Chapter 1: Introduction to the Enduring-Democracy

Test Bank

# Multiple Choice

1. Which is one of President Donald Trump’s accomplishments?

a. an overhaul of the health care system

b. tax cuts and deregulation

c. reforms of the election process

d. appointing three Supreme Court justices

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The 2020 Presidential Election Campaign

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. What is one reason some view President Trump as a polarizing figure?

a. They believe he is too relaxed on the issue of illegal immigration.

b. He involved the United States in a costly and deadly war.

c. His economic policies have caused the economy to suffer.

d. They believe he has increased racial tensions in America.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The 2020 Presidential Election Campaign

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Why have the Democrats come out in full-force in both the 2018 midterm elections and in the race to become the nominee for the 2020 election against Donald Trump?

a. to prevent him from confirming any justices to the Supreme Court

b. to put an end to the political polarization that his presidency has created

c. to oppose Trump’s policies and what they see as his illegitimate victory

d. to make sure that he will be impeached if he fails to win re-election

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The 2020 Presidential Election Campaign

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. The 2020 presidential election can be best described as \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. critical

b. corrupt

c. illegitimate

d. polarizing

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The 2020 Presidential Election Campaign

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. What is significant about the following characteristics of the 2020 election: calls for impeachment, the abolishment of the Electoral College, and packing of the Supreme Court, and increased support for democratic socialist policies?

a. Not much, since elections throughout history have faced similar issues and proposals.

b. The 2020 election will be the first time candidates have called for eliminating the Electoral College.

c. No candidate has outright supported democratic socialism in the United States before Bernie Sanders.

d. Prior to 2020, it was considered a courtesy not to attack the current sitting president.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The 2020 Presidential Election Campaign

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. How did Barack Obama’s use of social media in his 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns influence the campaign process for others running for public office?

a. His success with social media has not been duplicated, with many candidates opting to stick to traditional campaign methods.

b. Social media is now widely used by candidates to raise money, communicate policy proposals, and mobilize voters.

c. Candidates now use social media for information they can use in attack ads and during debates.

d. Many candidates use social media for personal reasons, but have generally not used it for professional campaign purposes.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: History Repeats Itself

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. Suppose a candidate running for president in 2024 wants to make sure that she can reach the younger generations that are just reaching voting age. She wants to better communicate her policy positions and share what it is like on the campaign trail. What is the best way for her to reach this audience and gain support from younger voters?

a. visit colleges and universities in battleground states to speak and hold meet-and-greets

b. develop several advertisements directed toward younger people to air on television

c. use Facebook to post photos and write captions about her family life

d. post photos and videos about the campaign on Instagram and discuss policies on Twitter

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: History Repeats Itself

Difficulty Level: Hard

8. President Obama was able to successfully use breakthrough technology (social media and social networking sites) during his campaign. Which other presidential candidate pioneered the use of new technology to win the presidency?

a. Theodore Roosevelt

b. Abraham Lincoln

c. John F. Kennedy

d. Donald Trump

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: History Repeats Itself

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Which president made revolutionary use of the radio to win the 1932 election?

a. Franklin D. Roosevelt

b. Herbert Hoover

c. Rutherford B. Hayes

d. Woodrow Wilson

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: History Repeats Itself

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. What motivation do presidential candidates have to utilize new technologies during their campaign?

a. New technologies tend to be cheaper and more cost-effective for campaigns.

b. Candidates can communicate better with voters and take control of their public image.

c. Historically, the candidates who use emerging technologies have won the presidency.

d. Use of new technologies has been successful for both charismatic and uncharismatic candidates.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: History Repeats Itself

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. As history shows, it is critical for presidential candidates to make effective use of new technologies during their campaigns. Which is an example of the use of new technologies and methods of communication during the 2020 election?

a. Kamala Harris’ participation in a televised debate on CNN in July 2019

b. Elizabeth Warren’s attendance at the Iowa State Fair in August 2019

c. Tulsi Gabbard’s appearance on a popular YouTube podcast show in May 2019

d. Joe Biden’s organization of a campaign rally in Iowa in August 2019

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: History Repeats Itself

Difficulty Level: Hard

12. Updates to the U.S. Census to include questions about ethnicity and to allow respondents to select more than one racial category are all efforts to better \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. understand the diversity of the United States

b. discriminate against racial and ethnic minority groups

c. determine who is and who is not a legal U.S. citizen

d. improve affirmative action programs

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Debates over Diversity in American Politics

