

### **PLS 136 EXAM 3 – REVIEW GUIDE**

The third, and final, exam of the semester will be composed of multiple choice questions. In addition, you will be asked to answer several questions about Virginia government. Sample questions are below.

#### **Virginia Government**

1. What is the official name of the Virginia legislature?
2. Which party currently controls the Virginia House of Delegates?
3. Which party controls the Virginia Senate?
4. Name the current Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates?
5. How many members are in the House of Delegates?
6. How many members are in the Virginia Senate?
7. Who is the current Governor of Virginia?
8. Who is the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia?
9. Who is the Attorney General of Virginia?
10. The Virginia General Assembly meets each year, but for how many days? In odd years? In even years?

#### **Chapter 10: Governing America's Communities**

1. Which of the following is recognized as a “pull” factor making a community desirable?
  - a. Crime rate
  - b. Rising test scores
  - c. Traffic congestion
  - d. Racial conflict
2. Constitutionally, local governments are creatures of
  - a. state governments.
  - b. county governments.
  - c. the federal government.
  - d. habit.
3. Keeping records of deeds, mortgages, births, and marriages is the function of
  - a. county governments.
  - b. city governments.
  - c. school districts.
  - d. special districts.
4. Providing the common functions of police, fire, streets, sewage, sanitation, and parks is a function of
  - a. townships.
  - b. city governments.
  - c. school districts.
  - d. special districts.
5. A unit of local government created for the provision of specific services not supplied by general-purpose governments is a
  - a. township.
  - b. city.
  - c. school district.
  - d. special district.
6. The elected governing body with general responsibility for all county functions is the
  - a. district attorney's office.
  - b. sheriff's department.
  - c. county commission.
  - d. tax collection office.

7. A document that grants a city the power of self-government is called a
  - a. contract.
  - b. charter.
  - c. agreement.
  - d. brief.
8. Those charters designed to give cities flexibility in the structure and organization of their government are called
  - a. optional charters.
  - b. home rule charters.
  - c. general act charters.
  - d. special act charters.
9. Home rule charters
  - a. may be given to cities by state constitutions.
  - b. may be given to cities by legislative enactment.
  - c. are intended to permit the city to do anything not specifically prohibited.
  - d. all of the above.
10. The type of electoral system that was designed to promote a citywide approach to municipal problems is the
  - a. single-member election.
  - b. at-large election.
  - c. primary election.
  - d. general election.
11. An electoral system that allows for voters to cast a ballot for one representative in a geographically defined district in which both the candidate and voter reside is called a
  - a. pure at-large system.
  - b. at-large by position system.
  - c. at-large residency district system.
  - d. single-member district system.
12. Which of the following is an element used in establishing a "totality of circumstances" test?
  - a. A history of official discrimination
  - b. A record of racial polarization in voting
  - c. The extent to which minorities have been adversely affected by local government decisions
  - d. All of the above

### **Chapter 13: Community Power, Land Use and the Environment**

1. Those who believe that power in American communities is concentrated in the hands of relatively few leaders in the business or financial sector are called
  - a. financiers.
  - b. majoritists.
  - c. pluralists.
  - d. elitists.
2. The theory that power is widely dispersed among different leaders representing various interests and individuals is
  - a. financism.
  - b. minoritism.
  - c. pluralism.
  - d. elitism.

