

Unit XV: Policy Making in the Federal System

Correlates to Chapters 1 & 17 in *American Government, 14th Edition*

Policy making at the federal level is rarely accomplished consistently and routinely. An issue must first find its way to the political agenda, and then decisions must be made about how to address the issue. Coalitions are formed that struggle over the issue, and the policy that results depends on who gains, who loses, and the perceptions, beliefs, and values of key political actors.

Key Terms

client politics
costs and benefits
entrepreneurial politics
interest group politics
legitimacy
log-rolling
majoritarian politics
policy entrepreneurs
political agenda
pork-barrel legislation

Key Concepts

The political agenda determines which issues will receive consideration in formulating new policy.

Costs and benefits determine who supports a policy, who opposes it, and the coalitions that form to compete over a policy.

Business regulation is an excellent case study of the different types of policies and policy making.

Perceptions, beliefs, interests, and values all play a critical role in the policy-making process.

For a full discussion of policy making in the federal system, see *American Government, 14th ed.*, chapters 1 & 17.

AP Tip

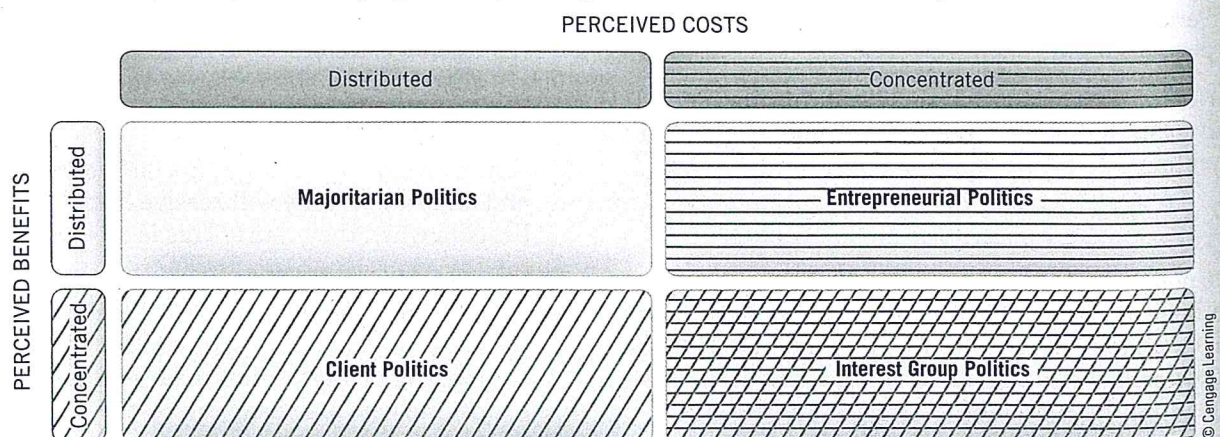
The political agenda consists of the issues that people believe require government action. The political agenda involves virtually all of the participants in the policy-making process, and the term may appear on the AP exam.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The political agenda is affected by all of the following EXCEPT
 - (A) a crisis, such as the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001
 - (B) pressures by interest groups, such as organized labor, to address certain issues, such as working conditions
 - (C) pressures by institutions, such as the Supreme Court, to change practices, such as segregation
 - (D) pressures by unfriendly foreign nations to change U.S. foreign policy
 - (E) the use of the media to publicize matters, such as automobile safety
2. Which of the following events or literature did NOT prompt the corresponding attention to policy:
 - (A) Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* shed light on the conditions of the meat-packing industry and the Meat Inspection Act of 1906.
 - (B) The stock market collapse of 1929 helped develop support for the Securities and Exchange Act.
 - (C) Oil spilled on the beaches of Santa Barbara, California, drew attention to problems addressed by the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1970.
 - (D) Ralph Nader's 1965 book *Unsafe at Any Speed: The Designed-In Dangers of the American Automobile* had criticized the safety of certain GM cars and drew Congress's attention to auto safety.
 - (E) Rachel Carson's 1962 book *Silent Spring* shed light on starvation of the homeless on American soil.
3. Almost everyone has to pay Social Security taxes, and almost everyone will receive Social Security benefits when they retire. This is an example of
 - (A) interest group politics, in which a single group benefits most from the policy-making process
 - (B) majoritarian politics, in which the policy-making process benefits large numbers of people who also bear the costs

- (C) client politics, in which small identifiable groups will receive most of the benefits from the policy-making process
- (D) entrepreneurial politics, in which a large number of people benefit from a policy that imposes costs on a small group
- (E) pork-barrel politics, in which pet projects benefit the constituents of a member of Congress
4. Which of the following policies were adopted because a policy entrepreneur dramatized the issue, galvanized public opinion, and mobilized congressional support?
- automobile safety legislation
 - legislation regulating food safety
 - legislation cutting highway funding for states that did not raise the drinking age
 - the creation of the Department of Homeland Defense
- (A) I and II
(B) I, II, and III
(C) II and III
(D) II, III, and IV
(E) I, II, and IV
5. According to Figure 17.1 below, all of the following are true EXCEPT:
- (A) With client politics, a few people, or some particular community or organization benefits, but most people pay for what they get.
- (B) In majoritarian politics, all or most people benefit, and all or most people pay.
- (C) With interest-group politics, almost all people, communities, or organizations benefit, and most people, communities, or organizations pay.
- (D) In entrepreneurial politics, almost everybody benefits, but only a few people, communities, or organizations pay the costs.
- (E) Widely distributed benefits and widely distributed costs best describes majoritarian politics.
6. Which of the following is a distinctive feature in environmental policy making in America that differentiates it from most European nations?
- U.S. policy making is far more adversarial.
 - In the United States, policy making depends heavily on the states.
 - Separation of powers guarantees mutual influence over the policy-making opportunity.
- (A) I
(B) I and II
(C) I and III
(D) II and III
(E) I, II and III
7. Sometimes policies not demanded by the public nevertheless become items on the political agenda. What explains this?
- (A) Key people in government, the political elites, become interested in certain problems and try to solve them.
- (B) Policy makers rather than the public set the agenda, so the public has little impact on the political agenda.
- (C) The public does not pay much attention to the policy agenda.
- (D) Members of Congress are more interested in helping their districts than in making policy for the nation.
- (E) The policy-making process is so complicated that it is difficult to determine what the public wants.

FIGURE 17.1 A Way of Classifying and Explaining the Politics of Different Policy Issues



