nonpartisan elections

skill level: factual

difficulty: moderate

11. The less diverse its people are, in terms of the demographic characteristics that typically divide Republicans from Democrats, the more likely the district is to:
- a. foster intense two-party competition
 - b. be dominated by one party**
 - c. foster minor party competition
 - d. encourage interest group activity in politics

skill level: factual

difficulty: moderate

12. Nonpartisan elections:

- a. were strongly opposed by the Progressive movement
- b. took root mainly in cities where the parties were already strong
- c. are held in most American cities and towns**
- d. increase voter turnout

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

13. The strongest vote getter of any minor party in the past quarter century has been the ____ Party.

- a. American
- b. Reform
- c. Green
- d. Libertarian**

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

14. Which minor party claims credit for public policies such as minimum wage?

- a. The Libertarian Party.
- b. The Socialist Party.**
- c. The Green Party.
- d. The Reform Party.

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

15. Who was the only minor party candidate since 1975 to receive almost 20 percent of the popular vote for president?

- a. Arnold Schwarzenegger.
- b. Theodore Roosevelt.

c. **Ross Perot.**

d. Joe Biden.

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

16. Independent candidates:

a. **must usually get a lot of signatures on petitions to get on the ballot**

b. tend to get fewer votes than minor-party candidates do

c. face the same requirements to get on the ballot as major-party candidates do

d. must run as the candidate of a minor party

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

17. Since 1952, approximately how many members of Congress have been elected on a minor party ticket?

a. More than 100.

b. Between 5 and 100.

c. **Fewer than 5.**

d. None.

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

18. Minor party presidential candidates can receive public funding for their campaigns if they receive at least ____ percent of the popular vote.

a. **5**

b. 20

c. 25

d. 30

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

19. One result of single-party control of a state government is that

a. There is likely to be gridlock in the state legislature.

b. **The dominant party can make major changes in state policy without needing to compromise with the other party.**

c. The dominant party will be prevented from gerrymandering state legislative districts.

d. The opposition party will be able to appoint the chairs of all the state legislative committees.

skill level: factual

difficulty: easy

Identifications/Short Answer Questions

Define each of the following terms and briefly explain why it is relevant to the study of political parties.

- 20. The incumbency advantage.
- 21. Party competition.
- 22. Proportional representation.
- 23. Minor parties.
- 24. Independent candidates.

Essay Questions

- 25. What are the main reasons why there is close inter-party competition in presidential elections, but most statewide elections are dominated by one party or the other?
- 26. What are the major explanations as to why the United States has a two-party system rather than a one-party or a multi-party system?
- 27. What are the primary reasons why minor parties have so much trouble electing candidates in American politics?
- 28. What are the advantages to American citizens of having a two-party system? What are the disadvantages? How would a multi-party system change American politics?
- 29. What are the main forces that tend to produce one-party politics in an area? What are the likely consequences for citizens in that area of having a one-party system rather than two-party competition?