

Foundations of Public Policy

Public Policy · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which of the following best describes the 'policy agenda' in the context of public policy?

- A) The set of issues that policymakers are actively considering and potentially addressing.**
- B) The final approved legislation passed by a government.
- C) The historical record of all past public policies.
- D) The specific implementation details of a chosen policy.

2. In the policy cycle, 'policy formulation' refers to which stage?

- A) Developing potential solutions and policy alternatives to address a problem.**
- B) Identifying and defining the problem that requires government attention.
- C) Putting a chosen policy into practice and executing its programs.
- D) Evaluating the effectiveness and outcomes of an implemented policy.

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

- A) The executive branch (e.g., government departments and agencies).**
- B) The legislative branch (e.g., parliament or congress).
- C) The judicial branch (e.g., courts).
- D) Independent regulatory bodies only.

4. What is the primary role of 'interest groups' in the public policy process?

- A) To advocate for specific policy changes or maintain the status quo by influencing policymakers.**
- B) To draft and pass legislation independently.
- C) To interpret and enforce the constitutionality of laws.
- D) To conduct comprehensive, long-term policy evaluations.

5. The concept of 'bounded rationality' in policy decision-making suggests that policymakers:

- A) Make decisions based on incomplete information and cognitive limitations, rather than perfect rationality.**
- B) Always have access to all relevant data and can process it instantaneously.
- C) Are solely driven by economic self-interest.
- D) Are incapable of making any rational decisions.

6. Which of the following is a common tool used in public policy for influencing behaviour, such as discouraging smoking?

A) Regulation (e.g., bans, restrictions, or licensing).

B) Judicial review of all potential policy options.

C) Direct presidential decree.

D) International treaty ratification only.

7. The 'garbage can model' of organizational choice proposes that policy decisions often occur through:

A) A somewhat random confluence of problems, solutions, participants, and choice opportunities.

B) A systematic and linear process of problem-solving.

C) The direct intervention of external economic forces.

D) The sole influence of public opinion polls.

8. What is the core purpose of a 'cost-benefit analysis' in public policy?

A) To systematically compare the expected costs of a policy with its anticipated benefits to assess its economic efficiency.

B) To exclusively measure the social impact of a policy without considering financial implications.

C) To determine the political feasibility of a policy regardless of its costs or benefits.

D) To document the historical development of a particular policy.

9. In policy evaluation, 'efficiency' typically refers to:

A) Achieving policy goals with the minimum possible use of resources.

B) The speed at which a policy is implemented.

C) The breadth of public support for a policy.

D) The long-term sustainability of a policy without external funding.

10. Which of the following describes the 'iron triangle' in public policy?

A) A mutually beneficial, often exclusive, relationship between interest groups, legislative committees, and government agencies that work together to shape policy.

B) The three branches of government operating independently.

C) The complex interconnectedness of global economic policies.

D) The cyclical nature of policy development, implementation, and evaluation.