8. Why has the Senate become a major source of political change?
 - (A) The one-party South collapsed, leading to the rise of activist Senators on both sides of the aisle.
 - (B) Senators have more time to deliberate than members of the House of Representatives have, so they are more able to introduce policies.
 - (C) Senators “fly under the radar” more than the president; as a result, they have become policy innovators.
 - (D) The Senate has stricter party discipline than the House; as a result, more policies can be enacted.
 - (E) Senators are held more accountable to their constituents than representatives are.
9. Every policy-making decision involves balancing what competing interests?
 - (A) the balance between who will write the laws and who will implement them
 - (B) the balance between the legislative branch and the executive branch
 - (C) the balance between judicial activism and judicial restraint
 - (D) the balance between who will benefit and who will bear the costs
 - (E) the balance between the powers of the state and federal government
10. What kinds of projects typically are “log-rolled” (exchanging votes on bills)?
 - (A) bills that will create new nationwide social programs
 - (B) bills involving controversial issues, such as abortion
 - (C) bills for funding the military and defense
 - (D) bills funding “pork-barrel” projects
 - (E) bills regulating the environment
11. All of the following are true in regard to food stamps EXCEPT
 - (A) Food Stamp recipients increased from about 28 million in 2008 to about 47 million in 2012.
 - (B) During the 2012 presidential campaign, a debate began over the estimated 2 million or so “able-bodied” Food Stamp recipients that did not meet all the usual program eligibility criteria.
 - (C) About 40 percent of all Food Stamps beneficiaries are children.
 - (D) About 30 percent of all Food Stamps beneficiaries are senior citizens.
 - (E) Food Stamps are now a part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP.
12. Three Iowa legislators placed \$196,000 in the federal budget for research on reducing swine and poultry odors. Which of the following terms might describe this provision?
 - I. earmarking
 - II. pork-barrel
 - III. client politics
 - IV. entrepreneurial politics
 - (A) I and II
 - (B) II and III
 - (C) I, II, and III
 - (D) I, II, and IV
 - (E) II and IV
13. Activists in or out of government who pull together a political majority on behalf of unorganized interests are called
 - (A) policy entrepreneurs
 - (B) clients
 - (C) majoritarians
 - (D) labor union organizers
 - (E) deregulators
14. In 2009, following the financial crisis, President Obama proposed centralizing financial regulatory power in a few federal agencies. This is most similar to which of the following?
 - (A) creation of the Department of Homeland Security following the September 11 attacks
 - (B) deregulation of the airline industry
 - (C) breaking up AT&T, forcing it to compete with other long-distance service providers
 - (D) the Clinton Administration’s anti-trust lawsuit against Microsoft
 - (E) the creation of both the Food and Drug Administration and the Consumer Product Safety Commission
15. The National Labor Relations Board was created to hear complaints of unfair labor practices. Later, the Taft-Hartley Act made certain union practices illegal. This is an example of
 - (A) entrepreneurial politics, where a small group pays for the benefits of others
 - (B) interest group politics, where organized groups struggle to receive favorable policy

- (C) majoritarian politics, where laws are passed that represent the views of most voters
- (D) client politics, where a small group benefits
- (E) regulation, followed by a cycle of deregulation

Free Response Questions

1. Sometimes policies are adopted that provide benefits to most of society and impose substantial costs on a small group.
 - (a) Identify an environmental policy that has been adopted, and describe who benefits and who bears the costs.
 - (b) Identify at least three of the five reasons why the consumer and environmental protection agencies may not be as vulnerable to capture as some critics contend.
2. Interest groups compete for favorable policies. Even after policies are passed, interest groups continue to compete as they are enforced.
 - (a) Define the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).
 - (b) Identify the major interest groups that influence policy implementation by the NLRB.
 - (c) Define the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).
 - (d) Identify the major interest groups that influence policy implementation by OSHA.

Answers

Multiple Choice Answers

1. (D) Interest groups, institutions, and the media all impact the policy agenda. In addition, the agenda changes when there is a crisis (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 10–11).
2. (E) When Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring* in 1962, she set off a public outcry about the harm to wildlife caused by the indiscriminate use of DDT, a common pesticide. In 1972, the EPA banned the use of DDT (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 457).
3. (B) Most people pay for Social Security, and most people will receive its benefits. This is an example of majoritarian politics (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 441).
4. (B) Policy entrepreneurs pursued legislation affecting automobile safety, the meatpacking industry, and highway safety (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 441, 449).

5. (C) Narrowly concentrated benefits and narrowly concentrated costs, or interest-group politics. A few people, communities, or organizations benefit, and a few people, communities, or organizations pay (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 441).
6. (E) U.S. policymaking is far more adversarial than in European countries, it depends heavily on the states, and is influenced by separation of powers. (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 462–463).
7. (A) A policy not demanded by the public can be addressed if someone in government is interested in it (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 458–461).
8. (A) The Senate moved slowly when it was controlled by the one-party South. Today senators on both sides of the aisle want to be policy innovators on attention-grabbing issues (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 45–460).
9. (D) Under cost-benefit analysis, every policy involves a group that will be helped and a group that will bear the expense. The interests of both groups are considered as part of the policy-making process (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 13–14).
10. (D) Log-rolling occurs when members of Congress agree to vote for one another's bills. These bills usually contain several projects to benefit specific district and are known as "pork-barrel" legislation (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 16).
11. (D) About 8% of Food Stamp recipients are senior citizens (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 453).
12. (C) An appropriation that benefits a particular group is an example of pork-barrel spending. Such provisions are known as earmarks. Client politics benefit a particular group (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 14–16).
13. (A) Those who are activists in or out of government who pull together a political majority on behalf of unorganized interests are called policy entrepreneurs. (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 16–17).
14. (A) A consolidated agency to oversee financial markets is similar to the Department of Homeland Security, which consolidated several intelligence-gathering and other security agencies under a single department.
15. (B) In interest group politics, groups like management and labor compete for policies that will benefit them. As illustrated by the Wagner Act, which benefited unions, and the Taft Hartley Act, which favored management, different groups benefit at different times (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 456–457).

Free Response Answers

1. (a) Environmental regulations provide widespread benefits for the public and impose substantial costs on a relatively small group—those who pollute the environment. The Environmental Protection Agency was created to identify those sites and develop clean-up plans. Owners of toxic waste dumps who do not comply with clean-up programs can be fined. There are also heavy penalties for the illegal dumping of toxic waste.
(b) First, these agencies often enforce laws that impose specific standards in accordance with strict timetables, and so they have relatively little discretion. Second, the newer agencies usually regulate many different industries and so do not confront a single, unified opponent like the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Third, the very existence of these agencies has helped strengthen the hand of the “public-interest” lobbies that initially demanded their creation. Fourth, these lobbies can now call upon many sympathetic allies in the media who will attack agencies thought to have a pro-business bias. Finally, it has become easier for groups to use the federal courts to put pressure on the regulatory agencies (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 458–461).
2. (a) The National Labor Relations Board adjudicates disputes between management and labor unions. The president appoints its members.
(b) One of the ways management and labor compete is by trying to get their representatives on the NLRB board. Management and labor interpret NLRB decisions differently, and when either side receives an unfavorable ruling, it may decide to take the issue to the courts, where the issue is fought out again.
(c) The Occupational Safety and Health Administration sets standards for workplace safety. For example, there are limits to how much a worker may be exposed to chemicals. OSHA inspects thousands of workplaces.
(d) Companies have criticized the agency for detailed regulations that increase the costs of doing business and result in unnecessary red tape. One struggle between management and labor concerned who would supervise OSHA. Supervisory duties ended up falling to the Department of Labor, as workers had hoped. However, industry pressured the Reagan administration, and during his presidency, OSHA issued fewer citations (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 456–457).

Unit XVI: Economic Policy and the Budget

Correlates to Chapter 18 in *American Government, 14th Edition*

Although the federal government has run deficits for most years since 1969, Americans have never liked the idea of the government spending more money than it receives. Deficits occur when the government spends more than it takes in during a given year. The national debt is the accumulation of deficits over the years. The public is split over two broad philosophies of economic management: manipulating supply or controlling demand. Policy makers face two big issues: the tax burden, which includes deficits and debt, and economic health.

Key Terms

budget
budget resolution
deficit
discretionary spending
economic planning
entitlements
fiscal policy
fiscal year
globalization
gross domestic product
Keynesianism
monetarism
monetary policy
national debt
sequester
supply-side theory

Key Concepts

- Deficit is the shortfall in the budget when revenue is lower than spending. National Debt is the total amount of money the United States owes. Gross domestic product is the total of all goods and services produced in an economy.
- Taxing and spending policies are difficult to enact because most people want both lower taxes on themselves and more spending on programs that benefit them.

- The federal government spends about 80 percent of its money on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, national defense and nondefense programs
- The ability of the federal government to manage the economy is divided among many political actors including the President, the Congress, and the Federal Reserve.
- Deficits are the result of the inability of politicians to agree whether to cut spending (on which programs) and or to raise taxes (on whom).

For a full discussion of economic policy and the budget, see *American Government, 14th ed.*, Chapter 18.

