

1. Which of the following statements best characterize single-issue interest groups?

- A) Their voters do not base support for a candidate on a single issue.
- X B) They attract members who usually have a lot of political experience.
- C) They are among the least power political groups because of their narrow political agenda.
- D) They are powerful because of the intensity of their supporters.
- E) They protect their members' economic interests.

2. Which of the following is the best example of a public-interest group?

- A) The National Governors' Association, a forum for state governors
- B) The American Bar Association, which represents lawyers
- C) The AFL-CIO, the nation's largest labor organization
- X D) The Nature Conservancy, which tries to protect ecosystems and wildlife
- E) The American Legion, a veterans' organization

3. A lobbyist for the National Rifle Association would most likely get support from

- X A) an independent
- B) a moderate Republican senator
- C) a liberal Democrat - Anti-gun
- D) a female Senator
- E) a conservative Republican - Pro-gun

4. Limits on lobbying are often ineffective because

- A) they are not earnest attempts
- B) they do not attempt to prevent influence peddling
- X C) they must be careful not to violate the right to free speech
- D) they do not attempt to limit funds
- E) they do not effectively register all lobbying groups

5. When a former member of the Department of the Interior testifies before Congress on drilling for oil in Alaska as a consultant for the American Petroleum Institute, it is an example of

- X A) the revolving door
- B) an issue network
- C) an iron triangle
- D) direct lobbying
- E) influence peddling

6. The legal effort that resulted in the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* was led by which of the following interest groups?

- A) The AFL-CIO
- X B) The NAACP
- C) Common Cause
- D) Moral Majority
- E) The American Federation of Teachers

7. The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) would lobby the government most strongly regarding

- X A) the imposition of heavier capital gains taxes
- B) American foreign policy towards Iran
- C) issues pertaining to civil liberties
- D) the importation of prescription drugs from Canada
- E) federal grants for homeland security programs

8. One of the best strategies that interest groups can use to achieve their goals is

- A) pressing for changes in high-profile public policies
- X B) lobbying members of Congress to make small changes in existing policy
- C) using the judiciary to invalidate federal legislation
- D) encouraging states to use their Tenth Amendment rights and ignore federal law
- E) running candidates for office

9. Which of the following is true of political action committees (PACs)?

- X A) They make campaign contributions in hopes of gaining access to legislators.
- B) They are a part of political party organizations.
- C) They are allowed to contribute to only one candidate in any election.
- D) They nominate candidates for president at national party conventions.
- E) They operate at the state level but not at the national level.

When contributing to congressional campaigns, political action committees (PACs) are most likely to contribute to

- (A) incumbents of both major parties
- (B) third-party challengers
- (C) Republican challengers
- (D) state party organizations
- (E) national party organizations

11 Which of the following is the main reason interest groups are often successful in getting legislation passed to benefit their members?

- (A) It is easy to garner support from most members of Congress on any issue.
- (B) All members of society desire the legislation that special interests pursue.
- (C) It is very easy to get legislation passed in Congress.
- (D) A narrow constituency derives the benefits from such legislation but the costs are spread broadly across the population.
- (E) Interest group activity represents the democratic process at work because individual interest groups often represent more than half the population.

12 Interest groups use political action committees (PACs) to

- (A) provide expertise to members of Congress when they are writing legislation
- (B) lobby the executive bureaucracy when they are considering new rules and regulations
- (C) raise and spend money on election campaigns
- (D) generate research that can be used to influence public opinion
- (E) hire policy experts who will promote their views in the media

13 Interest groups are protected under the Constitution by the

- (A) provisions of Article I, Section 8
- (B) First Amendment
- (C) Ninth Amendment
- (D) Tenth Amendment
- (E) Fourteenth Amendment

14 An interest group is most likely to have influence in Congress when the issue at stake

- (A) is narrow in scope and low in public visibility
- (B) is part of the president's legislative package
- (C) has been dramatized by the media
- (D) engages legislators' deeply held convictions
- (E) divides legislators along party lines

Interest groups seek to influence political processes in ways that benefit their members. In doing so, however, they may not act in the overall public interest.

(a) Describe two techniques interest groups use to influence elections.

(b) Explain how interest groups use each of the following to influence government decision making.

- Issue networks (also known as iron triangles)

(c) Explain how the following serves to limit interest group influence.

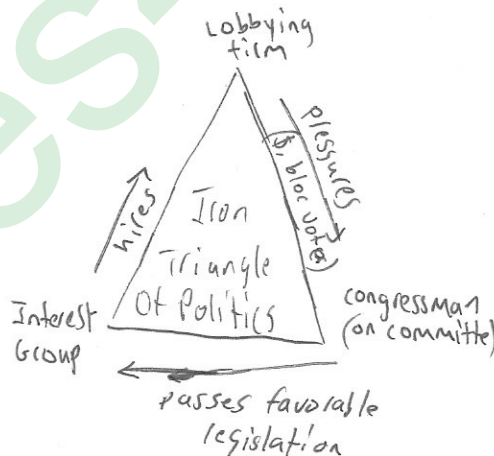
- The media

good one!