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. The next U.S. Census will be conducted in 2020. There have been debates over whether or not to include a question that asks about which characteristic?

a. sexual orientation

b. gender identification

c. ethnicity

d. citizenship

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Debates over Diversity in American Politics

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. Why is it sometimes difficult for a nation to welcome a growing diverse population?

a. Most nations are homogenous and are not used to any diversity of race or ethnicity.

b. Increasing diversity requires change on the part of the government and society as a whole.

c. Diversity of race and ethnicity poses a threat to the established systems of a nation.

d. More diversity in a nation means more legislation to protect certain minority classes.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Debates over Diversity in American Politics

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. Which statement best encapsulates the experience of diversity in America?

a. Diversity has a minor influence on the experience of American politics.

b. America can be characterized as a post-racial country.

c. Diversity in America has fluctuated over the course of its history.

d. America continues to have struggles over the question of diversity.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Debates over Diversity in American Politics

Difficulty Level: Medium

16. Which is an example of how the struggles with diversity today are similar to those in American history?

a. refusal to admit certain demographics into colleges

b. segregation of public facilities based on race

c. calls to ask about citizenship on the U.S. Census

d. strict, merit-based immigration policies

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Debates over Diversity in American Politics

Difficulty Level: Hard

17. What is government?

a. the agreement people make to follow the rules within a nation made and enforced by an authority

b. the organization of people who have the desire to rule over others and strictly enforce laws

c. the group of powerful agencies in a country that rule citizens in that country through coercion

d. the collection of public institutions within a nation that make and enforce laws for citizens to follow

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Easy

18. What is it called when a society has no government?

a. anarchy

b. socialism

c. communism

d. capitalism

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Easy

19. What is the main function of government in a nation?

a. enforcing strict laws to ensure that there is no crime, no matter the cost of doing so

b. making sure there is stability and order within the nation and to protect its citizens

c. keeping citizens subdued enough so as to infringe upon their rights without worry of revolt

d. establishing a standing military to protect the citizens of a nation from foreign threats

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Medium

20. Which statement best summarizes the concept of a social contract?

a. People enter into an agreement with one another to not commit crimes so as to avoid having to form a government.

b. The government has a responsibility to preserve and protect the social freedoms of the people it is governing.

c. It is up to the people to keep a lookout for those who might be breaking the law and punish anyone who violates the laws.

d. People agree with one another to form a government, as long as the government protects their rights.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Medium

21. Which requirement must be met in order for a social contract to be valid?

a. The government must agree to protect its citizens no matter the cost.

b. The people must agree to overthrow the government if it becomes tyrannical.

c. The government must protect the rights of the people it is governing.

d. The people must agree to police themselves and one another.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Medium

22. What does it mean when a government is said to have authority?

a. The government can infringe upon people’s rights.

b. The government has instilled fear in its citizens.

c. The government has the ability to enforce laws.

d. The government has the ability to make laws.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Medium

23. The ability of Congress to make legislation that requires stricter background checks on all firearms purchases, and the president’s responsibility to sign or veto that bill is an example of the government’s \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. authority

b. social contract

c. legitimacy

d. power

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Hard

24. Authority differs from power in that \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. it is the source of a government’s legitimacy

b. people obey it out of respect rather than fear

c. refers to the government’s ability to enforce laws

d. it is seen as providing cohesion to the social contract

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Medium

25. In Ancient Greece, policies and laws were formed by a sovereign body of citizens, and arguments that arose within the governing system were resolved in popular courts, where a jury made up of randomly selected citizens would hear the cases. This system of governance was run completely by the people, making it a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. democracy

b. oligarchy

c. theocracy

d. monarchy

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Hard

26. Which word is derived from the Greek for “rule by the people”?

a. republic

b. oligarchy

c. democracy

d. authority

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Easy

27. What is the primary distinction between an oligarchy and a democracy?

a. In an oligarchy, religious figures have greater control, whereas a democracy is ruled by the upper class.

b. In an oligarchy, one single person has control over all functions of government, whereas that power is distributed in a democracy.

