

Public Policy Foundations and Frameworks

Public Policy · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which political scientist is credited with introducing the concept of 'bounded rationality' in the context of decision-making and policy analysis?

- A) Herbert Simon**
- B) Graham Allison
- C) Harold Lasswell
- D) Charles Lindblom

2. In the context of the Policy Cycle, what does the term 'Policy Window' refer to, as defined by John Kingdon?

- A) The period of legislative session
- B) The opportunity for action when streams of problems, policies, and politics converge**
- C) The duration of a budget cycle
- D) The time between election and inauguration

3. The 'Garbage Can Model' of organizational choice, which describes policy-making as a fluid process, was developed by whom?

- A) Cohen, March, and Olsen**
- B) Max Weber
- C) Anthony Downs
- D) Theodore Lowi

4. According to Theodore Lowi's typology, which policy type involves the allocation of benefits to specific groups at the expense of the general public?

- A) Distributive**
- B) Redistributive
- C) Regulatory
- D) Constituent

5. What is the primary function of a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) in the policy process?

- A) To assess the economic and social costs of a proposed regulation**
- B) To lobby parliament for extra funding
- C) To increase the speed of legislative drafting
- D) To ensure partisan alignment

6. What is the 'incrementalism' theory in policy-making, famously associated with Charles Lindblom, also known as?

- A) The science of muddling through**
- B) The rational-comprehensive approach
- C) Top-down policy execution
- D) The elite theory of power

7. Which term describes the phenomenon where policy-making is dominated by the relationships between agencies, legislative committees, and interest groups?

- A) Iron Triangle**
- B) Bureaucratic Capture
- C) Public Choice
- D) Regulatory Creep

8. Which theoretical framework views public policy as the preferences and values of a governing elite?

- A) Elite Theory**
- B) Group Theory
- C) Institutionalism
- D) Systems Theory

9. Who authored 'The Policy Sciences: Recent Developments in Scope and Method' in 1951, helping to establish the field?

- A) Harold Lasswell**
- B) David Easton
- C) Robert Dahl
- D) Thomas Dye

10. In public policy, what is meant by the 'deadweight loss' of a tax policy?

- A) The reduction in economic efficiency caused by market distortions**
- B) The administrative cost of collection
- C) The tax paid by corporations
- D) The loss of government revenue due to exemptions

11. What does the 'Principal-Agent Problem' refer to in the implementation of public policy?

- A) Information asymmetry between those delegating power and those exercising it**
- B) The conflict between two government departments
- C) The struggle between the executive and judiciary
- D) The lack of funding for public works

12. Which landmark report in the United Kingdom (1942) established the framework for the modern welfare state?

A) Beveridge Report

- B) Northcote-Trevelyan Report
- C) Haldane Report
- D) Fulton Report

13. The 'Overton Window' refers to:

A) The range of policies acceptable to the mainstream population at a given time

- B) The glass-ceiling effect in public office
- C) The timeline for policy review
- D) The budget window for capital expenditure

14. What is 'path dependency' in public policy?

A) The idea that past decisions constrain future policy options

- B) The reliance on a single political party
- C) The geographical location of infrastructure
- D) The sequence of administrative approvals

15. In social policy, what is the 'Gini coefficient' used to measure?

A) Income inequality

- B) Public health standards
- C) Urban density
- D) Literacy rates

16. Which Act of the US Congress established the Council of Economic Advisers to assist the President with policy?

A) Employment Act of 1946

- B) Budget and Accounting Act of 1921
- C) Administrative Procedure Act of 1946
- D) Social Security Act of 1935

17. What is the primary objective of a 'sunset provision' in legislation?

A) To terminate a program or regulation automatically after a specified date unless renewed

- B) To ensure the law only applies during daylight hours
- C) To phase out government debt
- D) To restrict the power of sunset clauses

18. The 'Technocratic' approach to policy-making prioritizes:

A) Expert knowledge and scientific data

- B) Public opinion polls
- C) Political party manifestos
- D) Religious doctrine

19. What is 'Co-production' in the context of public service delivery?

A) Collaboration between public service providers and citizens in the creation of services

- B) Partnership between two government ministries
- C) Private-public sector investment
- D) International cooperation on climate policy

20. Who is considered the pioneer of 'Public Choice Theory', which applies economic principles to political decision-making?

A) James M. Buchanan

- B) Milton Friedman
- C) Friedrich Hayek
- D) John Maynard Keynes

21. In public policy evaluation, what is a 'counterfactual'?

A) What would have happened in the absence of the policy intervention

- B) The opinion of the opposition party
- C) The financial audit of the program
- D) The failure of the initial implementation

22. Which concept describes the process by which policies are adopted by different governments due to observation and imitation?

A) Policy Diffusion

- B) Policy Convergence
- C) Policy Transfer
- D) Policy Convergence

23. What is the 'Cost-Benefit Analysis' (CBA) primarily used for?

A) Determining the economic feasibility of a policy project

- B) Assessing the moral standing of a bill
- C) Counting the number of lobbyists involved
- D) Mapping the electoral districts

24. What defines a 'wicked problem' in public policy?

A) A problem that is difficult or impossible to solve due to incomplete, contradictory, or changing requirements

- B) A problem caused by intentional malice
- C) A problem that only affects a small minority
- D) A problem limited to local government

25. The 'New Public Management' (NPM) movement of the 1980s and 90s promoted:

A) Applying private sector management techniques to the public sector

- B) Centralizing all government functions
- C) Abolishing the civil service
- D) Replacing taxation with user fees exclusively