Unit IV Test Political Parties, Media & Interest Groups
Practice Test

1. Ticket-splitting refers to:
   (A) the procedure used to conduct computerized, automated vote counting.
   (B) voting for one party for one office, and another party for other offices.
   (C) voting for a party other than the one you identify with.
   (D) switching membership in political parties.
   (E) voting with one party in one presidential election, and another party in the next presidential election.

2. Lobbyists provide members of Congress all of the following EXCEPT:
   (A) expertise.
   (B) ideas and innovations.
   (C) information.
   (D) help with accomplishing their legislative goals.
   (E) soft money contributions made directly to their campaigns

3. During most of the past forty years, the trends in party identification in the United States have been
   (A) that voters increasingly identify with one or the other major political party.
   (B) a sharp rise in the number of people identifying with minor parties.
   (C) a decline in party desertion.
   (D) an increase in both parties of strong party identification among the electorate.
   (E) a decline in both parties and an increase in independents.

4. American political parties tend to take middle-of-the-road stands on major issues
   (A) because most of the American electorate is centrist.
   (B) while the public tends to have stronger opinions
   (C) because most of the American electorate does not have political opinions.
   (D) because of the influence of interest groups.
   (E) in spite of evidence that more extreme positions generate more excitement and likelihood for electoral victory.

5. Sound bites are
   (A) a form of censorship widely used in Great Britain.
   (B) short clips of a political speech.
   (C) leaks by official sources used to test the political waters"
   (D) portions of political speeches that have been deleted.
   (E) audio political ads that are broadcast on the Internet.

6. Single-issue groups
   (A) include members with narrow interests.
   (B) lack financial resources.
   (C) are not taken seriously because they lack a large constituency.
   (D) have had little effect on the outcomes of elections.
   (E) lack expertise.

7. Unlike interest groups, political parties
   (A) are policy specialists.
   (B) do not take positions on policy issues.
   (C) are policy-driven.
   (D) are policy generalists.
   (E) have a narrower scope than interest groups.

8. The free-rider problem refers to
   (A) legislators who face no election opponents, and thus are automatically reelected.
   (B) welfare fraud and the costs it imposes on government and taxpayers.
   (C) potential members of a group failing to join the actual group, as they know they will receive the same benefits whether they are active members or not.
   (D) unrelated amendments being added to a piece of legislation in order to bypass usual procedures.
   (E) mass transit scofflaws who endanger government aid to subways, buses, and commuter trains by not being officially counted.

9. Since 1960, newspaper circulation has:
   (A) slightly increased
   (B) greatly increased
   (C) become irrelevant
   (D) declined
   (E) remained steady

10. Elitist theorists argue that
    (A) wealthy groups exercise a disproportionate degree of power.
    (B) all legitimate groups are able to affect public policy by one means or another.
    (C) the government has chosen to advance the interests of all groups.
    (D) governments should be controlled by a select group of well-educated, cultured, wealthy persons who understand the laws of economics and can run the most efficient government.
    (E) large groups are at a disadvantage.

11. Most PAC money goes overwhelmingly to incumbents because incumbents
    (A) need more money due to the restraints of being in office.
    (B) lack name recognition.
    (C) are likely to win reelection.
    (D) display a higher sense of ethics than challengers.
    (E) have low rates of reelection.

12. Business PACs
    (A) are no longer legal.
    (B) have increased more dramatically than any other category of PACs.
    (C) have not been as effective as labor and consumer PACs.
    (D) contribute money to candidates of one party only.
    (E) are not subject to federal regulation.

13. Which is a linkage institution?
    (A) Congress
    (B) federal courts
    (C) Executive Office of the President
    (D) federal agencies
    (E) political parties

14. When journalists select stories to cover, the overriding bias is toward
    (A) stories involving the most important policy issues of the day.
    (B) international stories.
    (C) stories about Congress.
    (D) stories that will draw the largest audience.
    (E) stories about the Supreme Court.

15. According to theorists, interest groups compete and counterbalance one another in the political marketplace.
    (A) hyperpluralist
    (B) free market
    (C) pluralist
    (D) hyperelitist
    (E) elitist

16. Since 1968, American politics has largely been characterized by
    (A) divided government.
    (B) Republican control of both the Congress and presidency.
    (C) the New Deal coalition.
    (D) Democratic control of both the Congress and presidency.
    (E) Democratic control of the presidency and Republican control of Congress.

