

Unit Two Political Institutions Part 4 – Bureaucracy

Goals

Students will be able to:

- Identify the major powers of the bureaucracy
- Analyze the reasons for the evolution of the bureaucracy throughout US history
- Understand the history of the US bureaucracy
- Identify the duties and evaluate the relative power of different actors in the bureaucracy
- Analyze the causes of the growth of the modern bureaucracy
- Evaluate the impact of an unelected bureaucracy on our democratic system
- Identify the major agencies of the US government and their powers
- Describe the methods of bureaucratic oversight
- Explain the ways Congress and the president attempt to control the bureaucracy
- Evaluate the relative power of the three branches of government
- Evaluate the impact of public opinion on the bureaucracy
- Describe the relationship between the bureaucracy and linkage institutions such as the media, interest groups, and political parties

Unit 2 is divided into the following sections

1. Congress
2. Presidency
3. Judiciary
4. **Bureaucracy**

UNIT 2 REVIEW—Judiciary & Bureaucracy

20 multiple choice questions. 1 Free Response Question.

Anything from our readings, the textbook, or from class is fair game for the test.

To prepare for the test you should look over your class notes, read any handouts or readings, reread the chapters from the textbook, confer with your classmates, watch any videos and view any links from class, and study the following.

Define the following terms

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Bureaucrat | 9. Merit system |
| 2. Bureaucracy | 10. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) |
| 3. Independent regulatory commission | 11. Office of management and budget (OMB) |
| 4. Independent agency | 12. Hatch Act |
| 5. Government corporation | 13. Implementation |
| 6. Senior Executive Service | 14. Uncontrollable spending |
| 7. Civil service | 15. Entitlement program |
| 8. Spoils system | 16. Oversight |

Answer the following questions

The Bureaucracy

1. How many bureaucrats work for the US government?
2. Describe the evolution of the bureaucracy:
3. Describe the organization of the bureaucracy:
4. What are the three parts of an iron triangle?
5. Compare and contrast the informal and the formal organization of the bureaucracy:

6. What agency staffs the bureaucracy?
7. Describe their hiring practices:
8. Define and describe the 5 principles of bureaucratic management:
9. How does the textbook model of bureaucratic management work?
10. What are the historic roots of American government bureaucracy?
11. What is the public perception of the bureaucracy?
12. In what ways is the bureaucracy being privatized?
13. Describe the relationship between the bureaucracy and the executive branch:
14. Describe the relationship between the bureaucracy and the legislative branch:
15. What was the effect of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978?
16. Describe current reform of the bureaucracy:
17. Has the bureaucracy, as a percentage of the population, risen or declined in the past 10 years?
18. How can the president oversee and control the bureaucracy?
19. How can the Congress oversee and control the bureaucracy?
20. What is the main duty of the OPM?
21. How has the federal bureaucracy changed since the time of the first president?
22. Why is the bureaucracy called the undefined branch?
23. How big is the federal bureaucracy?
24. How do the demographics of the bureaucracy compare with those of the US in general?

Brainstorm

List & define the top 5 terms you think will be on the test.

Practice Questions

1. Which of the following is a way issue networks differ from iron triangles?
 - a. Issue networks only involve federal level issues
 - b. Only issue networks fall before the jurisdiction of the federal courts
 - c. Issue networks tend to have more groups involved in trying to make policy
 - d. Iron triangles tend to form overnight and disband more quickly

2. The term iron triangle refers to the interrelationship of the
 - a. president, Congress, and the Supreme Court
 - b. electorate, Congress, and PACs
 - c. local, state, and federal governments
 - d. federal bureaucracy, congressional committees, and interest groups

3. Which of the following is in the inner cabinet
 - a. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 - b. Department of Health and Human Services
 - c. Department of Homeland Security
 - d. Department of State

4. The chief role of the OMB is to
 - a. prepare the annual budget
 - b. maintain a meritocracy in the bureaucracy
 - c. operate and maintain federal properties
 - d. set interest rates

5. All of the following are true of Independent regulatory boards EXCEPT:
 - a. The president can nominate members, but can't fire them for political reasons
 - b. Their decisions are non-binding and must be approved by the president
 - c. Members of these boards are appointed for fixed terms
 - d. Congress has the power to create these boards
 - e. Congress has the power to confirm their members

6. All of the following help to explain the President's difficulty in controlling cabinet-level agencies EXCEPT:
 - a. Agencies often have political support from interest groups.
 - b. Agency staff often has information and technical expertise that the President and presidential advisers lack.
 - c. The President can not hire or fire any leaders of cabinet level agencies
 - d. Civil servants who remain in their jobs through changes of administration develop loyalties to their agencies.
 - e. Congress is a competitor for influence over the bureaucracy.

7. All of the following are examples of a part of an iron triangle EXCEPT
 - a. an assistant director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - b. a senior staff member of the chairperson of the house transportation committee
 - c. a lobbyist for Greenpeace
 - d. the solicitor general
 - e. an interest group representative

8. All of the following are powers by which Congress can directly regulate the bureaucracy EXCEPT
 - a. appropriation of funds
 - b. directly firing lower level bureaucrats
 - c. hearings and investigations
 - d. establishment and dissolution of agencies
 - e. confirmation of nominees

9. Which of the following are political appointments?
 - a. The Solicitor General
 - b. The FBI Director
 - c. The Supreme Court Chief Justice
 - d. Ambassadors
 - e. All of the above

10. Amtrak is an example of
 - a. a government corporation
 - b. an independent regulatory commission
 - c. a cabinet level department
 - d. the spoils system
 - e. the good results of the Hatch Act of 1993