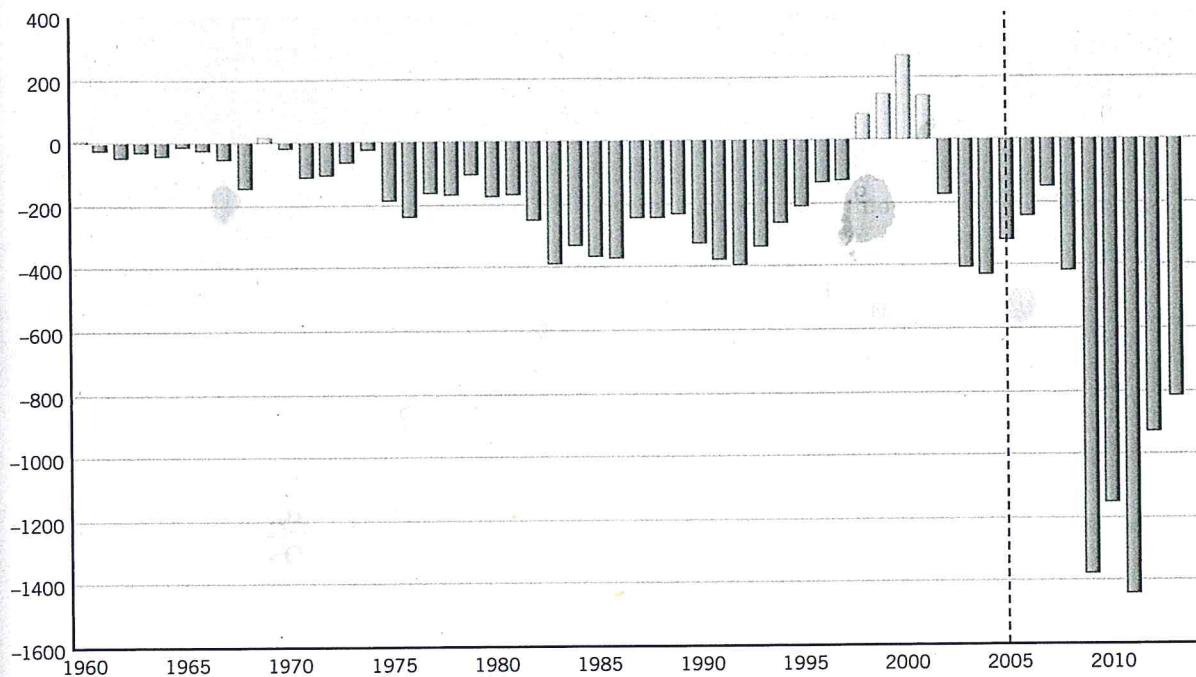
AP Tip

Keynesianism, supply-side economics, and monetarism are ways of managing the economy and may appear on the AP exam.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the relationship between voting behavior and economic conditions?
 - (A) People who are unemployed are less likely to vote for an incumbent, but voting behavior and economic conditions are not correlated for those who have jobs.
 - (B) There is a strong correlation between economic conditions and voting behavior, with people less likely to vote for incumbents in poor economic times.
 - (C) Most voters do not believe that the president has much impact on economic conditions, so there is little correlation between voting behavior and the economy.
 - (D) Most voters blame Congress when the economy is poor, so incumbent congressmen are more likely than an incumbent president to lose their jobs.
 - (E) In poor economic times, incumbents are more likely to be re-elected because the public is hesitant to change leadership in hard times.

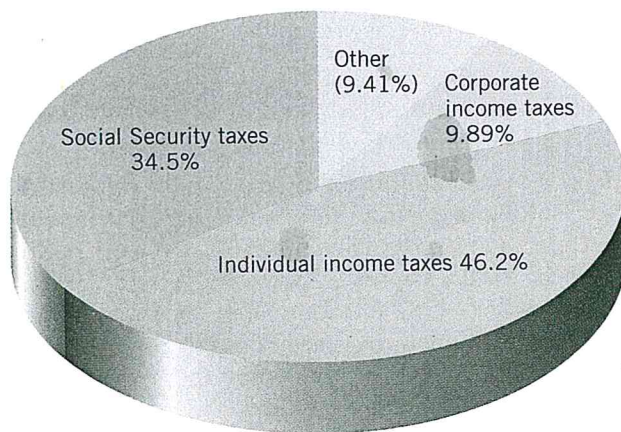
FIGURE 18.1 Federal Budget Deficit (or Surplus), FY1960–2013 in Billions of Constant FY 2005 Dollars (President's Proposals)



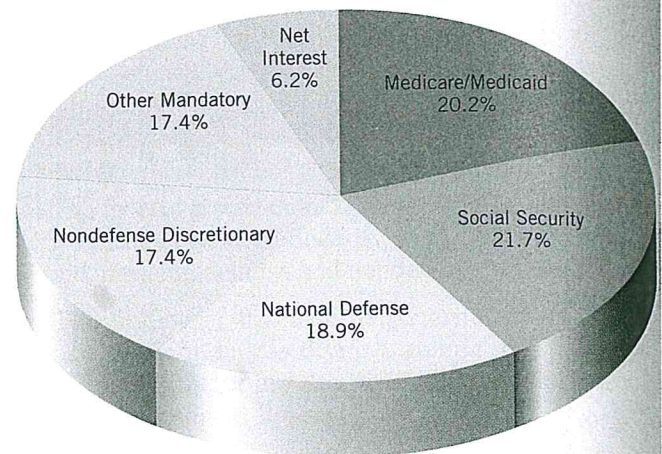
Source: Office of Management and Budget, *Historical Tables*.

2. When does a surplus occur?
 - (A) when revenues in a given year exceed expenditures
 - (B) when expenditures in a given year exceed revenues
 - (C) when income tax revenues exceed the revenues from excise taxes
 - (D) when the government has excess funds because the national debt has been eliminated
 - (E) when payments have reduced the national debt to a level at which the government can give money to the states in the form of revenue sharing
3. The figure above supports which of the following conclusions?
 - (A) There were budget deficits every year from 1961 until 2013.
 - (B) The budget deficit grew at a steady rate from 1975 until 1996.
 - (C) President Clinton's economic policies resulted in budget surpluses in 1997 and 1998.
 - (D) There were budget surpluses for four years in the late 1990s and early 2000s.
 - (E) The deficit doubled under George W. Bush's presidency from 2004 to 2005.
4. Which of the following statements best reflects the traditional budget ideology of Democrats and Republicans?
 - (A) Democrats are more worried about inflation, and Republicans are more worried about unemployment.
 - (B) Democrats are more worried about interest rates, and Republicans are more concerned with the money supply.
 - (C) Democrats are more worried about unemployment, and Republicans are more worried about inflation.
 - (D) Both Democrats and Republicans are more worried about inflation than unemployment.
 - (E) It is difficult to determine a particular budget ideology for the political parties because these beliefs change with changing economic conditions.
5. An economist believes that inflation is caused when there is too much money chasing too few goods. This theory can best be described as
 - (A) Keynesianism
 - (B) supply-side economics
 - (C) Reaganomics
 - (D) monetarism
 - (E) fiscal conservatism

FIGURE 18.2 Federal Revenues in 2012



Federal Outlays in 2012



Source: Adapted from Office of Management and Budget, *Historical Tables*.

