Advanced Public Policy Fundamentals

Public Policy · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which influential model of the policy process, developed by John Kingdon, describes policy windows as the convergence of the problem, policy, and political streams?

A) Multiple Streams Framework
B) Punctuated Equilibrium Theory
C) Institutional Analysis and Development Framework
D) Advocacy Coalition Framework

2. What is the primary function of a 'sunset provision' in legislative public policy?

A) To expand executive power during emergencies
B) To mandate the automatic expiration of a law after a specific date
C) To authorize tax increases without legislative debate
D) To grant judicial review to administrative agencies

3. In the context of fiscal policy, what term describes the phenomenon where government spending leads to a reduction in private investment?

A) Multiplier effect
B) Crowding out
C) Fiscal drag
D) Elasticity of substitution

4. Who is credited with developing the 'garbage can model' of organizational choice, often applied to decision-making in public policy?

A) Herbert Simon
B) Michael Cohen, James March, and Johan Olsen
C) Max Weber
D) Harold Lasswell

5. The 'Nudge' theory, popularized by Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein, is formally categorized under which behavioral economics-influenced policy approach?

A) Hard paternalism
B) Libertarian paternalism
C) Rational choice institutionalism
D) Keynesian interventionism

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6. What does the term 'regulatory capture' specifically refer to in public administration?

A) The state seizing private property for public use

B) Agencies acting in the interest of the industry they are supposed to regulate

C) The consolidation of multiple regulatory bodies into one

D) The process of drafting new bureaucratic rules

7. Which seminal 1959 paper by Charles Lindblom introduced the concept of 'muddling through' to describe incremental decision-making?

A) The Science of 'Muddling Through'

B) Politics as a Vocation

C) The Administrative State

D) Public Policy Making Reexamined

8. Which policy evaluation technique assigns monetary values to the benefits and costs of a project to determine its net social gain?

A) Cost-Benefit Analysis

B) Formative Evaluation

C) Sensitivity Analysis

D) Participatory Action Research

9. In public policy, what is a 'wicked problem' as defined by Rittel and Webber?

A) A problem with a clear, singular solution

B) A complex issue with no definitive stopping point or objective measure of success

C) A policy challenge involving illegal activities

D) A short-term crisis requiring immediate executive intervention

10. What concept refers to the unintended consequence where a policy intervention produces the opposite effect of what was intended?

A) The Cobra Effect

B) The Law of Unintended Consequences

C) Paradox of Thrift

D) Gresham's Law

11. Which theory posits that policy change occurs in short bursts of rapid activity following long periods of stagnation?

A) Punctuated Equilibrium

B) Incrementalism

C) Rational Comprehensive Model

D) Elite Theory

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12. What is the core focus of the 'Advocacy Coalition Framework' developed by Paul Sabatier?

A) Competition among coalitions with shared belief systems
B) The dominance of a single ruling class
C) The mathematical modeling of voter behavior
D) The influence of bureaucratic red tape

13. Which landmark US legislation established the requirement for Environmental Impact Statements for federal actions?

A) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 1969
B) Clean Air Act 1970
C) Endangered Species Act 1973
D) Environmental Protection Act 1980

14. The 'Principal-Agent problem' in public policy is most frequently used to analyze the relationship between:

A) Government and the electorate
B) Political leaders and bureaucratic subordinates
C) Legislators and lobbyists
D) Citizens and the judiciary

15. What is 'social engineering' in the context of public policy?

A) The use of centralized planning to influence social behavior and structure
B) The repair of physical infrastructure
C) The management of corporate social responsibility programs
D) The study of demographic migration patterns

16. Which term describes a policy where the costs are concentrated on a small group but the benefits are widely distributed?

A) Client politics
B) Majoritarian politics
C) Interest group politics
D) Entrepreneurial politics

17. What defines 'path dependency' in historical institutionalism?

A) The idea that policy outcomes are purely random
B) The concept that past decisions constrain future policy choices
C) The necessity of consensus for all legislation
D) The requirement that all policies must be periodically reviewed

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18. Who authored 'The Administrative State' (1947), a foundational text in the study of public administration and public policy?

A) Dwight Waldo
B) Woodrow Wilson
C) Luther Gulick
D) Herbert Simon

19. In policy analysis, what is 'triangulation'?

A) Using multiple methods or data sources to study the same phenomenon
B) Determining the exact geographic location of a policy impact
C) The intersection of three branches of government
D) A statistical method for calculating median outcomes

20. What is the primary objective of a 'means-tested' social policy?

A) To provide benefits based on income or wealth status
B) To provide universal benefits to all citizens
C) To restrict benefits based on age
D) To provide benefits based on employment history

21. Which concept refers to the 'non-decision' or the ability of powerful groups to prevent issues from ever reaching the public agenda?

A) Agenda-setting
B) The Second Face of Power
C) Policy diffusion
D) Administrative discretion

22. What does the 'Gini coefficient' measure in the context of public policy?

A) The rate of inflation
B) Income inequality within a population
C) The level of government debt
D) The efficiency of public services

23. Which analytical model assumes that policy makers act with 'bounded rationality' and seek 'satisficing' outcomes?

A) Rational choice theory
B) Herbert Simon's behavioral model
C) The garbage can model
D) The elite model

24. In policy terminology, what is a 'policy transfer'?

A) The movement of funds between government departments

B) The process by which knowledge about policies in one political system is used in another

C) The relocation of government offices

D) The transfer of authority from local to state government

25. Which document is typically considered the primary mechanism for translating public policy into authorized governmental action?

A) A budgetary appropriation

B) A private contract

C) A white paper

D) A legislative committee report

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