

Understanding Public Policy

Public Policy · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which of the following best describes the primary role of a policy agenda in the public policy process?

- A) To evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies.
- B) To identify and define the problems that policymakers should address.**
- C) To implement newly enacted legislation.
- D) To lobby for specific policy outcomes.

2. In the context of public policy, 'policy formulation' refers to the stage where:

- A) Problems are identified and potential solutions are developed.**
- B) A policy is debated and voted on by legislative bodies.
- C) Resources are allocated for policy implementation.
- D) The impact of a policy is measured and assessed.

3. Which branch of government is primarily responsible for the implementation of public policy in most democratic systems?

- A) The Legislative Branch
- B) The Judicial Branch
- C) The Executive Branch**
- D) The Independent Regulatory Agencies

4. Cost-benefit analysis is a tool often used in public policy to:

- A) Measure public opinion on a policy.
- B) Determine if the expected benefits of a policy outweigh its costs.**
- C) Identify stakeholders involved in a policy debate.
- D) Forecast the political feasibility of a policy.

5. What is the primary function of parliamentary or congressional committees in the policy process?

- A) To directly enact legislation without debate.
- B) To review, amend, and recommend legislation to the full chamber.**
- C) To exclusively interpret existing laws.
- D) To manage the day-to-day operations of government agencies.

6. The concept of 'policy evaluation' aims to:

- A) Generate new policy ideas.
- B) Assess the success or failure of a policy in achieving its goals.**
- C) Formulate the initial policy proposals.
- D) Secure funding for policy initiatives.

7. Which of the following is an example of a 'regulatory policy'?

- A) Providing funding for public schools.
- B) Setting environmental standards for industries.**
- C) Establishing a national healthcare system.
- D) Implementing a tax cut for individuals.

8. When policymakers consider the 'political feasibility' of a policy, they are most concerned with:

- A) The scientific accuracy of the policy's underlying research.
- B) The potential economic impact on businesses.
- C) The likelihood of gaining sufficient support for its adoption and implementation.**
- D) The administrative capacity to carry out the policy.

9. A 'policy instrument' refers to:

- A) A formal declaration of a policy's goals.
- B) The specific method or tool used to implement a policy.**
- C) The legislative body responsible for a policy area.
- D) The budget allocated to a particular policy.

10. The 'iron triangle' in public policy describes a relationship between:

- A) The media, academics, and the public.
- B) Interest groups, government agencies, and legislative committees.**
- C) The executive branch, the judiciary, and international organisations.
- D) Think tanks, universities, and research institutions.

11. Which of the following is a characteristic of 'distributive policies'?

- A) They concentrate benefits on a narrow group and disperse costs widely.**
- B) They concentrate both benefits and costs on a narrow group.
- C) They disperse both benefits and costs widely.
- D) They concentrate costs on a narrow group and disperse benefits widely.

12. The process by which a problem is framed and brought to the attention of policymakers is known as:

- A) Policy implementation.
- B) Policy evaluation.
- C) Agenda setting.**
- D) Policy legitimization.