6. The figure above supports which of the following statements?
 - (A) corporate tax rates are higher than individual tax rates
 - (B) individual and Social Security taxes made up more than 80 percent of federal revenue in 2012
 - (C) Social Security taxes make up the largest percentage of federal revenue
 - (D) raising the corporate tax rate would reduce the deficit
 - (E) excise taxes are a significant form of federal revenue
7. All of the following are responsibilities of the Federal Reserve Board EXCEPT
 - (A) buying and selling federal government securities
 - (B) regulating the amount of money a member bank must keep on hand as reserve
 - (C) reviewing the federal budget and making recommendations to prevent deficits
 - (D) changing the interest rates charged to banks that borrow from the Fed
 - (E) setting monetary policy and making predictions about the economy
8. Which of the following best describes the federal budget?
 - (A) It is a document that announces how much the government expects to collect in taxes and how expenditures will be allocated on various programs.
 - (B) It is a document that just predicts a bottom line, including the dollar amount of a projected surplus or deficit.
 - (C) It is a document that describes the federal debt and proposes a payment plan.
 - (D) It is a document that changes over the course of a year, as revenue and expenditures change with the times.
 - (E) It is a general policy statement outlining the economic goals of the federal government for the upcoming year.
9. Which of the following statements best describes the tax system in the United States?
 - (A) It changes very little from year to year.
 - (B) It is complicated because it includes differing tax rates and a complex system of exemptions and deductions.
 - (C) It is based on a flat tax, where every citizen pays the same rate on income.
 - (D) It penalizes the poor, who have few deductions.
 - (E) It penalizes the wealthy, who have fewer deductions than the poor.
10. All of the following federal programs are aimed at stimulating the economy EXCEPT
 - (A) buying shares in troubled banks and insurance companies
 - (B) making loans to American car manufacturers
 - (C) the Federal Reserve Board decreasing the amount of money in circulation

- (D) grants to the states for highway and school construction
 - (E) tax cuts for people earning less than \$75,000
11. Which economic theory holds that the key to stimulating the economy is pumping more money into it
 - (A) Monetarism
 - (B) Keynesianism
 - (C) Supply-side economics
 - (D) Mercantilism
 - (E) Communism
 12. Which of the following is responsible for developing estimates of budget needs of for federal agencies?
 - (A) Budget Committees
 - (B) Appropriations Committees
 - (C) Congressional Budget Office
 - (D) Treasury Department
 - (E) Office of Management and Budget
 13. Which of the following political actors is primarily responsible for monetary policy?
 - (A) The Treasury Department
 - (B) The President
 - (C) The Congress
 - (D) The Office of Management and Budget
 - (E) The Federal Reserve
 14. Taxing and spending policy is the definition of which of the following terms?
 - (A) monetary policy
 - (B) budget policy
 - (C) economic policy
 - (D) fiscal policy
 - (E) financial policy
 15. Which of the following is NOT a tool with which the Federal Reserve makes policy
 - (A) Increasing the interest rate
 - (B) Increased spending
 - (C) buying government securities
 - (D) selling government securities
 - (E) decreasing the reserve rate

- (a) Identify and explain one reason why it is difficult for the government to control the economy.
 - (b) Identify and explain another reason why it is difficult for the government to control the economy.
2. Many economists agree that increasing the amount of money in circulation can stimulate the economy. This can be done through both fiscal and monetary policy:
 - (a) Identify who is responsible for setting fiscal policy.
 - (b) Identify and explain one way to increase the amount of money in circulation.
 - (c) Identify who is responsible for setting monetary policy.
 - (d) Identify and explain one way to increase the amount of money in circulation.

Answers

Multiple Choice Answers

1. (B) Incumbents are less likely to be re-elected in hard times (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 473).
2. (A) A surplus occurs when revenues exceed expenditures in a given year (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 471).
3. (D) In the late 1990s and early 2000s, there were budget surpluses for four years. Although these may be partly a result of President Clinton's policies, other factors also played a part (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 471–472).
4. (C) Republicans concentrate more on keeping inflation low. Democrats concentrate on lowering unemployment (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 473).
5. (D) Monetarists believe that the government should have a steady and predictable increase in the money supply that is equal to the rate of economic growth (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 475).
6. (B) Individual and Social Security taxes accounted for more than 81 percent of federal revenue in 2012 (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 482).
7. (C) The Federal Reserve Board makes economic forecasts and sets monetary policy. This includes establishing the amount of money a bank must keep on reserve and setting the interest rates charged to banks that borrow from the Fed (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 477–478).
8. (A) The budget is a document announcing proposed revenue collections and explaining how the money will be spent (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 480–481).

Free Response Questions

1. Despite its use of monetary and fiscal policy, it is often difficult for the government to control the economy.

9. (B) The tax system is complicated by differing rates depending on income. Furthermore, there are hundreds of special exemptions and deductions (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 482–483).
10. (C) In order to stimulate the economy, the Federal Reserve Board increased the amount of money in circulation (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 474).
11. (B) Keynesianism suggests that to stimulate the economy it is necessary to “prime the pump” by injecting money into the economy (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 485).
12. (E) OMB develops budget estimates for the various federal agencies that reflect the president’s priorities (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 475).
13. (E) The Federal Reserve or “Fed” is responsible for monetary policy. It is an independent regulatory agency (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 477–478).
14. (D) Fiscal policy is the taxing and spending policy of the United States. It is set by the interplay between the president and Congress (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 478–479).
15. (B) The Federal Reserve does not appropriate money. That is the function of Congress (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 478–479).

Free Response Answers

1. (a) One reason it is difficult for the government to control economic outcomes is foreign competition. In many countries labor costs are less than they are in the United States. As a consequence, goods made in those countries are less expensive to produce than goods made here. One result of this is that American companies may move their plants overseas, reducing the number of industrial jobs available in the United States and raising unemployment levels. The government can try to control this through our trade policies, but industries that sell goods abroad want free trade. Thus it is difficult for the government to control international trade (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 479).
- (b) Another reason it is difficult for the government to control the economy is that some decisions affect the economy in both positive and negative ways. For example, decisions

to reduce inflation can require the government to raise interest rates. It becomes more expensive for new businesses to get start-up loans. It is also more expensive for ongoing businesses to borrow the money they need to expand their productivity. The result might be a slower economy. (*Alternate answer*): Unexpected events, such as terrorist attacks, can make it difficult for the government to control the economy. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, the airline industry lost passengers and revenues because some people were afraid to fly. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq that followed the attacks were expensive, and the government had not budgeted for them. The result was a deficit that the government had not anticipated just a year earlier (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 473).

2. (a) Fiscal policy is set through the interaction between the president and Congress.

- (b) One of the following:

Cutting taxes – By cutting taxes, taxpayers will have more money to spend. This has the effect of increasing the amount of money in circulation.

Increasing spending – By increasing government spending more money will be injected into the economy by the additional goods and services that the government purchases.

- (c) The Federal Reserve is responsible for setting monetary policy.

- (d) One of the following:

Lowering interest rates – Lowered interest rates will spur borrowing, thus increasing money in circulation.

Lowering reserve requirements – Reducing the portion of deposits the bank are required to keep on hand allows the banks to lend money. This increases the amount of money in circulation.

Buying government securities – The Federal Reserve can purchase securities issued by the government. These securities are effectively IOUs that the federal government has issued to people who have lent it money. By purchasing these securities from lenders the Federal Reserve is injecting money into the economy (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 477–479).

Unit XVII: Domestic Policy: Social Welfare and the Environment

Correlates to Chapters 17 in *American Government, 14th Edition*

The politics of social welfare and the environment are controversial, largely because they often create winners and losers.

