

## **PLS 136 – Exam 1 Review Guide**

The exam will cover chapters 1-4 and 11, lectures to date and other assigned readings. There will likely be a total of about 30-35 multiple choice questions. You will also be asked to define 10 terms and answer one essay question. You will be given a choice of which terms to define and which essay question to answer. Below are the key terms, sample multiple choice and essay questions, which we will review during Tuesday's class.

### **Key Terms:**

Constitutional government/Constitutionalism	Federal grants-in-aid (block/categorical grants)	Full faith and credit clause
Devolution	Unitary government	Privileges and immunities clause
Initiative	Confederation	Extradition
Referenda	Dual federalism	Policy liberalism
Constitutional revision commission	Cooperative federalism	Policy conservatism
“Motor Voter” Law	Centralized federalism	Wedge issues
McCulloch v Maryland	Direct democracy	Nullification (doctrine of)
Political Machine	Representative democracy	National Supremacy Clause
	Recall election	Reserved Powers

### **Essay Questions:**

#### Chapter 1:

Compare the policy responsibilities of the states to those of the national government. Please be specific about which powers belong to each level of government. What do you think is the most important responsibility of state and local government in the United States? Why? (see pages 24-28 in the textbook)

## Chapter 2:

How do state constitutions differ from the U.S. Constitution? Include a discussion of differences in design, principles, and mechanisms for change between state constitutions and the U.S. Constitution. Which more closely reflects the principles of direct democracy? Why? (Remember the differences we discussed in class when comparing the Virginia and U.S. Constitutions.)

### Chapter 3:

Describe the structure of federalism. How does federalism differ from a unitary government and a confederation? Compare and contrast at least three strengths and weaknesses of federalism.

## Chapter 1:

1. The comparative study of states looks for relationships between
  - A. socioeconomic conditions.
  - B. political system characteristics.
  - C. policy outcomes.
  - D. all of the above.
2. Immigration policy is primarily a responsibility of the
  - A. individual states.
  - B. local governments.
  - C. national government.
  - D. border states.
3. A state's tendency to expand welfare benefits, regulate business, adopt progressive state income taxes, and generally use the resources of government to achieve social change is descriptive of
  - A. policy conservatism.
  - B. policy liberalism.
  - C. policy socialism.
  - D. policy libertarianism.
4. A state's tendency to limit welfare benefits, deregulate business, keep taxes low, and generally place less reliance on government and more reliance on individuals and the marketplace to achieve social goals refers to
  - A. policy conservatism.
  - B. policy liberalism.
  - C. policy socialism.
  - D. policy libertarianism.
5. Issues such as same-sex marriage are increasingly being used as \_\_\_\_\_ designed to cause voters to cross party lines.
  - A. interventions
  - B. wedges
  - C. dividers
  - D. splicers
6. What level or levels of government handle the greatest volume of public business and directs the bulk of public programs?
  - A. The federal government
  - B. State executive agencies
  - C. State and local governments
  - D. County governments
7. The most costly responsibility of state and local governments combined is
  - A. the economy.
  - B. education.
  - C. welfare.
  - D. transportation.
8. State governments have the responsibility to administer the following federal programs EXCEPT
  - A. Medicaid.
  - B. food stamps.
  - C. Social Security.
  - D. unemployment compensation.
9. When seeking admission to the Union, new states must approve a constitution and
  - A. obtain congressional approval.
  - B. obtain presidential approval.
  - C. obtain the approval of the Supreme Court.
  - D. obtain popular approval from the public.

## Chapter 2:

1. State constitutions contain all of the following elements EXCEPT
  - A. the organizational structure of state government.
  - B. detailed limitations of the rights of citizens.
  - C. a set of rules by which decisions will be made.
  - D. the distribution of powers among the three branches of government.
2. Constitutionalism is synonymous with
  - A. free elections.
  - B. representative taxation.
  - C. limited government.
  - D. unlimited government.
3. Unlike the U.S. Constitution, state constitutions contain
  - A. many policy mandates on diverse topics.
  - B. vague references to governmental operations.
  - C. the history of the state's evolution to statehood.
  - D. a list of the state's by-laws.
4. State governments mirror the basic structure of the U.S. federal government with separate legislative, executive, and judicial branches, a principle referred to as
  - A. divisions of authority.
  - B. hierarchy of powers.
  - C. separation of powers.
  - D. separation divisions.
5. Even with a system of checks and balances, state constitutions tend to emphasize
  - A. executive power over judicial power.
  - B. legislative power over executive power.
  - C. executive power over legislative power.
  - D. judicial power over legislative power.
6. Local governments derive their authority from
  - A. the national government.
  - B. independent county governments.
  - C. the state government.
  - D. the courts.
7. The most common and successful method of amending state constitutions is through
  - A. legislative proposals.
  - B. popular initiatives.
  - C. constitutional conventions.
  - D. constitutional revision commissions.
8. Popular initiatives allow citizens to place an amendment to a state constitution on the ballot
  - A. with a majority vote of all citizens.
  - B. without requiring citizens' approval.
  - C. without the approval of the state legislature.
  - D. omitting the governor's signature.
9. The job of constitutional revision commissions is to
  - A. make wholesale changes to the constitution.
  - B. study and recommend specific constitutional changes.
  - C. petition voters to place an amendment on the ballot.
  - D. draft legislative proposals.

