

Landmarks in Public Policy History

Public Policy History · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. Which country was the first to implement a national old-age social insurance program in 1889 under Chancellor Otto von Bismarck?

- A) United Kingdom
- B) Germany
- C) United States
- D) France

2. What was the first written legal code in history, which established early public policy regarding justice and social standards?

- A) The Code of Hammurabi
- B) The Magna Carta
- C) The Twelve Tables
- D) The Justinian Code

3. In 1893, which self-governing territory became the first in the world to grant all women the right to vote in parliamentary elections?

- A) Australia
- B) New Zealand
- C) Canada
- D) Finland

4. The 'Beveridge Report', published in 1942, provided the policy blueprint for which major post-war development?

- A) The European Union
- B) The United Nations
- C) The British National Health Service
- D) The Marshall Plan

5. Which US President signed the Social Security Act of 1935, marking the first federal retirement benefit system in the country?

- A) Theodore Roosevelt
- B) Herbert Hoover
- C) Franklin D. Roosevelt
- D) Harry Truman

6. What was the name of the first modern 'think tank' founded in 1916 to provide expert policy analysis to the US government?

- A) Brookings Institution
- B) The Heritage Foundation
- C) RAND Corporation
- D) Council on Foreign Relations

7. Which 19th-century British legislation is widely considered the first modern 'Factory Act' regulating child labour and working hours?

- A) The Poor Law Amendment Act
- B) The Health and Morals of Apprentices Act 1802
- C) The Reform Act 1832
- D) The Mines Act 1842

8. The 'Domesday Book' of 1086 is recognized as one of the earliest examples of what type of public policy tool?

- A) Tax reform
- B) National census and land survey
- C) Environmental protection
- D) Public education registry

9. Which nation established the world's first modern 'Ombudsman' office in 1809 to handle citizen complaints against the government?

- A) Norway
- B) Sweden
- C) Denmark
- D) Finland

10. What did the 1948 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights', adopted by the UN General Assembly, establish as a global policy standard?

- A) International trade tariffs
- B) Universal individual rights and fundamental freedoms
- C) Global currency standards
- D) Colonial border demarcations

11. Which country passed the first 'Freedom of Information' act in 1766, requiring government documents to be accessible to the public?

- A) Sweden
- B) United States
- C) France
- D) United Kingdom

12. The 'Marshall Plan', enacted in 1948, was the first major US foreign policy initiative focused on what primary objective?

- A) Military expansion in Asia
- B) Economic reconstruction of Western Europe
- C) Space exploration
- D) Nuclear disarmament

13. What is the significance of the 1215 'Magna Carta' in the history of public policy?

- A) It established a mandatory income tax
- B) It declared the monarch subject to the rule of law
- C) It created the first public university
- D) It banned the use of coal in London

14. Which organization, established in 1920 as part of the Treaty of Versailles, was the first international body focused on global public policy and conflict resolution?

- A) United Nations
- B) League of Nations
- C) World Bank
- D) Interpol

15. The 'Clean Air Act' of 1956 in the United Kingdom was the first major legislative response to what environmental crisis?

- A) The Great Smog of London
- B) The depletion of the ozone layer
- C) The Chernobyl disaster
- D) Global ocean acidification

16. Which US act in 1964 was the first major legislation to legally end segregation in public places and ban employment discrimination?

- A) Voting Rights Act
- B) Civil Rights Act
- C) Fair Housing Act
- D) Equal Pay Act

17. The first 'National Park' in the world, Yellowstone, was created by an act of the US Congress in what year?

- A) 1852
- B) 1872
- C) 1902
- D) 1920

18. Which city implemented the first 'Congestion Charge' scheme in 1975 to regulate traffic flow as a matter of public policy?

- A) London
- B) Singapore
- C) Stockholm
- D) Tokyo

19. What was the primary goal of the 'Bretton Woods Agreement' of 1944?

- A) Establishing internet protocols
- B) Creating a new international monetary system
- C) Regulating global fishing rights
- D) Standardizing international postal codes

20. The 'Hague Conventions' of 1899 and 1907 were the first international treaties to establish rules for what?

- A) International maritime trade
- B) Humanitarian conduct in warfare
- C) Global telecommunications
- D) Space debris mitigation