c. In an oligarchy, a royal family has control over the governing system, while religious institutions have control in a democracy.

d. In an oligarchy, a select class of people hold most of the power, whereas all citizens hold power in a democracy.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Medium

28. Which is an example of a theocracy?

a. Saudi Arabia, which is controlled primarily by the Saudi royal family

b. The Vatican City, which is led by the Pope and run by various members of the Catholic church

c. France, which holds regular elections for the selection of representatives in government

d. North Korea, in which leader Kim Jong-un holds absolute control over all citizens

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Hard

29. How might a nation like Saudi Arabia, in which a royal family rules the nation based on the principles found within the Qur’an – the central text for the Islam religion – be best classified?

a. as a complete theocracy

b. as an authoritarian regime

c. as a theocratic monarchy

d. as a representative democracy

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Hard

30. Which option summarizes the authoritarian type of government?

a. a government in which the people hold most of the control

b. a government in which a royal family rules over subjects

c. a government that is ruled according to a particular religion

d. a government in which one entity exercises absolute control

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Medium

31. How is a government’s power different than its authority?

a. Power is what allows a government to get individuals to obey the laws, while authority is what allows the government to make laws in the first place.

b. Power allows a government to make laws for its citizens to obey, whereas authority is required to enforce those laws.

c. Power is what allows the government to protect the rights of citizens, while authority can be abused to infringe upon rights.

d. Power is what makes a government legitimate, whereas a government only has authority once it as seen as legitimate.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Medium

32. Why is it critical for a government to be recognized as legitimate by its people?

a. Legitimacy is required in order for a government to shift toward a more authoritarian style of governing.

b. Legitimacy gives the appearance of a strong government and helps ward off foreign attacks.

c. Legitimacy helps a government expand its power and influence in times of need or crisis.

d. Legitimacy is what gives the government the right and ability to make and enforce rules.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Medium

33. The way in which institutions are organized to make rules and policies, as well as how those institutions are influenced, is known as \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. government

b. politics

c. authority

d. legitimacy

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Easy

34. Why is the United States government able to maintain its strength, stability, and influence?

a. It is seen as highly legitimate.

b. It is an authoritarian government.

c. It has a significant amount of power.

d. It is free from corrupt practices.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Medium

35. Who is responsible for the concept of natural rights?

a. Jean-Jacques Rousseau

b. John Locke

c. Thomas Hobbes

d. Alexis de Tocqueville

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Easy

36. Which statement best reflects the concept of natural law, as proposed by John Locke?

a. People agree to be ruled by a government in return for the protection of their rights.

b. All humans are born with an inherent respect for their surrounding environment.

c. Everyone is born with certain rights that the government cannot violate.

d. Individuals are natural beings that cannot be governed by a centralized power.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Medium

37. A group of citizens have just declared their independence from a tyrannical government and are now in the process of establishing a new government that will better protect their rights and freedoms. This group of people intends to use the United States Constitution as a model for their new constitution, but they also want to learn more about its foundational principles. Whose works should they read to better understand its foundations?

a. John Locke

b. Alexis de Tocqueville

c. Thomas Jefferson

d. Harold Lasswell

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Hard

38. What is the relationship between the concept of natural law and the legitimacy of a government?

a. In order for a government to be seen as legitimate, it must agree to respect people’s natural rights.

b. A government that is illegitimate does not have the authority to compromise natural law.

c. A legitimate government is one that forms laws based around the basic principles of natural rights.

d. If a government does not observe natural law, a society will descend into anarchy.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Medium

39. Why is natural law seen as superior to the laws made by a government?

a. Natural law guides animals and other natural environments, which humans cannot control.

b. Natural law is required for a government to form its own laws, policies, and regulations.

c. Natural law is an explicit part of religious traditions, which are beyond the control of any government entity.

d. Natural law is inherent to all human beings and is more fundamental than any man-made law.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Medium

40. According to Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence, what happens if a government fails to respect the natural rights inherent to humans?

a. The government will descend into chaos and anarchy.

b. The governed may change or overthrow their government.

c. The government will no longer be seen as powerful.

d. The government must promise to protect them in future.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Medium

41. What motive did the Founders have to create a system of government that encouraged conflict and competition among citizens?

a. A government that suppressed naturally occurring conflicts was sure to become tyrannical.

