

Answer Key to Quizzes for Lecture Videos and Supplemental Notes (Lectures 1-13)

The questions are numbered. The answer to each question appears immediately below it in boldface. Questions calling for “interpretive responses” are designed to promote critical thinking and class discussion.

QUIZ 1

Questions 1-4 are from the Lecture; 5-6 are from the Supplemental Notes.

1. In your view, does the photograph [shown in Lecture 1] that depicts Black Lives Matter protestors blocking city traffic constitute a *legitimate* form of civil engagement? Why or why not?

Interpretive Response

2. What is our expanded definition of ideology?

A set of ideas and/or beliefs that an individual or group holds to be true.

3. Why should we be on guard if we hear someone claim that they are free from ideology?

Interpretive Response

4. What goal should we aim for when participating in Discussion Boards this semester?

We should not only express our beliefs but also step back and examine how we have come to hold those beliefs.

5. How were members of the Boule, or governing council, selected in Ancient Greece?

Through a process referred to as Sortition.

6. Briefly provide your own example of how some individuals in the United States have internalized an external belief.

Interpretive Response

QUIZ 2

Questions 1-4 are from the Lecture; 5-7 are from the Supplemental Notes.

1. What is the Federalists' conception of Human Nature?

Individuals are inherently selfish.

2. What is a Demagogue? Can you think of a modern leader or media figure that, in your opinion, should be regarded as a Demagogue? Briefly explain.

A demagogue is a political figure who gains popularity by and then augments their power by exploiting the fears, anxieties, and passions of the people. A demagogue falsely claims to be a champion of ordinary citizens and the enemy of demonized elites. (The second part of the question calls for an interpretive response).

3. According to the Federalists, how should political representatives view their relationship to their constituents?

The Federalists believed that elected representatives should elevate, filter, and refine the views of the people. Through their wisdom, paternalistic representatives often understand their constituents' true interests better than the constituents themselves.

4. What is the fundamental problem with Lockean Liberalism?

It necessarily provokes conflict, since it is impossible to protect the rights of some without infringing upon the rights of others.

5. What are the two diametrically opposed meanings of populism?

According to the first view, Populism is a social movement in which farmers and working people demand democratic and economic reforms. According to the second, Populism refers to a fanatical and violent political movement in which demagogues played upon citizens' misguided feelings of resentment.

6. According to Jason Brennan, what is one way in which elections could be held in an Epistocracy?

In order to be eligible to vote, individuals would first have to pass a test, similar to the American Citizenship Exam.

7. Do you think cartoonist Will McPhail's depiction of demagogues and their followers is a persuasive one? Why or why not?

Interpretive response.

QUIZ 3

Questions 1-4 are from the Lecture; 5-6 are from the Supplemental Notes.

1. Where can the origins of the states' "police powers" be found?

In a series of US Supreme Court rulings that were handed down throughout the 19th century, starting with *Gibbons v. Ogden*.

2. Part I: Jacobson's lawyers made a very forceful statement about the right of an individual to care for their own body. Do you think that same statement could be used to take a stand on a political issue other than compulsory vaccination?

Part II: Briefly explain why you would or would not support the lawyers' statement when applied to a different political issue.

Interpretive responses.

3. What was proclaimed in the local ordinance the US Supreme Court upheld in *Zucht v. King*?

Students must present vaccination certificated in order to attend public school.

4. Would you favor instituting a college-wide policy requiring students attending in person classes to receive a COVID-19 vaccine? (The policy would grant medical exemptions.)

Interpretive response.

5. According to Locke, why do "inconveniences" arise in the state of nature?

They arise because there is no governmental authority that is empowered to settle disputes, which inevitably arise among individuals in a state of nature.

6. In your view, should state governments be allowed to use their police powers (which provide for the public's safety, welfare, health, and morals) to set their own drinking ages, at whatever age they deem fit?

Interpretive response

QUIZ 4

Questions 1-4 are from the Lecture; 5-6 are from the Supplemental Notes.

1. Had you been at Governor Ivey's news briefing, what question would you have liked to ask her? (If you cannot think of a question, you can direct a comment to her.)

Interpretive response

2. What is the only state in the country, to date, [September 2021] that has passed a law banning private employers from requiring their workers to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Montana

3. What did the US Supreme Court rule in *Printz v. United States*?

The newly imposed federal regulations violated the 10th Amendment by infringing upon the police powers of the states, which are used among other things to enact gun laws.