✓ A) There are many techniques interest groups use to influence elections, and they have varying impacts. One such technique is publishing ratings of candidates. This informs the ~~put~~ members of the interest group ~~of~~ with important information of who they should vote for, based on how sympathetic the candidate is to their cause. An additional technique is forming political action committees (PACs) that are able to donate money to their favored candidate. This money can be used ~~for~~ for example in the form of advertising.

✓ B) An interest group that seeks to influence government decision making could use an Issue network, also called an iron triangle. For example, an interest group could hire a lobbying firm to help their cause. This lobbying firm will pressure a congressman that's on the committee that oversees the issue with money or bloc votes. In return, the congressman will pass ~~the~~ favorable legislation in regards to the issue.

✓ C) The media is instrumental in limiting the influence of an interest group, especially a corporate one. A corporate interest group often seeks to pass legislation in their benefit, for example, less taxes they have to pay. If the media were to publicize this, it would upset the general public, and the issue that was once in low visibility and narrow scope no longer is. When issues are in high visibility, an interest group's influence is limited.



2. Different interest groups will choose different techniques to achieve their objectives based on their resources, characteristics, and goals.

(a) Describe each of the following techniques and explain why an interest group would choose each technique.

- Litigation
- Campaign contributions
- Grassroots lobbying/ mass mobilization

(b) Select one of the following groups and identify the primary technique it uses from the list in part (a). Explain why the group you selected would employ that technique over the other two techniques.

- American Medical Association (AMA)
- Sierra Club
- National Rifle Association (NRA)
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

A) Litigation is the process in which an interest group would seek change by bringing the issue to the courts, in the form of a lawsuit. An interest group would use this technique primarily in a case where they believe civil rights are ~~being violated~~ involved.

• An interest group often raises money, in the form of political action committees, and donates it to a campaign. ~~They believe that they can~~ They'd do this to a candidate who they feel shares similar goals and beliefs, as they believe ~~that~~ they'll get favorable legislation in return.

• Grassroots lobbying is used primarily in issues regarding the environment. For example, a 'Save the whales' group would grassroots lobby by educating the public about their cause and arousing interest and support (from the public).

B) The NAACP is an interest group primarily involved in civil rights issues in regards to people of color. For example, if a black person feels he is being treated unjustly and unfairly, (compared to someone else, like a white man) the NAACP could file a lawsuit on his behalf, claiming that he was treated inappropriately due to his color. Grassroots lobbying wouldn't be as effective, as the public probably does not care that much about this individual, so it wouldn't have as much of an effect. Similarly, donating to a campaign wouldn't have a strong effect, as the issue is not dealing with changing legislation. Therefore, litigation is the most effective and commonly used technique of the NAACP.

1 In *Federalist No. 10*, James Madison argues that a federal system of government reduces the danger of political factions by

- (A) creating insurmountable obstacles to the creation of factions
- (B) making it difficult for one faction to gain the power necessary to govern
- (C) requiring equal representation of all factions within the government
- (D) restricting factional political activity to the state level only
- (E) allowing federal agencies to strictly regulate the activities of factions

2 The principal function of a pressure group is to

- (A) provide campaign money to candidates for public office who favor programs.
- (B) draw media attention to its cause.
- (C) obtain favorable policies from government for the cause it supports.
- (D) win congressional seats for its members.
- (E) accomplish all of the above.

3 Interest groups representing businesspersons and investors are often among the most successful lobbying groups in Washington, D.C. for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- (A) Such groups have the financial resources to mount sustained campaigns on their own behalf.
- (B) Many such groups have been in existence for several decades or more, allowing them both to master the legislative system and to develop close ties with legislators.
- (C) In many districts, these groups' constituents make up the majority of voters.
- (D) These groups' constituents contribute heavily to many legislators' campaigns, and, in so doing, gain greater access to legislators.
- (E) Economic lobbyists often campaign for ~~obscure~~ or minute changes to tax law about which the public knows little, and therefore frequently meet little opposition.

4 All of the following are legitimate functions of registered lobbyists EXCEPT

- (A) testifying at public hearings.
- (B) providing members of Congress with statistical data.
- (C) preparing reports.
- (D) presenting media spots.
- (E) nominating candidates for political office.

5 Which of the following factors best accounts for the rise of interest groups and the decline of political parties in recent years?

- (A) National parties have become too closely identified with controversial issues.
- (B) Court decisions have restricted the political parties' abilities to recruit new members.
- (C) It is less expensive to join an interest group than to join a political party.
- (D) Interest groups have been more successful in avoiding negative press coverage than have political parties.
- (E) Interest groups are better able to articulate specific policy positions than are political parties.

6 A corporate lobbyist would be LEAST likely to have an informal discussion about a pending policy matter with which of the following?

