

**AP U.S. Government and Politics**  
**Unit 3: Linkage Institutions (Ch 7, 8 & 11)**  
**Review Items**  
**Test: Friday December 14, 2018**

In addition to reviewing homework assignments, lecture notes, quizzes and the multiple choice questions given last class, students should have a strong understanding of the following terms and concepts.

**Chapter 7: Media**

**Terms**

|                  |                      |                          |       |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| mass media       | trial balloons       | sound bites              | beats |
| policy agenda    | policy entrepreneurs | investigative journalism |       |
| press conference | media event          | linkage institution      |       |

**Questions**

1. What is the **mass media**? List THREE examples.
2. What is a **press conference**? When was it used? Who did it favor-politicians or reporters?
3. What is **investigative journalism**? When did media shift to it? Who does it favor?
4. Describe THREE things that are significant about the print media, as it relates to politics? Consider # of participants, ownership and relative level of political knowledge.
5. What is broadcast media? Describe THREE significant aspects of broadcast news. Consider the criteria used above in print media.
6. Why is appearance and performance important for politicians in broadcast media?
7. What is **narrowcasting** and what are TWO effects due to its prevalence?
8. "Newscasting is a business geared toward achieving high ratings." Explain this and discuss what **sensationalism** is.
9. Identify the significance of the terms **beats**, **sound bites** and **trial balloons** as each relates to news reporting.
10. Describe THREE ways the media influences the public policy agenda.
11. What is the **watchdog** role of the media in a democracy?

**Chapter 8: Political Parties**

**Terms**

|                         |                      |                        |                   |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| political party         | linkage institution  | rational choice theory |                   |
| ticket-splitting        | party identification | closed primaries       | party dealignment |
| open primaries          | blanket primaries    | third parties          | party realignment |
| responsible party model |                      |                        |                   |

**Questions**

1. How do political parties fulfill the role of linkage institutions?
2. What do political parties do in the US do? List FIVE things.
3. What is their most important goal or function of political parties in the U.S.?
4. How are political parties in the U.S. different than political parties in most democracies? Discuss TWO ways.
5. The US is a two party system. What does this mean? What are our TWO major parties?
6. Why aren't Independents considered a third party in the U.S.?
7. Describe the THREE parts of political parties in the U.S.

8. What are minor parties? List FOUR types.
9. Why can't minor parties (third parties) succeed in the US? List TWO reasons.
10. What is a single-member district?
11. What is the winner-take-all feature of the Electoral College?
12. List THREE reasons we have a two party system in the US today.
13. What are the trends toward **party identification** in current times and what effects does this have on **campaigns** and **elections**?
14. What is **divided government** and how does **ticket-splitting** encourage this?
15. What is a **party era**? Name some.
16. How are the terms **party realignment** and **critical election** related? How do they affect **party eras**?
17. What are **third/minor parties** and how have they influenced American politics? How are they formed, do they win elections, how do they affect elections?
18. How do **minor parties** affect American politics? Describe TWO key ways.

## **Chapter 11: Interest Groups**

### **Terms**

|                             |                              |                      |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| interest group              | pluralist theory             | elite theory         |
| hyperpluralist theory       | subgovernments/iron triangle |                      |
| free-rider problem          | single-issue group           | lobbying             |
| Olson's law of large groups | electioneering               | amicus curiae briefs |

### **Questions**

1. What are **interest groups** and how do they affect American politics? How do they differ from **political parties**?
2. Why do some criticize interest groups?
3. How are interest groups **linkage institutions**?
4. Compare and contrast the following theories of how interest groups function: **pluralist**, **elite** and **hyperpluralist**. Which would Madison argue occurs today?
5. How do subgovernments or iron triangles reinforce their own existence at the expense of the public good, according to **hyperpluralists**?
6. What are the three parts of the iron triangle?
7. Why are small groups generally more successful than large interest groups?
8. What THREE things make interest groups successful?
9. Compare and contrast the following terms as they relate to what interest groups do: **lobbying**, **electioneering**, **litigation**, and **mobilizing** public opinion.
10. Name and describe the most common types of interest groups.

### **Federalist #10**

1. What is a **faction**, according to Madison and why are they unavoidable in humans and politics?
2. What issues separate humans?
3. How did Madison think factions in the U.S. should be controlled?
4. Why is a republican form of government best in combating the problems of factions?

### **Iron Triangles**

1. List the THREE players in an iron triangle (subgovernment).
2. Which theory of democracy is linked to this concept?
3. How do iron triangles (also known as sub-governments) work to their own advantage?
4. Evaluate the costs and benefits of iron triangles in American politics. Are they beneficial or detrimental to democracy overall? Support your answer.