

## PLS 136 - EXAM 2 Study Guide

### Chapter 5 – Political Parties

#### Key Terms:

- Responsible Party Model
- Candidate-centered elections
- Dealignment
- Closed and Open Primaries
- Crossover voting

#### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. According to the responsible party model, responsible parties perform which of the following actions?
  - A. Educate people about issues and simplify their choices
  - B. Recruit candidates for public office
  - C. Hold their elected officials accountable to deliver on their campaign promises
  - D. All of the above
2. Party identification has been declining because
  - A. more people are self-identifying with one political party or another.
  - B. more people are not self-identifying with either political party.
  - C. voter loyalty to political parties is at the highest numbers recorded.
  - D. the number of self-described Independents has been decreasing over time.
3. The increased influence of the media and single-issue interest groups in the electoral process has contributed to
  - A. less candidate control over campaigns.
  - B. a decrease in candidate-centered elections.
  - C. a rise in candidate-centered elections.
  - D. a greater focus on the political parties rather than candidates.
4. Situations where a voter casts his or her vote for a Democrat in one race and a Republican in another is called
  - A. closed primary voting.
  - B. combination-party voting.
  - C. split-ticket voting.
  - D. bimodal vote division.
5. The important function(s) political parties provide in American politics include which of the following?
  - A. Organization of elections and narrowing of political choices
  - B. Serving as voting cues, aiding voter choice
  - C. Organization of state legislatures
  - D. All of the above
6. What political development "democratized" the nomination process and reduced the power of party bosses?
  - A. Primaries
  - B. Registrations
  - C. Endorsements
  - D. Conventions
7. Primary elections that only allow a party's registered voters access to the ballot are considered
  - A. open.
  - B. closed.
  - C. blanket.
  - D. crossovers.

8. "Raiding" is a major concern in what type of primaries?
- Open
  - Closed
  - Runoff
  - Convention
9. State party affairs are governed largely by the
- elected executive officials of the state.
  - decisions of state's executive party members.
  - U.S. constitution.
  - laws of the states.
10. The qualifications for membership in a party and the right to vote in the party's primary election are set by
- the U.S. Constitution.
  - congressional law.
  - state law.
  - party leaders.
11. States where one political party controls one or both houses of the legislature and the other political party controls the governorship have a
- static party government.
  - unified party government.
  - divided party government.
  - dynamic party government.
12. Party competition is most likely to produce policy differences when there exists a/n
- unimodal distribution of opinion.
  - bimodal distribution of opinion.
  - majority of moderate voters in each party.
  - universal opinion on a set of policy preferences.

## Chapter 6 – State Legislatures

### Key Terms:

- Safe districts
- Apportionment
- Redistricting/Districting (used interchangeably)
- Gerrymandering
- *Baker v Carr*
- Professionalism (as a characteristic of legislatures)
- Trustee
- Delegate
- Politico

## Chapter 6 - MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Laws with fixed termination dates that call for periodic reexamination by the state legislature are called
- daylight laws.
  - reenactment laws.
  - fade away laws.
  - sunset laws.
2. The allocation of legislative seats to specific populations is defined as legislative
- apportionment.
  - division.
  - consolidation.
  - gerrymandering.

3. All state legislative districts are supposed to be drawn
  - A. in a compact and contiguous manner with fairly equal numbers of voters in each district.
  - B. through malapportionment, giving greater weight to rural areas through geographically distinct districts.
  - C. as either incumbent or partisan gerrymanders.
  - D. by splintering or packing the districts.
4. The Supreme Court decision *Baker v. Carr* established the concept of
  - A. "separate but equal."
  - B. "vote early and vote often."
  - C. "one person, one vote."
  - D. "divide and conquer."
5. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the drawing of district lines for political advantage.
  - A. consolidation
  - B. districting
  - C. apportionment
  - D. gerrymandering
6. Drawing districts that divide and dilute a strong minority, in effect denying it the power to elect a representative, is known as
  - A. splintering.
  - B. packing.
  - C. pairing.
  - D. consolidating.
7. Drawing districts that concentrate a number of partisan voters into a single district in order to give the opposing party an advantage in surrounding districts is called
  - A. splintering.
  - B. packing.
  - C. pairing.
  - D. consolidation.
8. The function of committees in the legislative process is to
  - A. reduce legislative work to manageable proportions by providing for a division of labor among legislators.
  - B. make the process easier for bill passage.
  - C. allow standing committees to consider a bill in any legislative area of the committee's choosing.
  - D. prevent public hearings on legislation that has been introduced.
9. Those legislators who make decisions based solely on their personal convictions and exemplify Burkean representation are classified as
  - A. politicians.
  - B. trustees.
  - C. delegates.
  - D. conscientious representatives.
10. Those legislators who simply reflect the wishes of their constituents are known as
  - A. politicians.
  - B. trustees.
  - C. delegates.
  - D. unconscious representatives.
11. Those legislators who decide to either vote their conscience or vote with their constituency, depending on the nature of the issue are referred to as
  - A. politicians.
  - B. trustees.
  - C. delegates.
  - D. unconscious representatives.