Key Terms

assistance program
charitable choice
client politics
entrepreneurial politics
environmental impact statement
insurance program
interest group politics
majoritarian politics
means test

Key Concepts

- Four types of politics matter, each based on how most people perceive the distribution of monetary and other costs and benefits associated with the policy or program: majoritarian (everybody benefits, everybody pays), interest group (one small group pays, another small group benefits), client (almost everybody pays, one small group benefits), and entrepreneurial (almost everybody benefits, one small group pays).
- America's social welfare policies and programs differ from those of many other modern democracies in four main ways. First, Americans have taken a more restrictive view of who is entitled to or "deserves" to benefit from government assistance. Second, America was slower to embrace the need for "the welfare state," and, in turn, slower to adopt and enact relevant policies and programs. Third, state governments have played a large role in administering or co-funding many "national" social welfare measures (like, for example, Medicaid). Fourth, nongovernmental organizations, both for-profit firms and nonprofit groups (secular as well as religious) have played a large role in administering Washington's social welfare initiatives.
- Some social welfare policies and programs are politically protected while others are politically

imperiled. This relates mainly to who benefits directly, or who is perceived to benefit directly, from given social welfare policies and programs. For example, Social Security and Medicare benefit almost all people who have reached a certain age, while the Food Stamps program, like the old AFDC program's successor, TANF, benefits only people with low incomes. The first type of social welfare program has no means test (they are available to everyone without regard to income), while the second type is means-tested (only people who fall below a certain income level are eligible). The first type represents majoritarian politics and is almost always politically protected; the second type represents client politics and is often politically imperiled. Medicaid, the federal-state health program, is means-tested, but it has as beneficiaries not only low-income persons but also the aged and the disabled. It mixes majoritarian and client politics, making it less politically sacrosanct than Social Security or Medicare, but more so than the Food Stamps program, TANF, and other means-tested programs.

- There is no political consensus about how to address the solvency challenges facing major social welfare programs, not unless one counts as the "political consensus" on these issues the persistent public majority opposed to making either major or minor cuts to each program. Even the ostensibly far-reaching, bipartisan plans offered in recent sessions of Congress have been predicated on preserving (or expanding) all extant benefits to all present-day and near-term beneficiaries without raising taxes and without reducing services. For good or for ill, their majoritarian politics forbid any truly far-reaching reforms.
- Government regulations on certain big businesses have been imposed over the objections of those industries because of entrepreneurial politics. Big oil companies, auto manufacturing companies, drug companies, pesticides producers, and other corporations that once had, or were perceived to have, cozy relationships with government were challenged by consumer advocates or environmental activists. A half-century or so

ago, policy entrepreneurs outside government like Ralph Nader and Rachel Carson dramatized how existing public policies and programs helped the companies to profit but hurt most people in the pocketbook, jeopardized public health and safety, or both. By the 1970s and 1980s, policy entrepreneurs inside government, like those at the Environmental Protection Agency (founded in 1970), began regulating the businesses even more closely than they had in the past. Although business regulation policy still generates much controversy and many debates over its cost-effectiveness, most people now favor diverse regulations on big oil companies and other large-scale businesses.

- Environmental policies are designed and enforced differently in America than in other industrialized nations because the adversarial nature of American politics, as well as the system of federalism, complicates policy making in America, as illustrated by efforts to pass and enforce legislation on automobile emissions, clean air and water, and other environmental issues.
- While entrepreneurial politics figure prominently in environmental policy dynamics, including on an issue like protecting endangered species, there are environmental issues in each “box,” like pollution from automobiles (majoritarian), acid rain (interest group), and agricultural pesticides (client politics). The same can be said for social welfare, business regulation, and other domestic policies and programs.

For a full discussion of domestic policy as it pertains to social welfare and the environment, see *American Government*, 14th ed., Chapter 17.

AP Tip

Social Security and Medicare are expensive and controversial policies. Raising the age of eligibility or reducing benefits are two possible ways to increase funds for these programs, but these changes may be difficult to enact. The problems of funding Medicare and Social Security cut across several aspects of the policy-making process and may appear on the AP exam.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. All of the following statements about America's social welfare policy-making are true EXCEPT
 - (A) Americans would prefer that the needy be given services rather than money
 - (B) Americans believe in help for the “deserving poor”
 - (C) the United States did not provide social welfare benefits until relatively late, in comparison with much of Europe
 - (D) Americans support redistribution of wealth to provide everyone with a fair share
 - (E) Americans are uncomfortable giving money to people who are already working or could work if they wanted to
2. Which of the following are major social welfare programs?
 - I. Medicare and Medicaid
 - II. Social Security
 - III. tuition subsidies
 - IV. unemployment insurance
 - (A) I and II
 - (B) I, II, and III
 - (C) II and III
 - (D) III and IV
 - (E) I, II, and IV
3. Why did Social Security meet popular demands and fit within the framework of American beliefs about social welfare?
 - (A) because it was viewed as an insurance program that would be available to all Americans who contributed, whether rich or poor
 - (B) because it was an insurance program that would be available to all Americans on a voluntary basis
 - (C) because it would be available to middle-class and poor Americans as a kind of retirement savings account
 - (D) because it was a means-tested program to help those who could not afford retirement
 - (E) because it was a means of redistributing wealth, and that philosophy had great popular appeal during the Great Depression
4. All of the following solutions have been proposed to make sure there is enough Social Security when future generations retire EXCEPT
 - (A) raise the retirement age
 - (B) freeze the level of retirement benefits
 - (C) end the program entirely by the year 2040
 - (D) privatize Social Security so that people could invest those funds in the stock market
 - (E) permit citizens to invest some of their Social Security taxes in carefully chosen mutual funds

5. In 1996 Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) was abolished. Why did support for AFDC weaken?
 - (A) Many recipients were unwed mothers who had been on the program for more than eight years.
 - (B) Many recipients were children in families in which both parents were working.
 - (C) Many recipients were widows who did not obtain employment upon the death of their husbands.
 - (D) Many recipients were disabled and were unable to work full-time.
 - (E) Support for the program did not weaken, but the government was unable to continue the program in the face of a weak economy.
6. What is the impact of filing an environmental impact statement (EIS)?
 - (A) None. It is merely a statement and does not require any specific action.
 - (B) The statement notifies federal authorities of the potential environmental damage caused by a project, and the government may file an injunction to block the project.
 - (C) Opponents have used the EIS as a way of blocking, changing, or delaying projects.
 - (D) The EIS notifies the public of the impact of a project and outlines specific steps the builder will take to prevent environmental damage.
 - (E) The EIS must show that environmental damage will be minimal, or the federal government will not approve the project.
7. Much of the antitrust legislation passed in this country, including the Sherman Act (1890) and parts of the Federal Trade Commission Act (1914) and the Clayton Act (1914), has been the result of
 - (A) majoritarian politics
 - (B) interest group politics
 - (C) client politics
 - (D) entrepreneurial politics
 - (E) environmental policy
8. When is a pesticide most likely to be taken off the market?
 - (A) when independent scientists determine that it harms the environment
 - (B) when the National Institute of Health finds that it might cause cancer
 - (C) when there has been an incident that caused heavy media coverage
 - (D) when a manufacturer voluntarily decides to remove it because of the research of the company's scientists
 - (E) when farmers protest the use of the pesticide
9. Which of the following is an example of how America's social welfare policies and programs differ from those of many other modern democracies?
 - (A) Nongovernmental organizations, both for-profit firms and nonprofit groups (secular as well as religious) have played a large role in administering Washington's social welfare initiatives.
 - (B) Americans have taken a more restrictive view of who is entitled to or "deserves" to benefit from government assistance.
 - (C) America was slower to embrace the need for "the welfare state," and, in turn, slower to adopt enact relevant policies and programs.
 - (D) State governments have played a large role in administering or co-funding many "national" social welfare measures (like, for example, Medicaid).
 - (E) All of the above.
10. What type of politics is based on the idea that a small group pays and another small group benefits?
 - (A) majoritarian
 - (B) interest group
 - (C) client
 - (D) entrepreneurial
 - (E) environmental
11. Which of the following increased the growth of the welfare state in America?
 - I. the New Deal
 - II. the Reagan era
 - III. the War on Poverty
 - IV. the Medicare drug plan
 - (A) I and III
 - (B) II and IV
 - (C) I, II, and III
 - (D) I, III, and IV
 - (E) I, II, III, and IV