b. They believed conflict and competition would keep citizens prepared for future wars.

c. Conflict and competition were free-market ideals that the Founders were in favor of.

d. A government that constantly policed its citizens would lead to certain anarchy.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Medium

42. Which part of the Constitution does the best job of summarizing the goals of the American government?

a. Article I

b. the First Amendment

c. the preamble

d. the Bill of Rights

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Easy

43. The preamble of the U.S. Constitution begins with the phrase “We the People,” which acknowledges that the people are the ultimate source of power for a government. This idea is consistent with which theory?

a. anarchy

b. authoritarianism

c. nationalism

d. popular sovereignty

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Easy

44. In Canada, regular elections are held for the people to select public officials who will represent and advocate for their interests in the national parliament. Which type of government is this known as?

a. direct democracy

b. representative democracy

c. authoritarian theocracy

d. democratic monarchy

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Hard

45. How is popular sovereignty reflected in the representative democracy form of government?

a. Those who live in a representative democracy have transferred their sovereignty to the government.

b. A representative democracy allows the people to have direct influence over policies.

c. In a representative democracy, the people have the power to select who they are governed by.

d. The people of a representative democracy have the right to change policies and laws at any time.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Medium

46. How is the United States’ republican form of government reflected in its political institutions?

a. through the presidential election, where the winner of the popular vote becomes president

b. through the amendment process, where citizens vote on whether to ratify an amendment

c. through referendum votes, where citizens directly choose to enact a policy at the local level

d. through midterm elections, where citizens elect their representatives for the House and Senate

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Hard

47. Which statement accurately distinguishes between representative and direct forms of democracy?

a. Citizens have an unmediated role in policymaking in a direct democracy, but do not in a representative democracy.

b. The president is selected by the people through a popular vote in a representative democracy and by a slate of electors in a direct democracy.

c. In a direct democracy, citizens are given little say in the policies and regulations that govern them, unlike in a representative democracy.

d. Citizens in a direct democracy are subject to the tyranny of the minority, while those in a representative democracy are subject to majority rule.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Medium

48. Which system of government would be considered a direct democracy?

a. Saudi Arabia, which is ruled by a royal family based on principles of sharia law

b. Ancient Greece, which allowed citizens to control policies, laws, and the court system

c. France, which consists of a parliamentary form of government that represents the people

d. Mexico, which holds regular elections for the election of representatives to the federal government

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Hard

49. Which option best describes political culture?

a. the values and beliefs about the role of government that are widely held by citizens

b. the intersection of politics with the social values and popular culture of a nation

c. the diverse culture that results from people of different backgrounds starting a new nation

d. the common background that people have within a nation that guides their politics

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Medium

50. Why is political culture in the United States different than that in other nations?

a. The United States encompasses a large territory, making it difficult to form a cohesive political outlook.

b. The United States is more partisan in nature than other nations, and this inhibits a cohesive political culture.

c. The United States is the only nation with a republican form of government, which makes its politics unique.

d. The United States does not have a common ancestry, while most other nations do.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Medium

51. Which is a factor that often contributes to a nation’s political culture?

a. the primary exported goods

b. the average wealth of its citizens

c. its citizens’ common ancestry

d. its arts, music, and celebrities

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Easy

52. Which nation is the most likely to have a political culture based on a common ancestry?

a. Canada, which encompasses French heritage as well as several immigrant cultures

b. Russia, which has a history of communist regimes that is shared across generations

c. The United States, which was built upon several immigrant cultures

d. Algeria, which has a mix of French, African, and Muslim heritage due to colonization

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Hard

53. Which philosopher’s ideas have contributed significantly to American political culture?

a. Immanuel Kant

b. Aristotle

c. Voltaire

d. Thomas Hobbes

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Easy

54. According to the text, which core value defines American political culture?

a. majority rule

b. Christianity

c. common ancestry

d. collective responsibility

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Easy

55. Why is majority rule considered one of the foundational values of American political culture?

a. Majority rule is the guiding principle for the United States’ form of direct democracy.

b. It is the basis for popular sovereignty, which is a core principle of the United States.

c. The Founders believed that majority rule was critical to checking the power of a government.

d. Majority rule has historically been used to expand the power of the federal government in America.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Medium