## Chapter 7 – Governors

### Key Terms:

- Line-item veto
- Amendatory veto
- Recall
- Executive Order
- Tenure Power

## Chapter 7

### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. When governors try to coordinate the state's bureaucracy, oversee the preparation of the state's budget, and supervise major state programs, they are filling the role of
  - A. chief administrator.
  - B. chief legislator.
  - C. party leader.
  - D. ceremonial head.
2. Most governors use this legal authority to veto specific items in an appropriations bill.
  - A. Turkey veto
  - B. Pork veto
  - C. Budget veto
  - D. Line-item veto
3. Most governors enter office with
  - A. little to no previous political experience.
  - B. considerable experience in public affairs.
  - C. no ambition for political office.
  - D. considerable experience in the private sector.
4. Although the national economy is an important factor in presidential elections, adverse national economic conditions
  - A. do less harm to incumbent governors.
  - B. are the kiss of death for incumbent governors.
  - C. give the incumbent governor the opportunity to blame other state officials.
  - D. provide the incumbent with a campaign slogan.
5. Coattail effects are not as prevalent in gubernatorial elections primarily because
  - A. issues do not matter.
  - B. presidential popularity determines the winner.
  - C. most of these are off-year elections.
  - D. most of these are on-year elections.
6. In states where governors are weak, the constitutional design likely
  - A. provides for multiple, separately elected state executive officials.
  - B. provides for a unitary state executive official.
  - C. provides no limitations on executive authority.
  - D. provides no structure for the executive branch.
7. Supporters of reorganization of the state executive branch generally recommend
  - A. a more decentralized state executive branch.
  - B. gubernatorial term limits.
  - C. additional separately elected officials.
  - D. a more centralized state executive branch.

8. The governor's most formidable power and influence over state policy priorities is through
  - A. the threat of veto.
  - B. the appointment of department heads.
  - C. control over the state budget.
  - D. access to the media.
9. The constitutional power that allows the governor to spotlight specific issues and pressure the legislature to accomplish something is
  - A. the power to oversee financial grants.
  - B. the supervision of the state bureaucracy.
  - C. the power to call a special session of the legislature.
  - D. the power to appoint individuals to fill vacancies.
10. Veto overrides by a state legislature
  - A. require super-majorities.
  - B. are rarely successful.
  - C. are more common in divided governments.
  - D. all of the above.
11. 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.
12. The ability of a governor to be politically powerful is
  - A. not a possibility.
  - B. uniform across the states.
  - C. variable throughout the states, depending on differing institutional and informal powers.
  - D. static throughout the states, depending on differing institutional and informal powers.

## **Chapter 9 – Courts, Crime and Correctional Policy**

### **Key Terms:**

- Common law
- Statutory law
- Judicial federalism
- Judicial activism
- Judicial restraint

## **MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS**

1. The foundation of our legal system is a body of judge-made law called
  - A. English common law.
  - B. Napoleonic Code.
  - C. Caesars Creed.
  - D. Roman law.
2. The authority of a state court to interpret their state constitution and expand guarantees of civil liberties beyond federal protections is known as
  - A. national federalism.
  - B. state federalism.
  - C. legal federalism.
  - D. judicial federalism.

3. Incorporating the Bill of Rights to the states has been achieved through
  - A. the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause.
  - B. particular court cases beginning with *Gitlow v. New York*.
  - C. decisions by the Supreme Court.
  - D. all of the above.
4. Interested groups that are not party to a particular case may submit these legal documents in order to influence the court's decision.
  - A. *Amicus curiae* briefs
  - B. Writs of *mandamus*
  - C. Writs of *certiorari*
  - D. Writs of *habeas corpus*
5. Appeals from the state supreme courts may go directly to the U.S. Supreme Court if the case contains a
  - A. compelling policy question of state law.
  - B. valid question of state law.
  - C. state constitutional question.
  - D. federal constitutional question.
6. The judicial selection method that allows for a nominating commission to make recommendations to the governor and later requires those nominated to face judgment by the electorate is called
  - A. legislative selection.
  - B. the appointment-retention election plan.
  - C. appointment by the governor.
  - D. a nonpartisan election.
7. Although most states elect their judges, in practice, many judges come to the bench in these states through
  - A. law professorships.
  - B. appointment procedures.
  - C. the patronage system.
  - D. interest group endorsements.
8. Unethical judges may be removed from the bench through
  - A. impeachment proceedings.
  - B. recall procedures.
  - C. recommendations to the state supreme court from judicial conduct commissions.
  - D. all of the above.
9. Liberal judges tend to be more
  - A. motivated by restraint than are conservative judges.
  - B. activist than are conservative judges.
  - C. in favor of the death penalty.
  - D. in favor of the prosecution.
10. Law enforcement is principally a responsibility of
  - A. local governments.
  - B. citizen task forces.
  - C. the federal bureaucracy.
  - D. state and federal governments.

**Possible Essay Questions:** You will be asked to answer one of the following essay questions.

1. What explains the difference between “weak” governors and “strong” governors? Provide examples of the types of powers (formal and informal) governors have at their disposal. Do you think Virginia’s governor is weak or strong? Why? (Chapter 7)
2. Discuss the different ways in which state judges are selected. (Name at least three.) What is the argument for each method of judicial selection? What are the concerns about judicial elections? How do you think judges should be selected in the states? (Chapter 9)