4. Reflect a moment on the prediction made 16 years ago, in the *American Journal of Public Health*, and then briefly describe what effect, if any, it has on how you view today's increasingly acrimonious debate over COVID-19 mandates.

Interpretive response

5. What did the US Supreme Court rule in *Cruzan v. Director Missouri Department of Health*?

Legally competent individuals have the right to refuse medical treatment under the 14th Amendment's Due Process Clause.

6. What did the US Supreme Court rule in the case of *Texas v. White*?

The union between Texas and the rest of the United States is "as complete, as perpetual, and as indissoluble as the union between the original States."

QUIZ 5

Questions 1-4 are from the Lecture; 5-7 are from the Supplemental Notes.

1. How can we account for the fact that only 10 percent of Mississippi's eligible black voters cast ballots in the 1892 state elections?

The new state constitution disenfranchised black voters by imposing poll taxes and literary tests.

2. According to the terms of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, why were some states no longer allowed to manage their elections free of Federal Governmental interference?

They had forfeited their rights to manage their elections because they had engaged in voter suppression.

3. In your view, do voter ID laws place an unreasonable burden on some voters? Briefly explain why or why not?

Interpretive response

4. Would you be in favor of making Tennessee the 8th state in the country to enact a law that requires election officials to send a mail-in ballot to every registered voter? Briefly explain why or why not/

Interpretive response

5. In the *Crawford* ruling and in Souter's dissent, the justices addressed the same three fundamental questions that have been raised in response to every legislative attempt to change voting laws since the 2020 election what are those three fundamental questions?

Is a given proposal to change voting regulations likely to have a disproportionately negative impact on minorities? Is it designed to have a discriminatory effect? Is it needed to combat potential or actual instances of voter fraud?

6. What did the US Supreme Court rule in *Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee*?

The Supreme Court sided with the Arizona state legislature, which in the name of preventing voter fraud, had made it illegal for third parties to collect and deliver ballots, a process its detractors refer to as "ballot harvesting."

7. View Norman Rockwell's Four Freedom paintings, Then pick one of the paintings and explain why, in your view, its representation of a particular freedom has or has not become outdated.

Interpretive response

QUIZ 6

Questions 1-4 are from the Lecture; 5-7 are from the Supplemental Notes.

1. Part I: Would you be in favor of the idea of voting directly on major national issues to decide what becomes law? Part II: In your view, what is one issue that should or should not be put to a vote in a national referendum. Briefly explain.

Interpretive responses

2. What is your initial reaction to the survey question that you just viewed on the screen [a national poll on ending the federal government's "enhanced unemployment insurance"]

program]? Do you think the question is free of framing, and not worded in a way to lead respondents to a particular answer? Briefly explain.

Interpretive response.

3. What are two of the three criticisms of Gallup's claim that taking a public opinion poll is comparable to holding a national town hall meeting?

Respondents cannot engage in discussions with one another before answering; those surveyed cannot tell the pollsters that they are asking the wrong questions or simplifying a complex issue; those surveys have no influence over the questions that are posed to them.

4. Part I: do these survey questions on the screen surprise you? Part II: Answer the two survey questions. Part III: briefly explain your responses. [Survey asks respondents whether they have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Capitalism and Socialism]

Interpretive responses

5. Do Joshua Clinton's views of the relationship between representatives and their constituents come closer to the federalist position or the anti-federalist position? Briefly explain.

The Federalist position. Clinton thinks representatives should understand constituent views in order to then be able to correct them in a way that is convincing to those constituents.

6. What are the "samples of the willing" to which David Hill refers?

Those who are actually willing to respond to surveys.

7. Some have argued that offering monetary incentives for taking a public opinion survey would increase the response rate. Do you think we could do the same for elections in order to increase voter turnout? Briefly explain why or why not.

Interpretive response.

QUIZ 7

Questions 1-4 are from the Lecture; 5-7 are from the Supplemental Notes.

1. What are the two basic facts about nonvoting in the US?

There is a low rate of voter turnout in comparison to most other representative democracies; members of the lower middle class and working poor make up a disproportionately large sharing of the nonvoting population.

2. Briefly describe your immediate reaction to the 1988 public service announcement about voting from the League of Women Voters and Members Only (as seen on video)

Interpretive response

3. Do you have any objections to or concerns about the Brookings Study proposal to make voting compulsory in the US? Briefly explain why or why not.