12. What is the major difference between Medicare and Medicaid?
- (A) Medicare is needs-based, and Medicaid is available to all Americans over age 65.
 - (B) Medicaid acts as a supplement to private insurance.
 - (C) Medicare is available only to retired Americans.
 - (D) Medicaid provides coverage to all children in the United States, while Medicare provides coverage for the elderly.
 - (E) Medicare is available to all Americans over age sixty-five while Medicaid is needs-based.
13. Which of the following is NOT a provision to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010?
- (A) extends health care insurance to some 32 million uninsured Americans
 - (B) imposes a "tax" penalty on people who do not buy health insurance
 - (C) the elimination of Medicaid
 - (D) levies fees and taxes on medical devices, drugs, high-cost health insurance plans, health insurers
 - (E) provides federal subsidies to people who have trouble paying
14. Charitable Choice programs illustrate what unique feature of American welfare policy?
- (A) American welfare policies are often administered by state-supported churches.
 - (B) American welfare policies are administered by the states, rather than the federal government.
 - (C) Americans can choose whether to spend their tax dollars on religious organizations.
 - (D) Much of American welfare policy is administered through grants and contracts with nongovernmental agencies.
 - (E) Americans believe that welfare recipients should be carefully screened before receiving aid.
15. Which of the following environmental issue is CORRECTLY paired with a type of politics?
- (A) Agricultural Pesticides: Entrepreneurial Politics
 - (B) Acid Rain: Entrepreneurial Politics
 - (C) Endangered Species: Majoritarian Politics
 - (D) Acid Rain: Majoritarian Politics
 - (E) Agricultural Pesticides: Client Politics

Free Response Questions

1. Social Security and Medicare are badly in need of reform if they are to continue for future generations.
 - (a) For Social Security, identify the problem it is facing and explain one possible solution to that problem.
 - (b) For Medicare, identify the problem it is facing and explain one possible solution to that problem.
2. The policy-making process often balances competing interests. This is especially true of environmental policies, which include the following problems:
 - endangered species
 - acid rain
 - automobile emissions
 - (a) Pick one of the problems listed above. Identify two competing interests related to the problem and explain how the policy-making process has addressed the problem.
 - (b) Pick another of the problems listed above. Identify two competing interests related to the problem and explain how the policy-making process has addressed the problem.

Answers

Multiple Choice Answers

1. (D) American social welfare policies were created long after those in most European countries. Americans believe that welfare should be given to the deserving poor and favor giving services rather than money (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 450–452).
2. (E) Major social welfare programs include Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and unemployment insurance. Although federal student loan money is available and veterans receive tuition assistance, the vast majority of college tuition is not subsidized (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 450–452).
3. (A) Social Security is available to all Americans rich or poor, who contribute. It was viewed as an insurance program (although it has become more of an inter-generational contract) (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 442–443).

4. (C) There are several proposals to save Social Security, including raising the retirement age, freezing benefits, and privatizing all or part of the system (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 448–450).
5. (A) Support for AFDC weakened because the public became less sympathetic to the recipients. Many were unwed mothers who had been receiving assistance for more than eight years (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 446).
6. (C) The EIS is a statement of the probable impact of a project on the environment. Environmental interest groups can then mobilize to block, change, or delay the project (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 465).
7. (A) Antitrust legislation is a result of majoritarian politics. From time to time, laws are passed that reflect the views of a majority of voters that is neither imposing its will on a hostile business community nor acceding to the desires of a privileged industry (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 455–456).
8. (C) A pesticide is most likely to be taken off the market when there is well-publicized environmental harm, such as the impact of DDT on birds (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 456).
9. (E) They differ in four main ways. First, Americans have taken a more restrictive view of who is entitled to or “deserves” to benefit from government assistance. Second, America was slower to embrace the need for “the welfare state,” and, in turn, slower to adopt enact relevant policies and programs. Third, state governments have played a large role in administering or co-funding many “national” social welfare measures (like, for example, Medicaid). Fourth, nongovernmental organizations, both for-profit firms and nonprofit groups (secular as well as religious) have played a large role in administering Washington’s social welfare initiatives (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 450–452).
10. (B) With interest group politics, one small group pays, another small group benefits (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 441).
11. (D) The New Deal, the War on Poverty, and Medicare prescription drug benefits expanded the welfare state. During the Reagan administration, the growth of the welfare state slowed (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 442–444).
12. (E) All Americans over the age of 65 qualify for Medicare. Medicaid is needs-based (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 444).
13. (C) The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 added more people to Medicaid (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 445).
14. (D) Charitable choice programs administered by faith-based organizations are an example of federal contracts and grants given to

nongovernmental organizations. This is a unique feature of the American welfare system (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 452).

15. (E) Some client groups have so far escaped the Agricultural Pesticide momentum. One such group is organized farmers, who have more or less successfully resisted efforts to restrict, sharply, the use of pesticides or to control the runoff of pesticides from farmlands. (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 467).

Free Response Answers

1. (a) Social Security is facing a crisis. Rather than being an individual retirement fund, as was originally envisioned, it is now an intergenerational contract. The problem is that soon there will not be enough people working to support the people who have retired. This is because new groups, such as the disabled, have been added to the program. In addition, the retirement of the baby boomers will add millions of new recipients. Furthermore, the amounts contributed to the system are not enough to make ends meet, due, in part, to inflation. One proposal to alleviate this problem is to allow people to invest their Social Security funds in the stock market. The market usually performs better than mutual funds or savings accounts in the long run. However, there is the risk that people will lose their retirement funds in unsafe investments.
- (b) Medicare pays for the health care costs of those who qualify for Social Security benefits. With an aging population and expensive life-saving technologies, the costs of medical care have skyrocketed. Because people can go to the doctor whenever they want, sometimes they visit the doctor when it is not necessary. Although the vast majority of doctors are honest, some have overcharged Medicare patients because the government is picking up the tab. One possible solution would be to nationalize health care, although Clinton’s plan to provide national health care coverage failed in Congress. Another potential solution would be for the government to provide Medicare money that could be used to purchase private health insurance (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 447–450).
2. (a) The Endangered Species Act forbids any action that would harm a plant or animal on the endangered list. This list consists of species whose population has diminished so much that they need special protection.

The two competing interests involved in making this policy are developers and environmentalists. The Endangered Species Act has prevented the building of dams, industrial buildings, and residential housing, and altered farming. Developers complain that their property interests are being sacrificed. Sometimes the species being protected—for example, the snail darter—are obscure. The public as a whole, however, supports protecting endangered species.

- (b) Acid rain is created when the runoff from factories is turned into precipitation that contains sulfur and other acidic compounds. Steel mills and electric power plants, large sources of acid rain, have an interest in keeping their plants running. Acid rain has spoiled lakes and killed trees in New England and Canada. The residents of these areas, along with the fishing and logging industries, are affected. The first solution involved the addition of scrubbers to clean the air, but they didn't work very

well. The 1990 Clean Air Act contained provisions that gave something to each of the interest groups. Power plants are required to reduce sulfur emissions. Coal miners who were laid off as a result of their employers' compliance with the new limits were provided with some compensation. (*Alternate answer*): The Clean Air Act regulates automobile emissions. People who drive cars, as well as automobile manufacturers, have an interest in both car prices and gas prices. Everyone has an interest in breathing clean air. Automobile engines were designed to pollute less and be more fuel efficient, but they were more expensive. States had to design programs, including rapid transit, to reduce air pollution. The deadlines of the Clean Air Act were hard to meet for both states and automobile manufacturers, and they were extended several times. States like California and Colorado continue to work on plans to reduce smog (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 462–465).

Unit XVIII: Foreign and Military Policy

Correlates to Chapter 19 in *American Government, 14th Edition*

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, created a new focus and a new set of problems for American foreign policymakers. Yet dealing with foreign terrorists still involves many traditional questions: How great are the powers of the president? What role should Congress play? How important is public opinion?