56. The functioning of many early New England colonies relied on local town hall meetings where citizens would make governmental decisions after discussions and votes were held. Which core value of American political culture do these early instances speak to?

a. majority rule

b. individualism

c. diversity

d. equality of opportunity

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Hard

57. What is the relationship between natural law and majority rule?

a. Natural law recognizes that hierarchy inherently forms among humans, which leads to majority rule.

b. Natural law posits that those in the majority are stronger and thus have greater power over others.

c. Natural law preserves the rights and liberties of those in the minority, which checks abuses of majority rule.

d. Natural law suggests that the will to survive forces those in the minority to accept the will of the majority.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Medium

58. The experiences that colonists had under the rule of the tyrannical King George III led to the emergence of which core value that forms American political culture?

a. diversity of population

b. authoritarianism

c. majority rule

d. limited government

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Medium

59. Which feature of the American system of government reflects the value of limited government?

a. the system of checks and balances between the three branches of government

b. the establishment of the Electoral College to select the president

c. the election of representatives to advocate for citizens’ interests at the federal level

d. the ability for anyone to get involved in the political system at various levels

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Hard

60. Which core value of American political culture is the result of America’s lack of a common ancestry?

a. limited government

b. diversity

c. individualism

d. equality of opportunity

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Medium

61. Which impact does continued immigration from other countries have on the American political culture?

a. Immigration strengthens the American cultural value of diversity.

b. Immigration increases the population, which contributes to majority rule.

c. Immigration tends to strengthen the sense of individualism among Americans.

d. Immigration and the policies related to it keep the government limited and in check.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Medium

62. In the early years of America, the Puritans who settled in the colonies were committed to a strong work ethic and believed that one’s success in life was that person’s responsibility. This Puritan belief provides the foundation for which American value?

a. democracy

b. equality of opportunity

c. capitalism

d. individualism

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Hard

63. What is the relationship between the American value of individualism and the economic system of capitalism in America?

a. According to individualism, everyone must look out for one another, which is reflected in capitalism.

b. The ideas that make up the value of individualism run counter to the capitalist economy.

c. Individualism supports the notion of free markets and individual effort toward achieving success.

d. The capitalist economy that has created the American welfare state is based on individual efforts.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Medium

64. Affirmative action programs in place in colleges and universities give preference to candidates in racial, ethnic, and gender minorities to offset the history of discrimination in America. Those who support affirmative action programs defend them on the basis that they help level the playing field. This is reflective of which core American value?

a. individualism

b. equality of opportunity

c. diversity

d. limited government

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Hard

65. Which nation has threatened the United States’ position as an economic superpower?

a. China

b. Canada

c. Mexico

d. Russia

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Case for Decline

Difficulty Level: Easy

66. Which factor has contributed to the United States’ perceived decline as an economic superpower?

a. the tariffs foreign nations have placed on U.S. goods

b. the dollar’s significant loss of exchange value

c. the increased national debt of the United States

d. the lack of healthy international trade agreements

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Case for Decline

Difficulty Level: Medium

67. One of the foundational principles of the United States is the idea of free markets and individuals working hard towards their own success. The 2008 financial crisis and success of Bernie Sanders in the 2016 Democratic presidential primaries caused concerns that \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. America would no longer be a global superpower

b. interest groups would exert undue influence on politics

c. heightened partisan attitudes would cause crippling gridlock

d. the American brand of capitalism is on the decline

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Case for Decline

Difficulty Level: Hard

68. Which recent event caused concerns that capitalism in America is dead?

a. the 2008 financial crisis

b. the Great Depression

c. the drying up of the Social Security trust fund

d. the election of Donald Trump as president

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Case for Decline

Difficulty Level: Easy

69. Why might partisan gridlock in Congress suggest a decline in the health of American democracy?

a. Party-line voting and increasing hostility between parties impedes the policymaking process.

b. Increased animosity leads to policies aimed at hurting the other party rather than benefiting the nation.

c. Congress’s failure to make policy due to partisan differences expands the president’s power.

d. Hyper-partisan attitudes and behaviors cause Americans to view the government as less legitimate.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Case for Decline