10. The form of government that allows voters to initiate and approve policy decisions is called
  - A. direct democracy.
  - B. representational democracy.
  - C. total democracy.
  - D. elite democracy.
11. A device used in some states that allows for citizens to place a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot for voter approval or rejection is called a/an
  - A. initiative.
  - B. referendum.
  - C. convention.
  - D. recall.
12. A device that allows the electorate to have final approval over proposed laws or constitutional amendments submitted by the legislature is referred to as a/an
  - A. initiative.
  - B. referendum.
  - C. convention.
  - D. recall.
13. An electoral process that provides voters the opportunity to remove an elected official before the end of his or her term is called a/an
  - A. initiative.
  - B. referendum.
  - C. convention.
  - D. recall.
14. Proponents of direct democracy believe reforms such as initiative and referendum devices
  - A. create unwise and unsound policies.
  - B. enhance government responsiveness and accountability.
  - C. grant fewer protections for individual liberties and the rights of minorities.
  - D. do not allow for alternative policies or modifications to the ballot proposals.
15. A reason why special interests sponsor some initiative campaigns is to
  - A. work directly with the legislature to enact favored laws.
  - B. accomplish their goals through the legislative process.
  - C. bypass the state capital and its power holders.
  - D. lobby the legislature in support of their issues.

### Chapter 3

1. A constitutional arrangement in which the subnational governments rely on the national government for their power is called a
  - A. confederation.
  - B. subnationalization.
  - C. federal system.
  - D. unitary system.
2. If the power of the national government is dependent upon local units of government for authority, the system is said to be a
  - A. confederation.
  - B. unitary system.
  - C. federalist system.
  - D. separation of powers.
3. States have been called "laboratories of democracy" because
  - A. states often provide innovative solutions to social and economic problems.
  - B. conflicts cannot be sufficiently resolved by states.
  - C. states have little incentive to economically compete with other states in attracting businesses.
  - D. most social and economic solutions are addressed by the federal government.

4. The doctrine asserting the right of states to ignore unconstitutional laws of Congress is called
  - A. vilification.
  - B. nullification.
  - C. sanctification.
  - D. deification.
5. Those powers that are exclusively delegated to the national government are called
  - A. enumerated powers.
  - B. implied powers.
  - C. inherent powers.
  - D. applied powers.
6. When faced with conflicting laws, federal law retains superiority over the states because of the
  - A. Conflict Resolution Clause.
  - B. Relationship Clause.
  - C. National Supremacy Clause.
  - D. State Supremacy Clause.
7. The Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution affirmed the
  - A. national government's reserve powers.
  - B. national government's military powers.
  - C. states' foreign treaty-making powers.
  - D. states' reserved powers.
8. The U.S. Supreme Court has struck down federal laws that impinge upon the police powers of the states because Congress used which enumerated power to justify these laws?
  - A. Interstate Commerce Clause
  - B. Supremacy Clause
  - C. Necessary and Proper Clause
  - D. Implied Powers Clause
9. In order to amend the U.S. Constitution, proposals must be approved by
  - A. one-fourth of the states.
  - B. one-half of the states.
  - C. two-thirds of the states.
  - D. three-fourths of the states.
10. The most significant expansion of constitutional power to the national government as recognized in the *McCulloch v. Maryland* decision was the broad interpretation of the
  - A. Supremacy Clause.
  - B. Civil Rights Act.
  - C. Necessary and Proper Clause.
  - D. Equal Rights Amendment.
11. The principal instrument used in the expansion of national power has been the
  - A. admission of new states.
  - B. federal grants-in-aid program.
  - C. national highway system.
  - D. state colleges and universities.
12. What type of grants are preferred by states and local governments because they allow for flexibility in funding general policy areas?
  - A. Categorical grants
  - B. Block grants
  - C. Grantsmanships
  - D. Redistributions



