

PSC 250 – Comparative Politics – Morris

1. The main difference between the statistical method, the comparative methods and the case study method is
 - a. one focuses on countries and the others do not
 - b. the number of cases
 - c. they are all part of political science
 - d. only a case study method will help analyze the causes of a political situation

2. Political legitimacy refers to
 - a. democracy
 - b. support for a political party
 - c. the following of procedures
 - d. the belief that the government and the rules are proper and should be obeyed

3. Which of the following is not associated with a high level of political participation?
 - a. a strong sense of civic duty
 - b. an issue that directly affects the individual (not in my backyard)
 - c. a high level of education
 - d. a low level of political efficacy

4. The main criterion that distinguishes political parties along the left, center, right continuum is
 - a. whether the system is democratic or not
 - b. ideas relating to the proper role of the state in the production and distribution of goods
 - c. the internal organization of the parties
 - d. none of the above

5. Liberalism refers to
 - a. the idea that the government should resolve society's problems
 - b. a belief in individual rights and freedoms
 - c. the idea of limiting the power of government
 - d. the idea that power comes from the consent of the governed

6. Popular sovereignty refers to
 - a. ideas that the government should resolve society's problems
 - b. belief in individual rights and freedoms
 - c. the idea of limiting the power of government
 - d. the idea that power comes from the consent of the governed

7. Constitutionalism refers to
 - a. a division of powers between executive, legislative and judicial institutions
 - b. a judiciary that rules on the constitutionality of laws
 - c. division of power between state and federal governments
 - d. limiting the power of government

8. State autonomy refers to

- a. the ability of the government to effectively implement its decisions
- b. the efficiency of the government in making decisions
- c. the size of the government
- d. the ability of government officials to act independently of outside influence

9. The two major types of electoral systems are

- a. the democratic and authoritarian systems
- b. the majoritarian and proportional representation systems
- c. the single party and multi-party system
- d. the primary and the run-off electoral systems

10. In a PR (proportional representation) system of elections

- a. if the party gets 30% of the vote, it gets roughly 30% of the seats in the legislature
- b. the person winning a plurality of votes wins the seat
- c. the party that wins a majority of the vote gets to name the Prime Minister
- d. none

11. In a parliamentary system, the prime minister

- a. is elected by voters throughout the nation
- b. is the head of the party receiving a majority of the vote
- c. is elected by the House of Lords
- d. is appointed by the Parliament and is not elected by any voters

12. One of the key differences between Parliamentary and Presidential systems is

- a. the President cannot dissolve Congress, but the Prime Minister can dissolve Parliament
- b. the President is both head of State and head of government, while the Prime Minister is just the head of government
- c. the President is not a member of Congress, but the Prime Minister is a member of Parliament
- d. all of the above

13. A regime that limits political participation, limits freedoms, limits the autonomy of organizations and has limited or no electoral competition is referred to as

- a. democratic
- b. authoritarian
- c. anarchy
- d. monarchy

14. Part of the argument in support of a communist form of government is

- a. that democracy does not really work when the economy is controlled by the rich
- b. that people suffer from “false consciousness”
- c. that the interests of society outweigh those of the individual
- d. all of the above

15. A communist government is where

- a. the state controls everything
- b. one political party – the Communist Party – has a monopoly control on power
- c. a Marxist dictator holds power
- d. where elections place a socialist party in power

16. A change from authoritarian rule to democratic rule is referred to as

- a. deauthoritarianism
- b. democratization
- c. the rise of free markets
- d. all of the above

17. The most notable increases in the number of democratic governments since the 1980s has taken place

- a. in Eastern Europe and Latin America
- b. in Africa
- c. in the Middle East
- d. in Asia

18. The idea of state capacity refers to

- a. the ability of the state to make decisions independently of interest groups
- b. the same as a strong state
- c. the ability of the state to enforce its decisions
- d. the ability of the state to educate its people

19. Which theory relates to the idea that people's involvement in social organizations creates norms of reciprocity and fosters social trust

- a. sub-cultural pluralism
- b. pluralism
- c. social capital theory
- d. congruence theory

20. The pattern of cleavages in a country that is most likely to become polarized and conflictual is

- a. coinciding cleavages
- b. cross-cutting cleavages
- c. non-religious cleavages
- d. political cleavages

21. The civic culture

- a. is a theory that links democracy to a culture of trust, tolerance, sense of equality and a participatory and efficacious citizenry
- b. is the idea that only certain societies are truly civilized
- c. is the idea that bowling alone is bad for society

d. is a culture based on US ideas

22. One of the more prevalent theories in comparative politics, the modernization theory, associates democracy with

- a. the wealth of a society
- b. a heterogeneous society
- c. cold weather climates
- d. the existence of raw materials

23. Which theory explains underdevelopment in Third World countries based on their relationship to rich countries?

- a. modernization theory
- b. social capital theory
- c. underdevelopment theory
- d. dependency theory

24. The institutionalist theory holds that

- a. political institutions shape political behavior and outcomes
- b. institutions are a product of culture
- c. political institutions are the same everywhere
- d. institutions depend on level of economic development

25. In terms of institutions, the US is distinct from other industrialized countries

- a. the US is more fragmented
- b. the US has fewer elected positions
- c. the US resolves fewer matters through the courts
- d. there are basically no differences