Difficulty Level: Medium

70. What is one example of the harmful effect partisan gridlock has on the American democracy?

a. the failure to pass of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017

b. the government shutdown from December 2018 through January 2019

c. the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court in 2018

d. the 2018 midterm election results, which led to a divided government

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Case for Decline

Difficulty Level: Hard

71. What was the result of the Supreme Court’s decision on *Citizens United v. FEC*?

a. It allowed for candidates to accept unlimited contributions and make unlimited expenditures without disclosing it to the FEC.

b. It struck down as unconstitutional a law that prohibited candidates from running negative ads attacking their opponents.

c. It restricted the amount of money individuals, groups, and corporations could contribute to a candidate’s campaign.

d. It allowed certain groups to accept unlimited contributions for the purpose of spending money on behalf of a candidate.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Case for Decline

Difficulty Level: Medium

72. What role is money in politics believed to play in the declining health of American democracy?

a. With super-PACs, it has become easier for a few individuals to have a disproportionate influence on the political system.

b. Not everyone has an equal opportunity to run as a candidate for office, which goes against core American values.

c. Vast amounts of money have become necessary to get laws passed through the hyper-partisan, gridlocked Congress.

d. Presidents have become less responsive to the desires of the American people and more responsive to super-PACs.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Case for Decline

Difficulty Level: Medium

73. Which is an indicator that the United States will remain an economic superpower?

a. the quick recovery from the 2008 financial crisis

b. the tariffs implemented by President Trump on China in 2019

c. the fact that similar concerns arose in the 1960s with Japan

d. the increased economic health of China

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: But Do These Problems Really Signify a Decline?

Difficulty Level: Medium

74. According to the text, why is the United States likely to remain an economic superpower?

a. The value of the dollar has increased significantly.

b. China’s rate of growth has slowed in recent years.

c. Russia is in the midst of a severe economic depression.

d. The United States’ national debt is decreasing.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: But Do These Problems Really Signify a Decline?

Difficulty Level: Easy

75. What can the various economic recessions and depressions throughout United States history signal about capitalism?

a. Such cyclical economic conditions show that one major event does not mean capitalism is dead.

b. These hard economic times have strengthened the system of capitalism in the United States.

c. A history of several economic recessions and the Depression suggest capitalism is a volatile system needing reform.

d. Such economic hardships indicate that a socialist economic system would be far more successful.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: But Do These Problems Really Signify a Decline?

Difficulty Level: Medium

76. The Great Recession of 2008 saw unemployment rates reach 10 percent in October 2009 before declining in response to the economic policies of the Federal Reserve and President Obama. Not even ten years later, the unemployment rate in July 2019 reached 3.7 percent under President Trump. What does this suggest?

a. Capitalism is a dangerous economic system that creates quick, volatile changes that hurt Americans.

b. Only socialist economic policies can combat the negative effects of capitalist economic policies.

c. Conservative fiscal and monetary policies tend to have a harmful effect on the economy.

d. Harsh economic periods signal neither the end of capitalism nor a declining democracy.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: But Do These Problems Really Signify a Decline?

Difficulty Level: Hard

77. Maria is concerned that the heightened hostilities between members of the Democratic Party and the Republican Party will lead to gridlock whereby the president will expand his power to fulfill his policy goals by taking executive action. Why should Maria not worry too much about this?

a. The Founders built in a mechanism to keep the government functioning during partisan times.

b. History shows that even in polarizing times like the Civil War, American democracy has endured.

c. The Constitution allows for citizens to directly impeach a president who expands his powers too much.

d. The president is prohibited from signing executive orders during times of divided government.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: But Do These Problems Really Signify a Decline?

Difficulty Level: Hard

78. The idea that partisan disagreement fuels democracy by enabling the public to express their opinion through elections is known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. responsive theory of democracy

b. republican democracy theory

c. polarization theory

d. public response theory

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: But Do These Problems Really Signify a Decline?

Difficulty Level: Easy

79. Which argument justifies the idea that the influence of money on politics does not mean American democracy is in decline?

a. More and more campaign finance restrictions are being implemented to cut down on such influence.

b. Those who donate significant amounts to a campaign do so for the greater benefit of democracy.

c. Money has always influenced politics, and arguably more so for most of American history.

d. American democracy was built to withstand the influence of money on policymaking and politics.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: But Do These Problems Really Signify a Decline?