3. Dahl's pluralist study of New Haven demonstrated
  - a. elites controlled the decision-making process in private.
  - b. many individuals and groups exercised influence at different times and on different issues.
  - c. organized group activity was insignificant.
  - d. no dispersal of community power.
4. Economic elites believe that economic growth
  - a. strains the tax base.
  - b. requires infrastructure upgrades.
  - c. results in some being taxed more heavily than others.
  - d. benefits the entire community.
5. Those who oppose growth because they will be directly inconvenienced by specific projects are associated with the
  - a. anti-growth syndrome.
  - b. GUMBY syndrome.
  - c. NIMBY syndrome.
  - d. displaced syndrome.
6. In an effort to protect the environment, states and cities are requiring private developers to prepare
  - a. areas of critical concern.
  - b. environmental impact statements.
  - c. environmentally friendly statements.
  - d. areas of minimal concern.
7. A special ordinance, usually negotiated among developers and city officials, that approves a mixed use—residential, commercial, and/or industrial—development plan is called
  - a. zoning variance.
  - b. planned urban development (PUD).
  - c. municipal utility district (MUD).
  - d. capital improvement.
8. The requirement that developers pay local government's costs of new development through substantial fees or land in exchange for approval of their land use plans is called a/n
  - a. planning fee.
  - b. exaction.
  - c. zoning fee.
  - d. planned urban development fee.
9. Impact fees have become just another cost to developers that they pass on to
  - a. homebuyers and consumers.
  - b. local governments.
  - c. state governments.
  - d. the federal government.
10. The judicial process by which government can take private property for public use by providing just compensation is called
  - a. eminent domain.
  - b. right to privacy.
  - c. prominent domain.
  - d. legitimate domain.

11. The original term for federally aided programs carried out by local government agencies to rebuild blighted areas of central cities was
- community enhancement.
  - urban relocation.
  - community development.
  - urban renewal.
12. Federal assistance for \_\_\_\_\_ has aided community renewal, and includes grants, tax incentives, and loans.
- competition zones
  - vitalization zones
  - enterprise zones
  - grant zones
13. Mass transportation programs in the United States
- are heavily utilized by the public.
  - are preferred over the private automobile.
  - almost always lose money.
  - are nonexistent.
14. The responsibility for environmental protection rests with the
- federal government.
  - state governments.
  - local governments.
  - all of the above.

#### **Chapter 14: Taxation**

1. The sum of all the goods and services produced in the United States in a year is known as the U.S.
- total domestic development.
  - entire domestic production.
  - gross market production.
  - gross domestic product.
2. The most costly function provided by local governments is
- transportation.
  - public safety.
  - education.
  - health costs.
3. Taxes that require high-income groups to pay a larger percentage of their income in taxes than low-income groups are said to be
- unfair.
  - progressive.
  - regressive.
  - proportional.
4. Taxes that disproportionately affect low-income groups are said to be
- unfair.
  - progressive.
  - regressive.
  - proportional.

5. The largest source of tax revenue for local governments in the United States is the
  - a. individual income tax.
  - b. sales tax.
  - c. corporate tax.
  - d. property tax.
6. The state tax considered the most regressive is the
  - a. sales tax.
  - b. property tax.
  - c. income tax.
  - d. all of the above.
7. The passage of the Sixteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1913 established the
  - a. concept of taxing the production and sale of liquor.
  - b. belief that women would become taxpayers if given the right to vote.
  - c. principle of a graduated income tax based on ability to pay.
  - d. Social Security Administration to distribute welfare benefits paid for by taxes.
8. A compelling argument against higher state corporate taxes is the possibility that such taxes will
  - a. be charged back in the form of lower consumer prices.
  - b. cause corporations to relocate to another state.
  - c. encourage future economic growth.
  - d. entice more corporations to relocate to the area.
9. The fastest growing source of state and local government revenue is
  - a. gambling revenue.
  - b. lotteries.
  - c. professional fees.
  - d. user charges.
10. Most state constitutions prohibit deficits in
  - a. labor.
  - b. revenues.
  - c. privatization.
  - d. operating budgets.
11. State constitutions may place restrictions on state debts, limiting the total amount of money that a government can borrow, in the form of
  - a. capital finances.
  - b. debt ceilings
  - c. bond referenda.
  - d. state loans.
12. Provisions often require that any bonded indebtedness be approved by the voters in a referendum known as a
  - a. capital finance.
  - b. debt ceiling.
  - c. bond referendum.
  - d. state loan.