- (A) A member of the House in whose district the corporation has a plant
- (B) A member of the White House staff concerned about the issue
- (C) A member of the staff of the Senate committee handling a matter of concern to the corporation
- (D) A federal judge in whose court a case important to the corporation is being heard
- (E) A journalist for a major newspaper concerned about the issue

7 Interest groups and political parties both promote United States democracy by

- (A) expressing detailed, ideologically distinct programs
- (B) centralizing public authority
- (C) linking citizens to the political process
- (D) increasing domination of the political process by elites
- (E) lobbying members of Congress

- 9) Which of the following statements represents a major criticism of lobbyists?
- (A) They work closely with the interest groups that hired them.
 - (B) They are former government officials who have close ties with current legislators. "revolving door"
 - (C) They are persistent in making sure that the results they get do not change before a vote.
 - (D) They know as much and sometimes even more than legislators about pending legislation.
They attempt to convince senators and representatives that if they support their position they will receive the support of their constituency.

- 10) All the following arguments are essential to the special interest theory of politics EXCEPT
- (A) interest groups compete with each other.
 - (B) interest groups provide linkage between people and government.
 - (C) one or two interest groups may dominate the debate over legislation.
 - (D) interest groups attempt to open their membership to many diverse groups.
 - (E) interest groups have been protected by Supreme Court decisions.

- 11) Which of the following statements represents the main function of special interest groups?
- (A) They eventually want to end up as political office holders.
 - (B) They nominate candidates for political office.
 - (C) They have the primary function of funding political campaigns.
 - (D) They want to influence officeholders and achieve legislative goals.
 - (E) They attempt to recruit a divergent membership in order to become influential.

- 12) An interest group is most likely to have influence in Congress when the issue at stake
- (A) is narrow in scope and low in public visibility
 - (B) is part of the President's legislative package
 - (C) has been dramatized by the media
 - (D) engages legislators' deeply held convictions
 - (E) divides legislators along party lines

36. Interest groups

- (A) offer potential members incentives to join.
- B. rely solely on lobbying to influence the political process.
- C. are allowed to contribute as much money as they want to candidates for Congress.
- D. only represent corporations and other business interests.
- E. run candidates for political office.

4. Which of the following is true about lobbyists?

- (A) They often represent the interest of a broad-based constituency.
- (B) They are paid by members of Congress to do research.
- (C) They are allowed to pay members of Congress to vote for a particular bill.
- (D) They must register with the federal government.
- (E) They often form special interest groups.

15. Which of the following is a correct statement about political action committees (PAC's)?

- (A) The number of PAC's has remained stable over the past decade.
- (B) Most PAC money is distributed to challengers in an effort to unseat hostile incumbents.
- (C) The amount of money that PAC's can contribute directly to an individual candidate is limited by law.
- (D) PAC's are illegal in most states.
- (E) PAC's rarely attempt to influence legislation through lobbying activities.

16. Which of the following factors best accounts for the rise of interest groups and the decline of political parties in recent years?

- (A) National parties have become too closely identified with controversial issues.
- (B) Court decisions have restricted the political parties' abilities to recruit new members.
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- (D) Interest groups have been more successful in avoiding negative press coverage than have political parties.
- (E) Interest groups are better able to articulate specific policy positions than are political parties.

17. An interest group would likely have the greatest influence on policy matters involving

- (A) narrow issues, only a few interest groups, and technical information
- (B) broad, highly visible national issues
- (C) broad foreign policy issues
- (D) major constitutional questions about civil rights and liberties
- (E) areas in which members of Congress have considerable expertise and commitment

18. The "revolving door" of American Politics refers to:

- (A) State and local elected officials who go on to hold national office
- (B) The fact that many elected leaders later go on to lobby their former colleagues on behalf of special-interest groups
- (C) Refers to the idea that the Executive Branch & legislative branch of the federal govt are often held by different parties.
- (D) The relationship between interest group leaders and their rank-and-file members

19. PIRG's claim that they:

- (A) represent the "public interest"
- (B) are a "watchdog" over special-interest groups
- (C) are unbiased and non-partisan
- (D) All of the above
- (E) None of the above

20. The American Political System is said to foster interest group proliferation due to:

- (A) It's Federal structure
- (B) It's diversity of religious, ethnic, economic, groups
- (C) The ever increasing costs of campaigns
- (D) The Constitutional right to petition the govt
- (E) All of the above.

3. Several characteristics of an interest group can enhance its influence over Congress. Because of the perception that interest groups exert undue influence, Congress has regulated the influence of these groups.

a. Describe how each of these characteristics of an interest group can enhance its influence over Congress.

- Financial resources
- Expertise
- Size

b. Identify two ways in which Congress has regulated the influence of interest groups.

1. Give \$ to their reelection efforts - give to both, especially incumbents

2. Educate congressmen, passionate, organized

3. Bigger size = more votes

1. Amount of \$

2. Lobbyists must register

3. Worked in congress in past 2 years
can't be a lobbyist