Fundamentals of Public Policy

Public Policy · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which phase of the policy cycle involves the formal adoption of a policy by a governing body?

A) Policy Agenda Setting
B) Policy Formulation
C) Policy Adoption
D) Policy Evaluation

2. What is the primary purpose of a 'Green Paper' in the public policy process?

A) To mandate immediate law changes
B) To outline policy proposals for public consultation
C) To provide a final executive order
D) To document the budget of a department

3. Which of the following is considered a 'non-state actor' that influences public policy?

A) The High Court
B) The Cabinet
C) Interest groups
D) Government departments

4. What is the core function of a 'Regulatory Impact Statement' (RIS)?

A) To increase government taxes
B) To assess the costs and benefits of a proposed regulation
C) To evaluate the performance of the Prime Minister
D) To select candidates for public office

5. In the context of policy implementation, what is 'top-down' implementation?

A) Policy directed by the public via petitions
B) Policy designed by central authorities and executed by lower levels
C) Policy created by citizens in town hall meetings
D) Policy that ignores all legal frameworks

6. Which document is typically produced by a government to provide a detailed account of proposed legislation and its anticipated impact?

A) White Paper
B) Constitutional Amendment
C) Internal Memo
D) Judicial Review

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7. What is a 'sunset clause' in public policy?

A) A rule that forbids policy discussions at night
B) A provision that automatically terminates a law after a specific date
C) A clause that limits the power of the head of state
D) A requirement for annual budget reporting

8. Which term describes the process of systematically assessing the effectiveness of a policy after it has been implemented?

A) Agenda setting
B) Evaluation
C) Formulation
D) Consultation

9. What is the main goal of 'evidence-based policy'?

A) To prioritize political ideology over data
B) To base policy decisions on objective research and data
C) To bypass legislative approval
D) To reduce the size of the civil service

10. What is a common tool used by governments to gather public opinion during the policy formation stage?

A) Public inquiries and submissions
B) Executive decree
C) Secret ballot
D) Private lobbying

11. In public policy, what does 'Agenda Setting' refer to?

A) The final signing of a bill
B) The process of identifying and prioritizing issues for government attention
C) The allocation of funds for a program
D) The judicial striking down of a policy

12. What is the difference between 'outputs' and 'outcomes' in policy evaluation?

A) Outputs are immediate products; outcomes are the actual changes achieved
B) Outputs are long-term; outcomes are immediate
C) They mean exactly the same thing
D) Outputs are costs; outcomes are revenues

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13. Which of these is a major barrier to effective policy implementation?

A) Clear communication
B) Lack of resources and coordination
C) High levels of public support
D) Adequate planning time

14. What is the primary role of the bureaucracy in the public policy cycle?

A) To interpret laws as the final authority
B) To implement and administer government policies
C) To propose constitutional changes
D) To fund political campaigns

15. Which term refers to the transfer of public services to private sector entities?

A) Nationalization
B) Privatization
C) Devolution
D) Centralization

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