## **Chapter 16: Education**

1. Too often educational reports focus on measures of resources expended on education called
  - a. inputs.
  - b. outputs.
  - c. outcomes.
  - d. incomes.
2. Which of the following is the most meaningful measure of an educational system's academic performance?
  - a. Financial stability
  - b. Ability to retain and graduate its students
  - c. Diversity enrollments
  - d. Number of winning athletic teams
3. James Coleman demonstrated that student achievement levels are higher where there is
  - a. a high expectation of achievement.
  - b. an orderly and disciplined learning environment.
  - c. an emphasis on basic skills.
  - d. all of the above.
4. High schools that specialize in certain fields, often to attract white students to the inner-city and reduce racial isolation, are called
  - a. integrated schools.
  - b. magnet schools.
  - c. specialty schools.
  - d. charter schools.
5. Schools operated with public funds by private community groups under a contract with the public school district are called
  - a. charter schools.
  - b. educational voucher plans.
  - c. district schools.
  - d. magnet schools.
6. A controversial educational reform that gives parents the choice to spend public dollars at any school they choose, public or private, is known as the
  - a. charter school.
  - b. educational voucher plan.
  - c. district school.
  - d. privatized public school.
7. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 focused on
  - a. special education programs.
  - b. physical education programs.
  - c. poverty-impacted schools.
  - d. magnet schools with special science programs.
8. The No Child Left Behind Act promotes
  - a. testing as a means to improve academic performance.
  - b. the use of adequate yearly progress reports.
  - c. opportunities for children to leave poor-performing schools and attend another school of their choice.

d. all of the above.

9. Most school revenues are derived from

- a. federal grants.
- b. state allocations.
- c. local property taxes.
- d. state sales taxes.

10. The federal government directly assists students through need-based grants, commonly called

- a. Clinton Grants.
- b. Chance Grants.
- c. Pell Grants.
- d. Opportunity Grants.

### **Chapter 17: Poverty, Welfare and Health**

1. The official poverty rate is the percentage of the population

- a. whose annual income falls below a national standard required to maintain a decent standard of living.
- b. who is unemployed.
- c. who receive federal financial assistance.
- d. whose annual income falls below a national standard required to maintain a middleclass lifestyle.

2. Which of the following statement about the poverty rate is true?

- a. The percentage of those in poverty is distributed uniformly.
- b. Minority populations tend to experience poverty in greater proportions than others.
- c. States with larger minority populations have lower percentages of their residents in poverty.
- d. all of the above.

3. Wealth is measured by the

- a. accumulation of significant debt.
- b. the quality of all one's possessions.
- c. number of houses owned.
- d. net worth of all of one's possessions.

4. Welfare reform, officially called Temporary Assistance to Needy Families,

- a. created a centralized system of welfare.
- b. forced many recipients to become dependent on checks for an unlimited amount of time.
- c. gave states the power to determine benefits and eligibility requirements.
- d. removed everyone from the welfare rolls.

5. Under Medicaid, the federal government

- a. has no authority to provide aid to the states.
- b. administers medical services to the poor, but provides no funding.
- c. gives federal funds to states to provide health insurance to the poor.
- d. gives federal funds to states to provide health insurance to all senior citizens.

6. The costliest public assistance program in the states is

- a. Medicare.
- b. Medicaid.
- c. the State Children's Health Insurance Program.
- d. managed care.

7. The purpose of the State Children's Health Insurance Program is

- a. to extend health insurance to many of those children who do not qualify for Medicaid.
- b. to extend health insurance to many of those children and adults who do not qualify for Medicaid.
- c. to provide free health care for all children.

- d. to provide free health care to all of the poor.
8. The first state in the nation to mandate every state citizen have health insurance and provide health insurance information on their state income tax form is
- a. Massachusetts.
  - b. Florida.
  - c. California.
  - d. Tennessee.
9. Several states' attorneys general have challenged health care reform as
- a. a largely unfunded mandate.
  - b. in violation of the Interstate commerce Clause of the Constitution.
  - c. too little reform.
  - d. A and B above