Difficulty Level: Medium

80. In the 2016 presidential race, Hillary Clinton raised approximately $1.2 billion for her campaign, while Donald Trump raised approximately $646 million. The result of that election suggests that \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. money raised must be spent wisely on a campaign

b. it is a waste of resources to focus on fundraising

c. money influences the popular but not the Electoral College vote

d. the influence of money on politics can only go so far

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: But Do These Problems Really Signify a Decline?

Difficulty Level: Hard

# True/False

1. Calls for impeachment, expanding the Supreme Court, and abolishing the Electoral College are characteristics unique to the 2020 presidential election.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The 2020 Presidential Election Campaign

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Similar to how Richard Nixon successfully used television during his campaign, Barack Obama effectively utilized social media to win the presidency.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: History Repeats Itself

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. A social contract is an agreement between citizens to make a government and abide by its rules, but only if the government protects the basic rights and welfare of the people.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. In order for a government to be effective, it must be viewed as legitimate by those it governs.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. The phrase “We the People” within the Constitution acknowledges the idea of direct democracy.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. The U.S. Constitution established a system of representative democracy.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. Political culture refers to the core beliefs a citizenry has about the role of the government and how it should operate.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. One value that helps shape American political culture is the idea that the majority cannot trample upon the rights and liberties of the minority.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. One indicator of the decline of American democracy that many point to is the idea that hyper-partisan politics lead to hasty, ineffective policies.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Case for Decline

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Despite concerns about the influence of money on American politics, such influence is not an indicator of the decline of American democracy.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: But Do These Problems Really Signify a Decline?

Difficulty Level: Easy

# Essay

1. Many Americans have a growing concern about the health of the American political system due to the heightened partisan divisions between Democrats and Republicans, especially during the 2020 presidential campaign. How does the 2020 presidential campaign compare to past campaigns in American history? In your opinion, is the growing partisan divide anything to be concerned about? Why or why not?

Ans: Answers will vary, but students should be able to compare the calls for President Trump’s impeachment, the elimination of the Electoral College, and the expansion of the Supreme Court, as well as the growing support for democratic socialist ideals to past elections that brought up the same issues. Students should then use what they know about the history of partisan elections in America to evaluate whether or not the 2020 presidential campaign signifies a larger concern for the health of democracy and be able to explain why or why not.

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The 2020 Presidential Campaign

Difficulty Level: Hard

2. The campaign for the Democratic nomination for the 2020 presidential election has attracted a large number of diverse candidates. Why is this increase in diversity important for the American political system?

Ans: Students should recognize that the 2020 presidential campaign has led to one of the most diverse slates of possible Democratic nominees in American history and should evaluate the value and importance of having such a diverse group of candidates. Students should also be sure to note the importance of diversity in the American political system as a whole. That is, diversity is a source of strength that requires both society and government to evolve and change.

Learning Objective: 1.1: Analyze the 2020 presidential campaign in historical context.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Debates over Diversity in American Politics

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Briefly explain what government is and why it is necessary. According to the philosophy of Jean Jacques-Rousseau, what is the role of government in society? Be sure to mention the concept of the social contract in your response.

Ans: Government is the collection of public institutions in a nation that implement and enforce laws and regulations that citizens of that nation must abide by. Government is necessary for promoting stability and order and protecting society. Jean Jacques-Rousseau believed that it was the role of the government to protect the rights and welfare of the people and to promote their best interests, and that the people would obey the government’s rules and laws so long as it continued to do so. This theory came to be known as the “social contract.”

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. How are the concepts of authority, power, and legitimacy related with regards to the function of a government?

Ans: Authority refers to the ability of a government and government officials to make laws. Power is the government’s ability to get individuals to do something they would not otherwise do, such as obey laws and pay taxes. Legitimacy refers to the extent to which the people being governed afford their government the authority to exercise power. Given that, in order for a government to have the authority to make laws and the power to enforce them, the government must be recognized by the governed as legitimate. Without legitimacy, the people will not obey their government’s laws or mechanisms of enforcement.

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the philosophical underpinnings of the American political system through the exploration of important theories such as the “social contract” theory and the concept of the “natural law.”

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Forms and Functions of Government

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. What is popular sovereignty, and how did it help shape the formation of the U.S. Constitution? Given what you know about popular sovereignty, why did the Founders opt for a representative democracy instead of a direct democracy?

