



Chapter 17 Exercises

Multiple Choice

1. How did Max Weber define power?
 - a. The authority to imprison citizens without cause
 - b. The legal resources to prosecute and punish
 - c. Politically elected influence used to control the masses
 - d. The ability to exercise one's will over others
2. Juan believes that events like the French Revolution are necessary for a country to preserve liberty, maintain or gain land, and ultimately lead to a more even distribution of wealth among a population. Which sociological perspective does Juan have?
 - a. Feminist theory
 - b. Conflict theory
 - c. Functionalism
 - d. Symbolic interactionism
3. What is the definition of traditional authority?
 - a. Power legitimized on the basis of long-standing customs
 - b. Power that is legitimized by rules, regulations, and laws
 - c. Power legitimized on the basis of a leader's exceptional personal qualities
4. What is the definition of charismatic authority?
 - a. Power legitimized on the basis of long-standing customs
 - b. Power that is legitimized by rules, regulations, and laws
 - c. Power legitimized on the basis of a leader's personal qualities
5. What is the definition of rational-legal authority?
 - a. Power legitimized on the basis of long-standing customs
 - b. Power that is legitimized by rules, regulations, and laws
 - c. Power legitimized on the basis of a leader's exceptional personal qualities
6. Which sociological perspective would consider activism undesirable because it forces political change?
 - a. Feminist theory
 - b. Conflict theory
 - c. Functionalism
 - d. Symbolic interactionism
7. What is the difference between an oligarchy and a monarchy?
 - a. Members of an oligarchy do not necessarily achieve their status based on ties to noble ancestry, while members of a monarchy do.
 - b. There is no difference; members of both systems achieve status based on ties to noble ancestry.
 - c. Both are elected by a democratic process, but leaders of monarchies have the right to override the popular vote.
 - d. Members of a monarchy do not necessarily achieve their status based on ties to noble ancestry, while members of an oligarchy do.
8. Which sociologist studied the power elite and described how the power elite could be seen as a subculture?
 - a. G. William Domhoff
 - b. C. Wright Mills
 - c. Karl Marx
 - d. Émile Durkheim

9. Communist regimes, which attempt to control all aspects of citizens' lives, are examples of which form of government?
- Oligarchy
 - Democracy
 - Constitutional monarchy
 - Totalitarian dictatorship
10. Lobbying is a powerful force in the political world. Lobbyists frequently meet behind closed doors with senators, lawmakers, and congresspeople to push influential legislation through the congressional process. Which sociological perspective would be most interested in examining the lobbying movement?
- Feminist theory
 - Exchange theory
 - Functionalism
 - Symbolic interactionism
11. Which of the following best defines the term patrimonialism?
- Power that people accept because it comes from a source that is perceived as legitimate
 - A military technique that includes the spread of the conquering country's religion
 - A ruling class that is dependent upon the bloodline from the father's side of the family
 - A type of authority wherein military and administrative factions enforce the power of the ruler
12. What was the significance of the case *Reynolds v. Sims*?
- It gave African Americans the right to vote.
 - It reaffirmed the concept that each person's vote should be counted equally.
 - It gave women the right to vote.
 - It established the precedent that felons are not allowed to vote.
13. Queen Noor of Jordan is a leader of which form of government?
- Oligarchy
 - Dictatorship
 - Constitutional monarchy
 - Monarchy
14. Over the past decades, the turnout of minority voters has:
- Steadily increased
 - Remained unchanged
 - Steadily decreased
 - Slowly decreased
15. From the functionalist perspective, what is *not* a purpose of government?
- Planning and directing society
 - Meeting social needs
 - Managing international relations
 - Lobbying for domestic corporate interests
16. Kendra believes the U.S. government is corrupt and thinks that there should be no governing force to control people's lives. Kendra believes in:
- Democracy
 - Constitutional monarchy
 - Anarchy
 - Oligarchy
17. Define representative democracy:
- A form of government in which a small percentage of the population is represented by popular election, and the rest of the population is represented by those whose office is dependent upon noble birth
 - A government that recognizes monarchs but requires them to abide by the laws of a greater constitution
 - A form of government in which power is held by a small, elite group
 - A government in which citizens elect officials to represent their interests

18. Hitler was an example of what kind of authority?
 - a. Charismatic
 - b. Rational-legal
 - c. Traditional
 - d. None of the above
19. Which of the following contributes to the lower percentage of voter turnout for people with lower socioeconomic backgrounds?
 - a. Voting sites frequently discourage participation from those of lower socioeconomic backgrounds.
 - b. Members of lower socioeconomic backgrounds are more likely to overestimate the voting practices of their peers.
 - c. Workers in lower-paying jobs often lack flexibility in their work hours and may not have time or opportunity to vote.
 - d. Many citizens from lower socioeconomic backgrounds cannot afford to vote.
20. Which sociologist saw political conflict as the only means of promoting positive change for the underprivileged?
 - a. G. William Domhoff
 - b. C. Wright Mills
 - c. Karl Marx
 - d. Émile Durkheim

Free Response

21. Explain why leaders as dissimilar as Hitler and Martin Luther King Jr. are both categorized as charismatic authorities.
22. Why do people accept traditional authority figures even though these types of leaders have limited means of enforcing their power?
23. Select a charismatic leader about whom you wish to learn more and conduct online research to find out about this individual. Then, write a paragraph describing the personal qualities that led to this person's influence, considering the society in which they emerged.
24. Do you feel the United States is an oligarchy? Why or why not?
25. Explain how an absolute monarchy differs from a dictatorship.
26. In which form of government do average citizens have the least political power? What options might they have for exerting political power under this type of regime?
27. If the percentage of a minority racial/ethnic group in Congress is far below the percentage of that group in the United States, does that mean members of that group lack political power? Why or why not?
28. Explain how a voter's social class can affect their voting practices.
29. Besides voting, how can U.S. citizens influence political processes and outcomes? Which of these strategies have you personally used?
30. Explain what is meant by the term *power elite*. Consider its original intention as coined by C. Wright Mills as well as your understanding of it.