17. A political party serves all of the following functions in the American political system EXCEPT:
    (A) Party labels can help voters assess the political attitudes of candidates for public office
    (B) Parties can serve as watchdogs of public officials, particularly those of the opposite political party.
    (C) Parties provide voters with a wider variety of candidates than would be the case if political parties did not exist.
    (D) Parties can provide citizens with information about public issues, particularly regarding the party's stance on the issue.
    (E) Parties help organize government, especially in terms of Congressional leadership.

18. In closed primaries,
    (A) voters cannot cross party lines.
    (B) voters may choose on election day which party primary they want to participate in.
    (C) voters may vote for candidates of mUltiple parties.
    (D) voters may vote for candidates from either party
    (E) independents may vote for candidates of any party

19. People get most of their news from
    (A) magazines.
    (B) their friends.
    (C) radio.
    (D) newspapers.
    (E) television.

20. The policy agenda is
    (A) the laws that have been passed in previous terms of Congress.
    (B) a list of priorities to which government officials address their time and energies.
    (C) the daily schedule of presidential appointments.
    (D) a linkage institution between people and government.
    (E) the list of cases before the Supreme Court

21. Regarding the amount of news coverage each gets on the network news,
    (A) Congress and the president get equal amounts of coverage.
    (B) the 535 members of Congress receive more coverage than the president.
    (C) the Senate gets the most coverage, then the president, then the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court ranks fourth.
    (D) the Congress, the president, and the Supreme Court receive equal coverage.
    (E) the president receives more coverage than Congress.

22. An *amicus curiae* brief is
    (A) a lawsuit that is expected to be resolved quickly.
    (B) an oral or written appeal of a court decision made by an interest group which is party to the particular case.
    (C) a written argument submitted to the courts in support of one side of a case.
    (D) the written statement of a court's decision in a case explaining the reasons for the decision.
    (E) an oral or written appeal of a court decision made by the losing party.

23. Political parties perform all of the following tasks EXCEPT
    (A) registering voters.
    (B) raising money for campaigns.
    (C) assisting the president in making appointments to office.
    (D) enforcing rigid adherence to their policy positions.
    (E) advocating public policies.

24. Which of the following behaviors illustrates the weakening of political parties since the 1960s?
    I. Split-ticket voting
    II. Increase in the number of independents
    III. The growth of a gender gap among voters
    (A) I only
    (B) II only
    (C) III only
    (D) I and II
    (E) I and III

25. The Freedom of Information Act passed in 1967:
    (A) Permitted agencies to award litigation costs and fees to parties in agency adjudications.
    (B) Gave citizens the right to inspect unprotected government documents.
    (C) Gave government corporations the ability to engage in industrial espionage.
    (D) Gave the Executive Branch access to information collected by Congress.
    (E) Gave the courts reasonable access to the prior records of persons accused of crimes.

26. Which of the following is NOT one of the basic interest group strategies in America?
    (A) endorsement of candidates
    (B) influencing rules and regulations of federal agencies
    (C) making campaign contributions
    (D) lobbying
    (E) litigating

27. Individuals aged 24 and under are
    (A) less likely than older individuals to use the Internet for news.
    (B) more likely than older individuals to spend time getting news.
    (C) more likely to rely on newspapers than on television as a news source.
    (D) less likely than older individuals to follow the news using television, newspapers, or radio.
    (E) more likely than older individuals to use newsmagazines as a news source.

28. People gradually moving away from both parties is referred to as
    (A) partisan drift.
    (B) dealignment.
    (C) coalition politics.
    (D) alignment
    (E) realignment.

29. Political Action Committees (PACs):
    (A) Have roots that originated in the nineteenth century
    (B) Have declined in popularity in recent years
    (C) May contribute up to $1,000 a year to a political candidate
    (D) May contribute up to $5,000 for a candidate
    (E) Make unlimited contributions to political candidates

30. Which of the following statements about interest groups are accurate?
    I. Interest group activities, to influence public policy-making at the national level, are aimed almost entirely at Congress
    II. The influence of labor unions on public policy-making has declined since 1945
    III. Business organizations are the most numerous and powerful interest groups in America
    (A) I only
    (B) II only
    (C) III only
    (D) I and II only
    (E) II and III only