Key Terms

bipolar world
containment
cost overruns
disengagement
gold plating
human rights
isolationism
military-industrial complex
polarization
unipolar world
worldviews

Key Concepts

- American foreign policy is impacted by both public opinion and the views of the elite.
- While only Congress has the power to “declare war,” the president has the ability to send troops into combat without a declaration of war. Congress has attempted to limit this ability with the passage of the War Powers Act in 1973.
- There is conflict in Congress as to the degree to which the United States’ concern for human rights should impact military policy.

For a full discussion of foreign and military policy, see *American Government, 14th ed.*, Chapter 19.

AP Tip

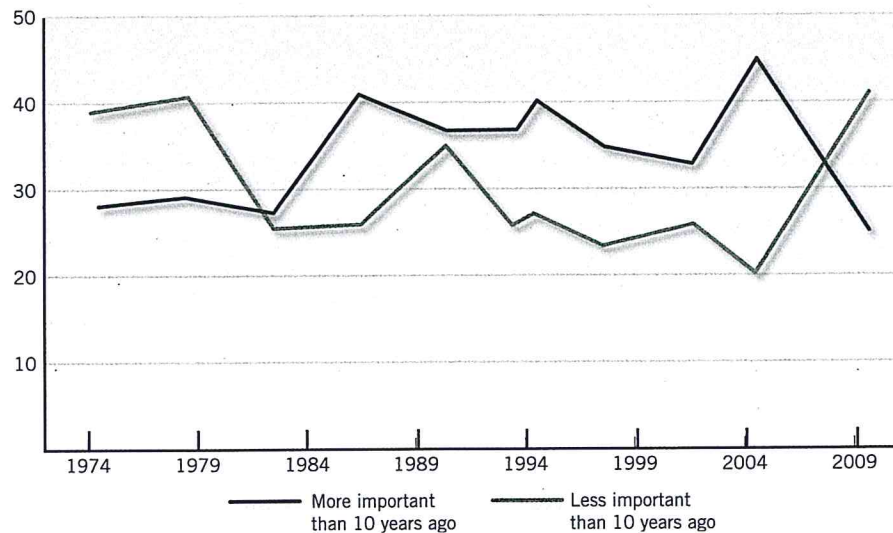
The War Powers Act represents the ongoing struggle between the president and Congress for control of foreign policy and may appear on the AP exam.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. All of the following are struggles over foreign policy between the president and Congress EXCEPT
 - (A) the president is commander-in-chief, but Congress must authorize funding for the armed forces
 - (B) the president appoints ambassadors, but the Senate must confirm them
 - (C) the president negotiates treaties, but the Senate must ratify them with a two-thirds vote
 - (D) the president declares war, but Congress must authorize troop deployments
 - (E) the president appoints ambassadors, but the Senate must confirm them
2. Which of the following statements best describes the “imperial presidency”?
 - (A) The president can overstep his constitutional powers by making unilateral foreign policy decisions that create an “empire” in foreign affairs.
 - (B) Presidents have used their powers in foreign policy to create empires overseas.
 - (C) Presidents must rely on Congress for funding and troops, so they cannot act unilaterally.
 - (D) Presidents have only those powers specifically given to them in the Constitution, yet they are still able to influence foreign policy in significant ways.
 - (E) Presidents are given more power over domestic affairs, allowing them to create an empire at home.
3. What position has the Supreme Court generally taken regarding foreign affairs?
 - (A) The Court has intervened to prevent the president from committing troops without congressional approval.

FIGURE 19.1 Public's View of America as World Leader

Public's View of America's Role as World Leader

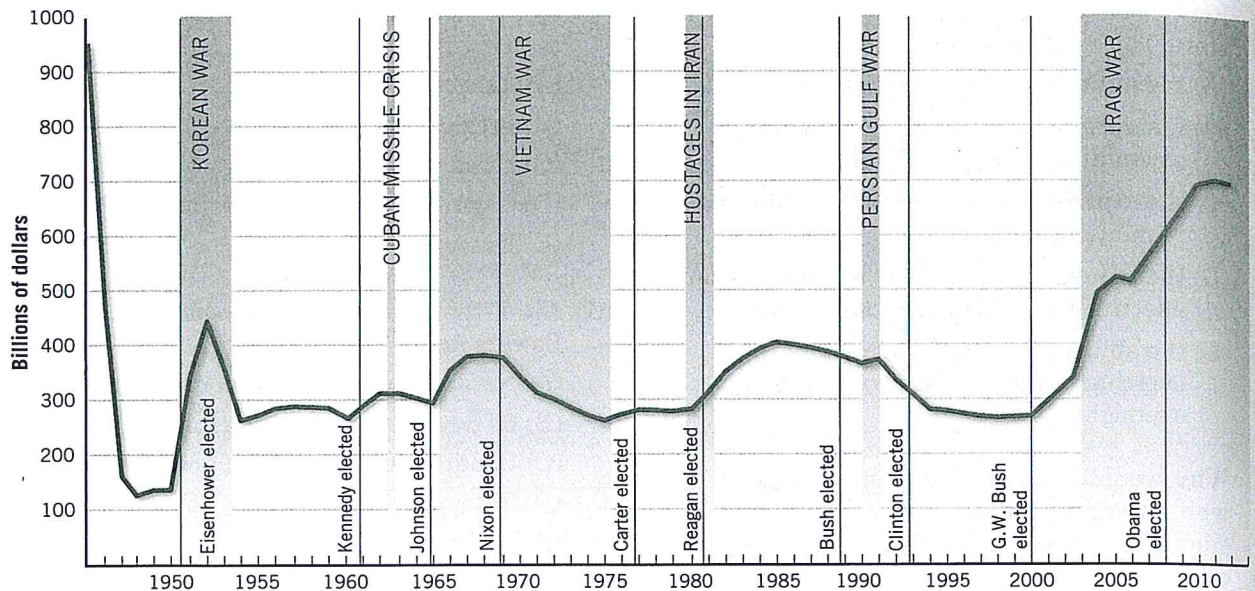


Source: Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, "U.S. Seen As Less Important, China as More Powerful: Isolationist Sentiment Surges to Four-Decade High," 3 December 2009.

- (B) The Court has been reluctant to intervene in disputes over the conduct of foreign affairs.
 - (C) The Court has made decisions to protect civil rights, especially during wartime.
 - (D) The Court has supported the decisions of Congress but has overturned executive orders.
 - (E) The Court has rarely deferred to presidential power for fear of upsetting the balance of powers.
4. What has been the presidential response to the War Powers Act?
 - (A) The War Powers Act has had little impact on presidents' decisions regarding military actions.
 - (B) Because of the War Powers Act, Congress has consistently refused to appropriate funds for troops once they have been deployed.
 - (C) The War Powers Act has been used successfully by Congress to prevent troop commitments.
 - (D) The War Powers Act has encouraged every president since Nixon to consult with Congress before taking military action.
 - (E) The War Powers Act was challenged in court by President Nixon and found to be unconstitutional.
 5. What is the role of Congress with regard to intelligence gathering?
 - (A) Committees have an oversight function and can block proposed actions by the intelligence community.
 - (B) Committees are informed of proposed covert activities, but they do not have the authority to prevent action by the intelligence services.
 - (C) Committees are informed of covert activities after they take place.
 - (D) The Congress as a whole is informed of proposed covert activities during a special session.
 - (E) Congress has no role regarding the gathering of intelligence; this is an executive function.
 6. The figure above supports which of the following conclusions?
 - (A) 41 percent of the public believes that today the United States plays less of a role as a world leader in comparison to 10 years ago.
 - (B) The percentage of people who believe the United States is playing more of a role as world leader is steadily climbing.
 - (C) 25 percent of the public believes the United States plays a more important role in world affairs today than it did 10 years ago.
 - (D) In 2004, the public believed the United States hit an all-time low as an influential world leader.
 - (E) Both A and C.

