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Interest Groups

□ Multiple-Choice Questions

1. When a case that an interest group is interested in, but not actually sponsoring, comes before a court, the group can _____.
 - a. meet with judges to explain the group's policy preferences
 - b. file an *amicus curiae* brief to present the group's analysis of the case
 - c. file an appeal to move the case to a different court
 - d. file a petition to get the group added to the list of plaintiffs
 - e. offer monetary incentives to the judges in the case

2. Which of the following raise money from individuals and then distribute it in the form of contributions to political candidates?
 - a. 527 organizations
 - b. coordinating committees
 - c. 501(c)3 organizations
 - d. political action committees
 - e. party committees

3. A(n) _____ refers to an organization that seeks to influence public policy.
 - a. corporation
 - b. interest group
 - c. institute
 - d. faction
 - e. administration

4. What is lobbying?
 - a. communicating with government officials to persuade them to support a particular policy position
 - b. conducting surveys to gauge public opinion on a policy issue
 - c. convincing potential members to join an interest group by offering them material benefits
 - d. fundraising for political candidates
 - e. educating the public about the activities of government

5. The _____ problem occurs when people fail to join a group because they can get the benefits the group offers without contributing to the group's efforts.
 - a. free rider
 - b. pluralist
 - c. collective good
 - d. group coordination
 - e. group formation

6. What is a trade association?
 - a. a coalition of public interest groups in a specific policy area, such as environmental policy
 - b. an organization that coordinates exchanges of information and resources among multiple interest groups
 - c. a type of labor union
 - d. an organization that represents businesses within a specific industry
 - e. an organization that represents the federal government during the negotiation of international trade agreements

7. What is a public interest group?
 - a. a group that conducts research and analysis on public policy issues
 - b. a group that expresses its political views publicly
 - c. a group that works to gain benefits for society as a whole
 - d. a group that most people in society are aware of
 - e. a group that represents workers within a particular industry

8. Which of the following is the main type of organization that lobbies on behalf of workers?
 - a. public interest group
 - b. trade association
 - c. corporation
 - d. labor union
 - e. ideological group

9. Which of the following is an example of a public interest group?
- a consumer rights group
 - a professional association
 - a labor union
 - a group representing a state government
 - a political action committee
10. Which of the following is an example of an economic interest group?
- the National Rifle Association
 - the American Association of Retired People (AARP)
 - the Chamber of Commerce
 - the National Organization for Women
 - the National Education Association
11. How did Madison propose to overcome the problem of factions in Federalist No. 10?
- by restricting private property rights
 - by banning the formation of interest groups
 - by discouraging citizens from expressing their political views in public
 - by adopting a system of direct democracy
 - by adopting a system of representative government and allowing factions to form and compete with one another
12. How do lobbyists typically seek to influence members of Congress?
- by introducing bills
 - by filing *amicus curiae* briefs
 - by organizing protests and demonstrations on Capitol Hill
 - by providing technical expertise on policy issues
 - by offering them money to vote a particular way
13. How do interest groups lobby the courts?
- through letter-writing campaigns addressed to particular judges
 - by publishing editorials in major newspapers stating their views on cases
 - by bringing lawsuits to the courts on behalf of classes of citizens
 - by testifying before congressional committees
 - by meeting with judges to express their views on cases
14. How do interest groups lobby the executive branch?
- by filing lawsuits
 - by appearing at administrative hearings to offer information
 - by offering political action committee (PAC) contributions to agency heads
 - by filing *amicus curiae* briefs
 - by drafting and introducing bills

15. Members of Congress who receive contributions from political action committees (PACs) _____.
- always vote in favor of the groups' policy positions
 - avoid voting on matters of concern to PACs, so as not to appear biased
 - make sure that the PACs are granted access to the members and their staff
 - typically receive negative publicity for accepting PAC money
 - are increasingly rare, given that most members of Congress have sworn off PAC contributions
16. Which of the following is an activity that lobbyists regularly engage in?
- answering e-mails from elected officials' constituents
 - speaking on behalf of elected officials at press conferences
 - providing elected officials with information about an interest group's position on a bill or issue
 - providing legal counsel to interest groups in court cases
 - introducing bills in Congress
17. How might pluralism serve to enhance democracy?
- by requiring people to join interest groups
 - by ensuring that no single interest becomes dominant
 - by allowing policy makers to ignore the demands of certain organizations
 - by discouraging bargaining and compromise on policy issues
 - by streamlining the legislative process
18. How does grassroots/outside lobbying differ from other efforts by interest groups to influence government?
- Grassroots/outside lobbying focuses more than other forms of advocacy on cultivating relationships with elected officials.
 - Grassroots/outside lobbying is more effective than other forms of advocacy.
 - Grassroots/outside lobbying is more heavily regulated than other forms of advocacy.
 - Grassroots/outside lobbying focuses more than other forms of advocacy on influencing public opinion to support groups' goals.
 - Grassroots lobbying is more costly than other forms of advocacy.
19. How does lobbying the executive branch differ from lobbying Congress?
- Fewer interest groups lobby Congress than lobby the executive branch.
 - Fewer interest groups lobby the executive branch than lobby Congress.
 - Lobbying the executive branch has less impact on government than lobbying Congress.
 - Lobbying the executive branch focuses more on rule making, whereas lobbying Congress focuses more on pending legislation.
 - Lobbying the executive branch focuses more on pending legislation, whereas lobbying Congress focuses more on elections.

20. You are the leader of a consumer rights group that has been unable to get a meeting with your elected representative in Congress. How could you get the attention of your legislator on the issues your group cares about?
- Organize a demonstration in the representative's district and invite the media.
 - File an *amicus curiae* brief.
 - Draft a bill and introduce it in Congress.
 - Form a political action committee.
 - Contact the Consumer Products Safety Commission.
21. You are a policy analyst in the Department of Energy. You were just offered a job with a renewable energy company. How long must you wait before you can lobby the Department of Energy on behalf of your new employer?
- 6 months
 - 1 year
 - 2 years
 - 4 years
 - 5 years
22. Why is grassroots/outside lobbying an effective political tactic?
- Grassroots lobbying shapes public opinion, and elected officials are known to respond to public opinion.
 - Interest groups rarely engage in grassroots lobbying, so when they use this tactic, elected officials take notice.
 - Grassroots lobbyists collect and bundle together campaign contributions from multiple individuals. This results in one large campaign contribution and thus maximizes the impact of each contributor.
 - Grassroots lobbying depends on building personal connections with elected officials, who are more likely to listen to groups that they know and like.
 - Grassroots lobbying emphasizes publicly shaming elected officials for various wrongdoings, and elected officials are strongly motivated to avoid negative publicity.
23. Why was Madison particularly concerned about factions in *Federalist No. 10*?
- He believed that factions pursuing their self-interest would work against the broader public interest.
 - He worried that factions were too focused on the public good and that they neglected to take care of their own needs.
 - He worried that the Constitution did not provide enough opportunities for factions to be involved in politics.
 - He worried that factions might prevent the Constitution from being ratified.
 - He worried that the faction he belonged to would lose power if the Constitution were ratified.

24. To which of the following might political action committees (PACs) invest their contributions in order to maximize their political influence?
- a. members of the minority party in Congress
 - b. campaigns of challengers
 - c. campaigns of incumbents
 - d. presidential candidates only
 - e. candidates for state and local offices only
25. Interest groups are important subjects of study in American politics because _____.
- a. they are always successful in getting their demands met by government
 - b. they provide a venue for citizens to participate in government
 - c. most lobbyists eventually serve in Congress
 - d. they determine what issues get covered in the media
 - e. they determine who runs for elected office