31. Critical elections in the United States typically have occurred:
    (A) As a result of a temporary shift in the popular coalition supporting one or both parties
    (B) Whenever a third party has secured more than fifteen percent of the presidential vote
    (C) Each time a Republican has been elected President
    (D) When voter turnout has declined significantly from the previous election
    (E) When groups of voters have changed their traditional patterns of party loyalties

32. Which of the following represents the most effective way for a president to manage news coverage?
    (A) Controlling the flow of information by the use of a Press Secretary
    (B) Staying on the defensive on issues
    (C) Having different members of the president's staff speak to the press on different days.
    (D) Avoiding presidential photo-opportunities
    (E) Giving reporters unlimited access to the president

33. Voting a straight ticket reflects
    (A) Voter apathy
    (B) Party loyalty
    (C) Weak party structure
    (D) Influence of campaign advertising
    (E) Support for the Democratic Party

34. Cross-Ownership refers to:
    (A) A company owning radio and television stations in different parts of the country.
    (B) Companies like Gannet that own numerous newspapers.
    (C) A company owning a newspaper and television station in the same market
    (D) Entertainment giants like Walt Disney Company owning television networks
    (E) Cable companies that are the sole service providers in a community

35. Which statement about lobbying and lobbyists is not true?
    (A) Lobbyists frequently provide needed information to public officials.
    (B) Lobbyists sometimes invite legislators to social occasions such as cocktail parties
    (C) Lobbyists sometimes write or help write pieces of legislation.
    (D) Lobbyists can exert influence when they testify before executive rule making agencies
    (E) Lobbyists may provide gifts and trips for legislators

36. Which of the following techniques would a lobbyist be likely to use to influence legislation in Congress?
    I. Organize a demonstration in Washington just before a key House vote
    II. Ensure that the corporation's political action committee makes donations to the campaigns of members of key committees
    III. Meet informally with Senate aides over lunch or cocktails
    IV. Bring influential constituents to Washington to discuss important policy matters with representatives
    (A) I only
    (B) II only
    (C) II, III, and IV only
    (D) I, II, and III only
    (E) I, II, III, and IV

37. Which of the following PACs probably donated more heavily to Democrats than to Republicans?
    (A) National Rifle Association (NRA)
    (B) American Medical Association (AMA)
    (C) United Auto Workers (UAW)
    (D) National Association of Retailers (NAR)
    (E) American for Tax Reform (ATR)

38. Party realignment occurs when:
(A) A majority of the voters register as independents
(B) There is a shift in voter support from one party to another
(C) There is a change in which party controls one or both houses of Congress
(D) The president is form one party but the Congress is in the hands of another
(E) A third party determines the outcome of the election

39. Polls show that reporters, in both print and broadcast journalism, consider themselves:
(A) Liberals
(B) Moderates
(C) Conservatives
(D) Libertarians
(E) Apolitical

40. A member of which of the following demographic groups would be least likely to support a Democratic candidate for president?
(A) African American
(B) Upper income
(C) Urban
(D) Northern Protestant
(E) Under thirty years of age

41. Political Spin means:
(A) The attempts of handlers to present a favorable account of events
(B) The whirlwind trips that candidates must make during a campaign
(C) A candidate's flip-flopping of his opinions
(D) The news media's coverage of political events
(E) Newspaper editorials taking a stand on an issue

42. In a congressional race, the news media are LEAST likely to focus on
(A) which candidate is ahead in the polls
(B) in-depth reporting on the issues on which the candidates disagree
(C) negative statements made by one candidate about the other
(D) any scandal or accusations of scandal involving a candidate
(E) blunders a candidate makes

43. Subgovernments are composed of key interest group leaders interested in policy X, the government agency in charge of administering policy X, and the _____ handling policy X.
(A) congressional committees and subcommittees
(B) federal courts
(C) public relations officers
(D) political candidates
(E) local governments

44. All of the following obstacles of 3rd parties winning elections except:
(A) Single-member, winner-take-all district system
(B) Lack of media coverage
(C) United States history of a two-party tradition
(D) Raising issues the other parties won't
(E) Exclusion from TV debates

45. The "electronic throne" refers to all of the following except?
(A) President bypassing journalist with a speech directly to the people.
(B) President increasing communication through the white house press secretary.
(C) Decline the number of presidential press conferences.
(D) White house manipulating photo opportunities.
(E) Increasing presidential use of speaking in sound bites.