7. The military paid \$435 for hammers that could have been purchased at any local hardware store. This is blamed on
 - (A) the military-industrial complex
 - (B) inaccuracies in estimating budgetary expenditures
 - (C) the expenses associated with conflicting regulations
 - (D) the failure of the military to communicate effectively with defense contractors
 - (E) the ability of defense contractors to overcharge the military without any oversight
8. Why would a member of Congress, even one who strongly believes that military spending should be reduced, fight to keep a military base open?
 - (A) Most Americans strongly oppose closing military bases.
 - (B) Bases are needed, even when defense spending is cut, to keep the country prepared for war.
 - (C) Bases provide important training for both the military and civilian work forces.
 - (D) Members fight to keep bases open in their districts because a base benefits their communities and helps with re-election.
 - (E) A member of Congress who strongly believes that military spending should be reduced would not fight to keep bases open.
9. Which committee is made up of the uniformed heads of each branch of the military service and plays a key role in defense planning?
 - (A) the Defense Department
 - (B) the Joint Chiefs of Staff
 - (C) the State Department
 - (D) the Pentagon
 - (E) the National Security Council
10. Which of the following best illustrates the concept of polarization?
 - (A) World War I
 - (B) World War II
 - (C) the war in Iraq
 - (D) the containment policy
 - (E) the Persian Gulf War
11. Which of the following may be potentially used by the president to circumvent Senate ratification of a treaty?
 - (A) Executive Privilege
 - (B) Presidential Decree
 - (C) Executive Agreement
 - (D) Commander-in-Chief Clause
 - (E) Executive Order
12. All of the following are provisions of the War Powers Act of 1973 EXCEPT
 - (A) Notification within 48 hours
 - (B) 60 day operational time limit
 - (C) Congressional review of presidential action
 - (D) Review by the Supreme Court
 - (E) 30 day withdrawal time period
13. Which of the following describes the process by which a treaty is proposed and approved?
 - (A) Negotiation by the Senate, approval by the president
 - (B) Negotiation by the Senate Foreign Relations committee, approval by the Congress
 - (C) Negotiation by the Speaker of the House, approval by the Senate
 - (D) Negotiation by the president, approval by both houses of Congress
 - (E) Negotiation by the president, approval by the Senate
14. Upon a sudden attack on the United States, the president would most likely look to whom for advice and counsel?
 - (A) Cabinet
 - (B) National Security Council
 - (C) House and Senate Armed Services Committees
 - (D) Senate Foreign Relations Committee
 - (E) Senate President and House Speaker
15. If the War Powers Act (1973) is found to be unconstitutional, what could be done to stop an undeclared war waged by the president?
 - (A) Judicial review
 - (B) Cabinet veto
 - (C) Elimination of funding
 - (D) Congressional declaration of peace
 - (E) Withdrawal of Senatorial "Advice and Consent"

FIGURE 19.2 Trends in Military Spending (outlays in constant dollars)



Source: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), National Defense Budget Annual Estimates and Reports."

Free Response Questions

- Using the chart above, complete the following tasks:
 - identify two trends in military spending.
 - identify one event that increased military spending and explain why.
 - identify one event that decreased military spending and explain why.
- Under the Constitution, control over military and foreign policy is shared between the president and the Congress. This creates a tension between the two institutions.
 - Explain how each of the following can be used by Congress to check the power of the president over military and foreign policy.
 - appropriations
 - treaties
 - confirmation
 - Explain how each of the following can be used by the president to circumvent checks imposed by Congress.
 - commander-in-chief
 - executive agreements
- (A) Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. used the term "imperial presidency" to criticize presidents who, in his opinion, overstepped their constitutional authority by acting unilaterally in foreign affairs (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 492).
- (B) The Supreme Court is reluctant to make decisions involving foreign affairs (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 492).
- (A) Many presidents believe that the War Powers Act is an unconstitutional infringement on their powers as commander in chief. As a result, it has had little impact (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 494).
- (B) Both the House and Senate have intelligence committees, which are informed of proposed covert actions, but they do not have the authority to block those actions (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 494).
- (E) Both statistics are right: 41 percent of the public believe that the United States plays less of a role in 2009 as a world leader while 25 percent believe the United States plays a more important role (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 115).
- (A) The military-industrial complex is the cozy relationship that has developed between defense contractors and the military. Costs are higher because military equipment must meet tougher standards, because it operates under extreme conditions. Another reason for higher costs is strict standards, and manufacturers often have a say in drafting those standards. This benefits big corporations and the members of Congress whose districts benefit from defense projects (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 503–504).
- (D) Even those members of Congress who fought to reduce military spending during the

Answers

Multiple Choice Answers

- (D) Congress has the power to declare war, although the War Powers Act allows the president to commit troops for 60 days (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 493–494).
- (D) Even those members of Congress who fought to reduce military spending during the

1990s wanted to keep bases in their districts open. This is because bases are important to an area's economy, and keeping bases open helps the member at election time (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 503–504).

9. (B) The Joint Chiefs of Staff includes the heads of each branch of the military, plus a chairman and a vice chairman, who are also military officers. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the president's principal military advisor (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 509–510).
10. (C) Polarization means a deep and wide conflict, usually along party lines. While Republican voters strongly supported the invasion of Iraq, Democratic voters opposed it (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 502).
11. (C) Executive Agreements are agreements between the leaders of different countries. They function somewhat like treaties but do not require ratification (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 490).
12. (D) The Supreme Court does not play a role under the War Powers Act of 1973 (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 493–494).
13. (E) The Constitution gives the president the power to make treaties "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate." Effectively this means that treaties are negotiated by the president and approved by the Senate with a two-thirds vote (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 490).
14. (B) The NSC can be used to coordinate the activities of the various agencies and military branches involved in military and foreign policy. The president relies upon it during times of crises (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 495).
15. (C) One the principal powers of Congress is the "power of the purse." This power to control money can be used by Congress to end a conflict (*American Government*, 14th ed., page 493).

Free Response Answers

1. (a) One trend is that prior to the election of 2004, military spending remained stable at about \$300 billion during election years. Another trend is that military spending increases during wartime.

(b) One event that increased military spending was the election of Ronald Reagan. President Reagan believed in increasing military spending to invest in new defensive technology. Congress approved his proposals, and as a result, military spending increased from \$300 billion in 1980 to about \$700 billion in 2012.

- (c) One event that resulted in a decrease in military spending was the end of the Cold War. In 1991, the Soviet Union (USSR) broke up. Until that point the USSR was considered one of the major threats to the United States, and much of our military spending was geared toward dealing with that threat. After the end of the Cold War, there was a period of lessened tensions, which resulted in a "peace dividend." As a result military spending declined (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 504–506).
2. (a) Appropriations – Congress can use the power of the purse to cut off funding for any military action that it dislikes. This was the case in the Vietnam War.

Treaties – The Constitution gives the president the power to make treaties. However, for a treaty to be binding on the United States, the Senate must approve it with a two-thirds vote. Confirmation – the President has the power under the Constitution to appoint the civilian leadership of the Defense Department (Secretary of Defense, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, etc.) the Secretary of State and ambassadors, as well as the power to commission all officers of the military. These appointments and commissions are subject to review and confirmation by the Senate.

- (b) Commander-in-Chief – The president is commander-in-chief of the military. Presidents have interpreted this to mean that they, on occasion, can deploy the military into combat without congressional authorization. Politically, it is almost impossible for Congress to prevent this. Executive Agreements – The President can avoid conflict with the Senate by use of an executive agreement. An executive agreement functions much like a treaty. However, it does not require Senate approval (*American Government*, 14th ed., pages 490, 493).