Party Politics in America 17th edition Hershey Test Bank

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Chapter 2

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Which of the following is true of party systems?
   a. There are no democracies with a one-party system.
   b. The U.S. party system has been a one-party system most of the time.
   c. Some democratic nations have had extensive periods of one-party rule.
   d. Almost all democracies have a two-party system.

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

2. In a _____, when one single party fails to win a majority of the votes, then two or more parties come together in a coalition in order to govern.
   a. winner-take-all system
   b. local election
   c. multi-party system
   d. separation of powers system

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

3. Most *state* party systems in the U.S. are:
   a. relatively safe for one party or the other
   b. extremely competitive
   c. nonpartisan
   d. multi-party

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

4. The Ranney Index measures:
   a. the strength of minor parties in the states
   b. the proportion of landslide victories in state elections
   c. the effects of national events on state elections
   d. competition between the Democrats and Republicans in the states

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

5. Since 1964, the average success rate for incumbents seeking reelection to the U.S. House was _____ percent.
   a. 50
   b. 93
   c. 25

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d. 78
skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

6. Which of the following is NOT an advantage that incumbents have in congressional elections?
   a. Name recognition.
   b. Fund-raising.
   c. Term limits.
   d. Media coverage.

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

7. Which is true about "swing districts" in the U.S. Congress?
   a. They have become much more common during the past 25 years.
   b. They have become much less common during the past 25 years.
   c. They are normally won by minor-party candidates.
   d. They are typically won by landslides.

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

8. When the number of swing districts declines, the result has been to eliminate most of the _____.
   a. radicals in Congress
   b. ideologically extreme members of Congress
   c. need to raise large sums of money
   d. moderate members of Congress

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

9. The assertion that plurality elections in single-member districts tend to produce two-party systems is called:
   a. proportional representation
   b. Duverger's Law
   c. Obama's Law
   d. institutional forces

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

10. Minor parties tend to be weaker in a system with _____ because they do not have a realistic chance of winning the presidency.
    a. a single executive
    b. proportional representation

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c. plurality rules
d. nonpartisan elections

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

11. The less diverse its people are, in terms of the demographic characteristics that typically divide Republicans from Democrats, the more likely the district is to:
    a. foster intense two-party competition
    b. be dominated by one party
    c. foster minor party competition
    d. encourage interest group activity in politics

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

12. Nonpartisan elections:
    a. were strongly opposed by the Progressive movement
    b. took root mainly in cities where the parties were already strong
    c. are held in most American cities and towns
    d. increase voter turnout

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

13. The strongest vote getter of any minor party in the past quarter century has been the _____ Party.
    a. American
    b. Reform
    c. Green
    d. Libertarian

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

14. Which minor party claims credit for public policies such as minimum wage?
    a. The Libertarian Party.
    b. The Socialist Party.
    c. The Green Party.
    d. The Reform Party.

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

15. Who was the only minor party candidate since 1975 to receive almost 20 percent of the popular vote for president?
    a. Arnold Schwarzenegger.
    b. Theodore Roosevelt.

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c. Ross Perot.
d. Joe Biden.

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

16. Independent candidates:
a. must usually get a lot of signatures on petitions to get on the ballot
b. tend to get fewer votes than minor-party candidates do
c. face the same requirements to get on the ballot as major-party candidates do
d. must run as the candidate of a minor party

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

17. Since 1952, approximately how many members of Congress have been elected on a minor party ticket?
a. More than 100.
b. Between 5 and 100.
c. Fewer than 5.
d. None.

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

18. Minor party presidential candidates can receive public funding for their campaigns if they receive at least _____ percent of the popular vote.
a. 5
b. 20
c. 25
d. 30

skill level: factual
difficulty: easy

Identifications/Short Answer Questions

Define each of the following terms and briefly explain why it is relevant to the study of political parties.

19. The incumbency advantage.

20. Party competition.

21. Proportional representation.

22. Minor parties.

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23. Independent candidates.

Essay Questions

24. What are the main reasons why there is close inter-party competition in presidential elections, but most statewide elections are dominated by one party or the other?

25. What are the major explanations as to why the United States has a two-party system rather than a one-party or a multi-party system?

26. What are the primary reasons why minor parties have so much trouble electing candidates in American politics?

27. What are the advantages to American citizens of having a two-party system? What are the disadvantages? How would a multi-party system change American politics?

28. What are the main forces that tend to produce one-party politics in an area? What are the likely consequences for citizens in that area of having a one-party system rather than two-party competition?

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