Interpretive response

4. What does Jesse Jackson mean in his speech (as seen in the lecture video) when he says, “In 1980, Reagan won Pennsylvania by the margin of despair”?

Jackson meant that, as was the case in several other states, Reagan’s margin of victory in 1980 was much less than the number of minorities, college students, and high schoolers of voting age in Pennsylvania who did not cast ballots. According to Jackson, most of those nonvoters felt as though neither Reagan nor Carter addressed their concerns. He faults the Democratic party for not having mobilized voters who felt shut out of the political process.

5. Why is Thomas Frank so puzzled by the 2000 election results in Loup County, Nebraska?

Bush won 75 percent of the vote in the poorest county in the US, yet the Democrats are supposedly “the party of workers, of the poor, of the weak and victimized.” Frank asks, “How could so many people get it so wrong?” But what Frank fails to consider is the extent to which the Democratic Party had abandoned such voters over the previous two decades.

6. What voting regulations were mandated by the 1993 Motor Voter Bill?

Registration forms and voter assistance be made available in each state at the DMV and other government offices.

7. In the 2020 presidential election, would lawful permanent residents (or “green card holders”) be included among the Voting Age Population (VAP) or the Voting Eligible Population (VEP)? Briefly explain.

Voting Age Population

QUIZ 8

Questions 1-4 are from the Lecture; 5-7 are from the Supplemental Notes.

1. Does anything strike you as problematic about the way in which the Gallup survey question about the mass media is worded? Explain why or why not.

Interpretive response

2. To what does the “watchdog press” refer?

The media acts as the fourth branch of government, critically monitoring the activities of the other three branches as well as those of major private corporations. The watchdog press is expected to investigate and report on wrongdoing.

3. What would you identify as your main source of news? Briefly explain.

Interpretive response

4. Briefly discuss which of the seven explanations for the public’s distrust of the media that have been presented in the lecture are, in your view, the most convincing.

Interpretive response

5. What immediately comes to mind when you hear the name, Joe Rogan? Briefly reflect on how your ideology may have shaped your response to that question.

Interpretive response

6. In your view, how might we explain the 57-point gap that appears in the Gallup poll results discussed in Section II of this week’s Supplemental Notes?

Interpretive response

7. What does Greg Jackson mean when he characterizes the kind of news analysis that we see on cable TV as “theater criticism”?

Interpretive response

QUIZ 9

Questions 1-4 are from the Lecture; 5-7 are from the Supplemental Notes.

1. What does it mean for a candidate to be labeled a “spoiler” in American politics?

Democratic or Republican partisans condemn a third-party candidate as a spoiler when, though they had no chance of winning, they allegedly managed to swing the

outcome of a very close election by peeling off just enough votes from a Democrat or Republican to give their opponent a narrow victory.

2. How would you respond to the headline, “Was Libertarian Candidate Jo Jorgensen a Spoiler For Trump?”

Interpretive response

3. To what does a system of proportional representation refer?

Legislative seats are allotted to parties based on the total share of votes they receive in an election.

4. How does gerrymandering perpetuate the American Duopoly?

While gerrymandering is created to stifle two-party competition in a particular district, it also perpetuates the duopoly by supporting a power sharing scheme that leaves no room for third parties to emerge.

5. What is a possible benefit that could come from reforming the Electoral College so that electoral votes are awarded in all fifty states on a proportional basis during a presidential election?

There would no longer be so much emphasis placed on “battleground states”—to the exclusion of most other states.

6. According to the long established rules governing the Commission on Presidential Debates, which candidates are eligible to participate in the debates?

Candidates who poll at 15 percent or higher in 5 different national surveys taken before the debate.

7. In your view, did Andrew Yang choose an effective name for his new party, which is called, “The Forward Party”? Briefly explain.

Interpretive Response

QUIZ 10

Questions 1-4 are from the Lecture; 5-7 are from the Supplemental Notes.

1. What was the Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*?

Corporations and other outside groups can spend unlimited amounts of money on elections. Limiting independent political spending from corporations and other group infringes upon the Freedom of Speech protected by the First Amendment.

2. Looked at from a strictly marketing standpoint and leaving your political views aside, do you find the Lincoln Project's "Mourning in America" ad effective? Why or why not?

Interpretive response

3. How is it that President Obama managed to get a healthcare reform bill passed while past presidents failed to do so?

Obama secured passage of the Affordable Care Act by successfully and secretly negotiating with healthcare providers, large pharmaceutical firms, and private insurance companies, all of whom benefitted directly from the law.

