

Foundations of Public Policy

Public Policy · Practice Test · 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.