

Beliefs and Behaviors—Multiple Choice Practice

1. Reapportionment of seats in the House of Representatives occurs
 - a. Every four years after a presidential election
 - b. When the minority party wins a majority of the House
 - c. After every four congressional election cycles
 - d. Every ten years as a result of the census report
 - e. When the president requests it through executive order
2. Which of the following factors has a significant influence over the accuracy of a political poll?
 - a. The wording of the question
 - b. The number of people in the sample
 - c. The age of the people in the sample
 - d. The number of questions asked
 - e. The geographic distribution of the people in the sample
3. All of the following influence the way citizens form their political beliefs EXCEPT
 - a. Schooling
 - b. Family
 - c. Religion
 - d. Mass media
 - e. State of residence
4. One reason that minority groups are more likely to favor liberal policies is that they
 - a. Have highly developed political knowledge
 - b. Typically pay more in federal income taxes
 - c. Have benefitted from federal social programs in the past
 - d. Have a greater distrust of government
 - e. Usually belong to a high socioeconomic class
5. Senior citizens are the most politically active age group of Americans for which of the following reasons?
 - I. They have had more experiences from which to form their political beliefs and reinforce their ideology.
 - II. They have more disposable income with which they can influence politicians
 - III. They are the largest age group, and therefore they form a majority.
 - IV. Enrollment programs such as Social Security require recipients to vote
 - a. I only
 - b. III only
 - c. I and III only
 - d. II and IV only
 - e. II, III and IV only
6. Conservatives are likely to endorse all of the following EXCEPT
 - a. Right to life
 - b. Tax cuts
 - c. Deregulation of the economic sector
 - d. Welfare programs
 - e. Defense spending

7. Politicians usually pay attention to public opinion as reported in polls in order to
 - a. Decide whether to change party affiliation
 - b. Shape their platform for the next election
 - c. Form coalitions in Congress
 - d. Know if they should run for reelection
 - e. Solicit campaign contributions
8. According to the prediction of the gender gap, women are more likely to
 - a. Vote for a Democratic candidate
 - b. Support military spending
 - c. Vote for an Independent candidate
 - d. Disapprove of increased social spending
 - e. Vote for a Republican candidate
9. Which of the following would occur if a minority majority developed in the electorate?
 - a. Hispanic Americans would outnumber African Americans
 - b. Female conservatives would outnumber male conservatives
 - c. Asian Americans would outnumber Hispanic Americans
 - d. Voters under the age of 30 would outnumber senior citizens
 - e. The minority population would outnumber the Caucasian population
10. Young Americans are the least politically active group for all of the following reasons EXCEPT
 - a. They have little political experience
 - b. They are not likely to watch the news or read newspapers
 - c. They have been taught to distrust the government
 - d. They have not developed a sense of what they need from government
 - e. They have not witnessed the impact of governmental policies
11. Who is most likely to receive attention in the media?
 - a. The secretary of defense
 - b. The speaker of the House
 - c. The Senate majority leader
 - d. The president
 - e. The chief justice of the Supreme Court
12. The majority of journalists label themselves
 - a. Liberal
 - b. Politically apathetic
 - c. Independent
 - d. Conservative
 - e. Radical
13. During a presidential campaign, the media focuses its attention primarily on
 - a. Each candidate's position on foreign policy issues
 - b. The candidates previous political experience
 - c. The issues most important to the electorate
 - d. The party platform of each candidate
 - e. The daily campaign activities of the two candidates
14. Candidates hinder voters from making their decision most by
 - a. Appearing in more than one presidential debate
 - b. Being ambiguous about their position on important issues
 - c. Focusing their attention more on some states than others
 - d. Failing to draw attention to their previous political experience
 - e. Introducing new policy issues into the campaign.

15. Which of the following statements are true about the media's agenda-setting function?
- I. Media outlets choose which stories to cover based on which ones are likely to receive high ratings
 - II. By focusing on stories that attract public attention, the media can force politicians to confront issues that they might not have otherwise addressed.
 - III. The media have become less influential over the political agenda in the past few decades
 - IV. The Federal Communications Commission is primarily responsible for determining the content of the news.
 - V. The government has a significant amount of influences over the political agenda presented in the media because most news is gathered from official sources.
- a. I and II only
 - b. IV and V only
 - c. I, II, and V only
 - d. II, III, and IV only
 - e. I, IV, and V only
16. What is one foreseeable political consequence of narrowcasting?
- a. The print media will appeal to a greater percentage of the public
 - b. Politicians will have more freedom to act according to their own agenda, because they will be able to avoid the public eye.
 - c. Journalists will be forced to concentrate more on political issues than on politicians
 - d. The gap between the political elite and the politically uniformed majority will increase
 - e. The public will have less access to political information.
17. A journalist who regularly reports on predictions about the stock market would probably be on which of the following beats?
- a. White house
 - b. Senate appropriations committee
 - c. Department of the Interior
 - d. Congress
 - e. Federal Reserve Board
18. All of the following have resulted from the growing profusion of sound bites in news reporting EXCEPT
- a. The news media have had to narrow their scope of coverage because they have only a limited amount of material to broadcast
 - b. The news media have increased their influence over the public agenda by selecting what material to feature in sound bites
 - c. The complexity of most issues is not fully understood by the electorate, who might as a result be misled about government actions
 - d. The public tends to judge candidates by their appearance as much as, if not more than, the candidates' stand on foreign and domestic issues
 - e. Politicians do not have to explain their views in much detail because most of their speeches go unreported to the public.
19. If a political candidate wanted to deliver her message to the most politically informed Americans in the electorate, through which medium would she be most likely to reach them?
- a. Television
 - b. Radio
 - c. Mass mailings
 - d. Newspapers
 - e. Internet

20. The electoral votes of most states are allocated by which of the following methods?
- Each party's candidate receives electoral votes based on his or her percentage of the state's popular vote
 - Each elector chooses the candidate whom he or she feels is best suited to represent the needs of the state
 - The winner of the popular election in the state receives 75% of the state's electoral votes and the loser receives 25%
 - All of the state's electors cast their votes for whichever candidate won the state's popular vote.
 - The loser in the popular election receives one electoral vote and the winner receives the rest of the state's electoral votes
21. Which of the following groups usually has the highest voter turnout in a presidential election?
- Women
 - People aged 25-44
 - Members of minority groups
 - Union members
 - Adults with a college education
22. All of the following conditions should be met in order for a person to vote according to his or her policy preferences EXCEPT
- The person must be familiar with each candidate's political beliefs
 - The person must have developed a pattern of policy voting over several elections
 - The person must be politically knowledgeable and have decided his or her own position on political issues
 - The person must decide which policies he or she would like to see continue or change
 - The person must be able to determine political differences among the candidates in order to make an informed decision.
23. About what percentage of the electorate voted in the last few presidential campaigns?
- 20 percent
 - 35 percent
 - 50 percent
 - 65 percent
 - 80 percent
24. One of the most important personal characteristics on which voters base their decision is a presidential candidate's
- Competence
 - Age
 - Charisma
 - Appearance
 - Oratory skills
25. The Motor Voter Act was intended to
- Expand the suffrage to minorities
 - Lower the voting age
 - Redistribute states' electoral votes
 - Increase voter registration
 - Raise the voting age