4. Are you currently satisfied with your health insurance plan? Briefly explain why or why not.

Interpretive response

5. Do you think the article included in the Supplemental notes provides us with an example of what it looks like for the media to taken on the role of watchdog? Briefly explain why or why not.

Interpretive response

6. Do you think the article displays a political bias that undermines its reporting? Briefly explain why or why not.

Interpretive response

7. After reading this article, do you find convincing the claim, repeated several times, that allowing the federal government to negotiate the prices of prescription drugs would cripple Big Pharma's ability to "develop new medications"?

Interpretive response

QUIZ 11

Questions 1-4 are from the Lecture; 5-7 are from the Supplemental Notes.

1. Have you seen *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*? If so, what are your impressions of the film?

Interpretive response

2. What is our text's definition of the filibuster?

A parliamentary maneuver used in the Senate to extend debate on a piece of legislation as long as possible, typically with the intended purpose of obstructing or killing it.

3. The US Constitution states that only certain measures require a supermajority to pass. What is one such measure?

Removing the president from office, overriding a presidential veto, approving a treaty with a foreign power, and amending the Constitution.

4. What did the adoption of Rule 22 allow the Senate to do?

The senate was empowered to end the filibuster by invoking cloture.

5. Why did the late Senator Byrd view the filibuster as a “necessary evil”?

It must be tolerated lest the Senate lose its special strength and become a mere appendage of the House of Representatives.

6. What is one reason why the senate filibuster usually failed to block legislation when it was used in the 19th century?

Senators had to stay continuously on the Senate floor to sustain a filibuster. There was in place a tradition whereby the minority deferred to the majority out of respect for democratic norms.

7. How did historian Franklin Burdette describe Rule 22, which the Senate established in 1917?

As “the most important potential and actual curtailment of the filibuster ever undertaken by the Senate.”

QUIZ 12

Questions 1-4 are from the Lecture; 5-6 are from the Supplemental Notes.

1. During the first half of the 20th century, how did southern senators, like Richard Russell of Georgia, defend the filibuster?

They saw attempts to end the filibuster as tyrannical attacks on free speech and the principle of unlimited debate.

2. In what sense did the Democratic Party pay a heavy political price for passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

It caused the fracture of the Democratic Party and brought about the end of the New Deal Coalition.

3. What is one common explanation for why the use of the filibuster has increased dramatically in the past decade and a half?

American politics has devolved into a state of extreme polarization.

4. Does Trump's speech in Phoenix Arizona in August 2017 (as seen in the video) in any way affect your view of the filibuster? Briefly explain why or why not.

Interpretive response

5. According to David Litt, why did Senator McConnell reject Trump's call to abolish the filibuster?

Because McConnell could pass the bulk of his agenda without it—namely, securing tax cuts and confirming a flurry of judicial appointments.

6. Do you find Litt's claim convincing? Why or why not?

Interpretive response

QUIZ 13

Questions 1-4 are from the Lecture; 5-7 are from the Supplemental Notes.

1. What is an Executive Order?

A presidential directive issued to members of the Executive Branch that carries the force of law and may alter public policies.

2. What is it that executive orders do not have the staying power of the congressional legislation?

They can be nullified by the courts; Congress may pass laws that overturn or block them; what one president can accomplish through executive order, their successor can undo by issuing one that explicitly overturns it.

3. What must Congress do to override a presidential veto?

A supermajority of 2/3 is needed in both Houses of Congress.

4. Give two reasons why we can say with great assurance that the use of executive orders will not end any time soon.

Congress is often in a state of gridlock; state governments are constrained by limited budgets to enact sweeping policies; the private sector seems unwilling or unable to act when it comes to confronting major issues.

5. What is one antitrust law that provides the Biden Administration for carrying out the Executive order on “Promoting Competition”?

The Federal Trade Commission Act of 1914; the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890; the Clayton Act of 1914.

6. Upon what legal basis did President Bush issue the Executive Order on November 13, 2001 that established military tribunals and detention facility in Guantanamo Bay?

Bush invoked his powers as commander-in-chief and cited the sweeping Authorization For the Use of Military Force that became law after it was passed by both houses of Congress.

7. Why was the legality of Nixon’s August 15, 1971 Executive Order not in doubt?

The previous year, in its fight against inflation, Congress had passed the Economic Stabilization Act, which gave the president the authority impose price controls.