Ans: Popular sovereignty is the idea that the people within a nation ultimately hold the power. This concept is reflected throughout the Constitution, especially in the preamble, which begins with “We the People.” The concept of popular sovereignty is also reflected in the American system of government as a whole, most notably in the process by which government officials are selected. The Founders wanted to make sure that the people had some power over who would represent them at the federal level, but did not want to give the people too much power, and so instituted a system of representative democracy. In a representative democracy, elections are held so people can choose who will govern on their behalf. Citizens are not responsible for making policies or other governing decisions themselves, but instead select people to do that for them.

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. What is the primary difference between a representative democracy and a direct democracy? Do you believe that the United States should maintain its system of representative democracy, or do you believe that a direct democracy would be more beneficial to the functioning of the United States? Explain why.

Ans: Answers will vary, but students should demonstrate an understanding of the difference between representative democracy and direct democracy. In a representative democracy, the people select others to govern on their behalf, while in a direct democracy, laws and other governing decisions are made by the people themselves. Students should then evaluate whether a representative democracy has been working and will continue to work for the American political system, or if the increased access to information in modern times warrants a more direct democracy. Students should explain the reasoning behind their answers.

Learning Objective: 1.3: Assess the importance of the value of popular sovereignty and how that value is realized through “representative democracy” in the United States.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: American Government and Politics

Difficulty Level: Hard

7. Briefly define political culture and explain why it is important for a society to have a political culture. How is American political culture unique compared to other nations?

Ans: Answers should include a brief definition of political culture, which are the core values about the role and operation of government that are held among members of a society. Students should explain that political culture is important in that it influences the enduring health and politics of a nation and helps define how a society thinks politically. The text mentions one primary reason for the uniqueness of American political culture that students should discuss, which is the lack of common ancestry and the prioritization of diversity that comes with that.

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. The text mentions several values that make up American political culture. Choose at least two of those values and explain how they influence American politics. Of the values you have discussed, which one do you believe has the greatest overall impact on American political culture? Why?

Ans: Answers will vary, but students should recall the values mentioned in the text and be able to discuss at least two values and their influence on politics. Students may choose from majority rule, limited government, diversity, individualism, and equality of opportunity. Then, they should evaluate the values they selected, determine which value they believe has the greatest impact on American political culture overall, and provide a rationale for their response.

Learning Objective: 1.4: Define *political culture* and describe the unique combination of political beliefs and values that form the American political culture.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: American Political Culture

Difficulty Level: Hard

9. What are the four main arguments mentioned in the text that point to a decline in American democracy? List at least one additional factor that was not mentioned in the text. Why do you believe this factor indicates a decline?

Ans: Answers will vary, but students should be able to list the four main arguments mentioned in the text that point to a decline in American politics, which are: (1) the United States’ decline as an economic superpower, (2) the decline of capitalism, (3) hyper-partisan attitudes causing legislative gridlock, and (4) the corruption of American politics due to the influence of money. Next, students should be able to list one additional factor that they believe might also indicate a decline in the health of American democracy, which could include a decline in religious beliefs among younger generations, a lack of patriotism, or any other factor students can think of. Students must, however, be able to explain why they believe that factor indicates a decline in American democracy.

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Case for Decline

Difficulty Level: Hard

10. As the textbook points out, concerns about the decline in the health of American democracy are likely the result of historical patterns that have re-emerged in recent years and are not actually indicators of a declining democracy. Do you agree with this argument? If so, why? If not, elaborate upon the points made in the text as to why the political and socioeconomic conditions in recent years signal a true decline in American democracy.

Ans: Answers will vary, but students should carefully consider the argument laid out in the text and evaluate its accuracy. Students may believe that current conditions are far worse than historically similar conditions, or they may agree with the text that it is simply a matter of a historical pattern or trend. Students who disagree with the text should elaborate more on the points made as to why declines in economic prowess and capitalism, as well as divisive partisan attitudes and the influence of money in American politics, really are worse now than they ever have been.

Learning Objective: 1.5: Assess the health of American democracy and evaluate whether the American system is in decline by applying a historical perspective on contemporary politics.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: But Do These Problems Really Signify a Decline?

Difficulty Level: Hard