46. The core function of political parties is to
(A) educate young people to the duties of citizenship
(B) articulate policies
(C) provide voters with information about candidates
(D) win elections
(E) control interest groups

47. The type of interest group that is LEAST LIKELY to give money to Democratic candidates is
(A) corporations
(B) labor unions
(C) women's groups
(D) civil rights organizations
(E) "public interest" organizations

48. An important difference between political parties and interest groups is that interest groups usually do NOT:
(A) try to influence the president's proposal for legislation
(B) contact agencies within the executive branch
(C) try to influence the decisions of congressional committees
(D) try to place their members in public office
(E) organize on the state and local levels

49. In U. S. history, third parties often have been effective vehicles for change when they:
(A) repeated slogans and issues that a major party stood for
(B) threatened violence as a means of drawing attention to an issue
(C) were based on definite political ideologies
(D) appealed to regional issues
(E) addressed issues and suggested remedies that were being ignored by the major parties

50. Lobbyists are most useful to members of Congress in providing the service of:
(A) speech writing
(B) direct mail fund raising
(C) conducting public opinion polls
(D) providing specialized information
(E) making public endorsements of candidates for office

51. The revolving door refers to the practice of:
(A) State legislation mirroring national legislation
(B) Welfare recipients going off benefits when they find employment but returning when their jobs end.
(C) Interest groups hiring ex-government officials to work as lobbyists in Washington
(D) Applying the budget surplus to the deficit only to find that the national debt has increased
(E) Shifting expenses from the national budget items to the states

52. The phrase "political machines" describes
(A) the current control of political campaigns by media and polling experts
(B) the various organizations that ensure that the majority party in Congress maintains their control
(C) local party organizations that controlled government and politics during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries
(D) the efficient way in which votes are counted today
(E) large, wealthy interest groups that have disproportionate influence over members of Congress

53. Which of the following best describes the attitude of most of the founders toward the development of political parties?
(A) The founders believed that political parties are divisive, and they hoped that they would not form in the new nation.
(B) Political parties were already well developed by the time the Constitution was written, and the founders accepted them as part of politics.
(C) The founders intended to create a multi-party system because they feared two parties would monopolize power.
(D) Most of the founders belonged to political parties, and many parts of the Constitution reflect their desire to promote their development.
(E) The founders supported the development of political parties on the state level, but not on the national level.

54. Which of the following is an important consequence of "divided government"?
(A) Very few federal regulations are consistently applied throughout all fifty states.
(B) The judicial system is usually "out of step" with the other two branches of government.
(C) Since the legislature is dominated by one party and the presidency by another, the resulting "gridlock" means that government business is significantly slowed down.
(D) Since the president cannot agree with the vice president, Congress generally takes the lead in policymaking.
(E) So much disagreement exists among the state governments that policies vary widely and unfairly from state to state.

55. The concept that the American political process is dominated by the struggle of multiple interest groups each trying to advance its own political goals can best be described as
(A) democracy
(B) pluralism
(C) free enterprise
(D) socialism
(E) elitism

56. All of the following are generally seen by political scientists as critical, realigning elections EXCEPT:
(A) 1828
(B) 1860
(C) 1896
(D) 1932
(E) 1960

57. PAC money is controversial for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:
(A) PACs disproportionately represent business interests, thus giving business undue influence over members of Congress.
(B) PACs are more likely to support incumbents than challengers, thus discouraging competitive elections.
(C) PACs give more money to Republicans, thus giving the party an unfair advantage.
(D) Some critics believe that the practices of PACs are little different from legalized bribery.
(E) Members of Congress have depended more and more heavily on contributions from PACs in recent years.

58. All of the following may be called "linkage institutions" EXCEPT:
(A) Courts of Appeals
(B) interest groups
(C) political parties
(D) PACs
(E) the media

59. All of the following are commonly used by interest groups to influence public policy EXCEPT:
(A) participating in iron triangles
(B) paying for media campaigns
(C) forming PACs
(D) selecting candidates to run for office
(E) endorsing candidates

60. Which is a reason the power of the two major parties is in decline in the United States?
(A) The number of people voting for third parties has risen sharply.
(B) In most states, parties no longer select the candidates for the general election.
(C) Parties no longer have state and local organizations.
(D) Parties no longer conduct get-out-the-vote drives.
(E) Candidates now raise most of their campaign funds themselves and do not heavily rely on funds from their party.