13. Most national opinion surveys reveal that there is greater trust in
  - A. state and local government.
  - B. federal government.
  - C. Congress.
  - D. the president.
14. The type of federalism characterized by the national, state, and local governments working together to solve common policy problems is referred to as
  - A. dual federalism.
  - B. cooperative federalism.
  - C. centralized federalism.
  - D. new federalism.
15. Orders to state and local governments to comply with congressional laws, either funded or unfunded, are called federal
  - A. exemptions.
  - B. preemptions.
  - C. mandates.
  - D. regulations.
16. The transfer of responsibilities from the national government to the states, exemplified by welfare reform, is known as
  - A. preemption.
  - B. prescription.
  - C. interposition.
  - D. devolution.
17. The clause in the U.S. Constitution requiring states to legally recognize the official acts of other states is called
  - A. the Supremacy Clause.
  - B. the Interstate Commerce Clause.
  - C. the Privileges and Immunities Clause.
  - D. the Full Faith and Credit Clause.
18. The clause in the U.S. Constitution preventing states from discriminating against citizens of other states is called
  - A. the Supremacy Clause.
  - B. the Interstate Commerce Clause.
  - C. the Privileges and Immunities Clause.
  - D. the Full Faith and Credit Clause.

## Chapter 4

1. A legislature with higher legislator salaries, full-time responsibilities, and significant resources is referred to as a/n
  - A. amateur legislature.
  - B. professional legislature.
  - C. satisfied legislature.
  - D. efficient legislature.
2. A major factor contributing to the growing strength of interest groups in the states can be explained by the
  - A. stricter lobbyist registration procedures.
  - B. lenient rules promoting bribery and corruption.
  - C. decreasing role in campaign finance.
  - D. increasing role in campaign finance.
3. Overall, what interest groups are most numerous in state politics?
  - A. Environmental interests
  - B. Social interests
  - C. Economic interests
  - D. Educational interests

4. The object of the Fifteenth Amendment was to extend the franchise to former black slaves and
  - A. discourage them from running for political office.
  - B. prohibit voter discrimination on the basis of race.
  - C. limit the number of whites who could vote.
  - D. grant suffrage to women.
5. The Nineteenth Amendment constitutionally guarantees voting rights for
  - A. former slaves.
  - B. nonproperty owners.
  - C. eighteen-year-olds.
  - D. women.
6. Increasing voter turnout may be accomplished by
  - A. same day voter registration.
  - B. personal contacts made by candidates or political parties.
  - C. increased media coverage of elections.
  - D. all of the above.
7. Voter participation rates among Hispanics are
  - A. higher than those for African Americans.
  - B. lower than those for African Americans.
  - C. higher than those for whites.
  - D. lower than those for Asians.
8. Legislation mandating states provide people the opportunity to register to vote at drivers' license and welfare agencies is commonly known as the
  - A. "Licensed Voter" Act.
  - B. "Motor Voter" Act.
  - C. Civil Rights Act.
  - D. Voting Rights Act.
9. A voter who seeks to maximize personal benefits and minimize costs is viewed as a/n
  - A. personal voter.
  - B. rational voter.
  - C. irrational voter.
  - D. dedicated voter.

## Chapter 11

1. Voter participation in local government is often lessened by
  - A. holding municipal elections at odd times of the year.
  - B. consolidating many different levels of elections.
  - C. emphasizing national issues over municipal issues.
  - D. extensive media coverage of local candidates.
2. A common rationale for holding municipal elections separately from state or national elections is to
  - A. eliminate confusion over candidate fundraisers.
  - B. increase voter turnout and depress the influence of groups who vote more regularly.
  - C. separate local issues from state or national issues.
  - D. encourage more state party involvement.
3. An important policy mechanism of local politics NOT found at the national level is
  - A. referenda voting.
  - B. partisan elections.
  - C. contact with officials through email.
  - D. financial reforms.

4. Those who choose to run for the city council for the love of politics and to advance a run for higher political office are
  - A. self-regarders.
  - B. community-regarders.
  - C. particularists.
  - D. politicians.
5. Perhaps the most obvious consequence of increasing minority representation on city councils is
  - A. decreased minority participation.
  - B. increased minority employment in city jobs.
  - C. disharmony among the other minority groups and the police.
  - D. differences in taxation and spending policies.
6. An increasing trend for women in local politics is the
  - A. higher occurrence of women running against each other for the same office.
  - B. higher election rate for school board.
  - C. higher priority placed on social issues.
  - D. all of the above.
7. Those groups that are most likely to lead the fight against development are
  - A. civic organizations.
  - B. taxpayer groups.
  - C. neighborhood groups.
  - D. business interests.