

Test your knowledge and understanding: Power and politics

Questions based on chapter 7 of *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives Student Handbook*

- 1 Which one of these is not a form of authority identified by Weber?**
 - a Charismatic
 - b Military
 - c Traditional
 - d Rational-legal
- 2 Which one of these is an example of the third face of power?**
 - a A political party refusing to put a controversial motion proposed by party activists onto the agenda for a conference
 - b The government deciding to pass a new law
 - c A man persuading a woman that she should always obey his instructions
 - d A school teacher placing a child in detention
- 3 Talcott Parsons argued that:**
 - a Power is used to achieve collective goals
 - b The state is an honest broker mediating between different interests
 - c Political parties broadly represent the people
 - d Power should be measured in terms of the consequences of actions
- 4 Which one of these statements reflects the beliefs of classical pluralism?**
 - a All members of society share similar interests
 - b It is impossible to prevent a tyranny of the majority
 - c Different interests are effectively represented in a democracy
 - d The state acts largely in its own interests
- 5 Which one of these is an example of a protective pressure group?**
 - a Greenpeace
 - b The National Union of Teachers
 - c The RSPCA
 - d The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
- 6 Which one of these is a criticism of the pluralist view?**
 - a Pluralists ignore decision-making
 - b Pluralists assume that everybody in society shares the same interests
 - c Pluralists underestimate the importance of pressure groups
 - d Pluralists ignore the second face of power
- 7 According to Williams, which one of these is not one of the power elites in Britain?**
 - a Political elite
 - b Military elite
 - c Professional elite
 - d Financial and business elite
- 8 What proportion of the Law Lords and barristers has attended Oxford or Cambridge universities?**
 - a Over 50%
 - b Over 60%
 - c Over 70%
 - d Over 80%
- 9 In Marx's theory, the state is seen as:**
 - a Part of the economic base
 - b Part of the superstructure
 - c Part of the infrastructure
 - d Part of civil society
- 10 Which of the following put forward evidence of non-decision-making?**
 - a Marx
 - b Poulantzas
 - c Urry
 - d Milliband
- 11 Hegemony means:**
 - a Domination with the consent of the population
 - b Domination without the consent of the population
 - c Controlling ruling-class ideology
 - d Threatening the population with military force
- 12 Which one of the following statements would Jessop agree with?**
 - a The state has operational autonomy
 - b Capitalism exercises ecological dominance
 - c The state controls the economy to provide work for all
 - d The economy has become more knowledge-based
- 13 Which of these writers is particularly critical of the exercise of power by the USA?**
 - a Gramsci
 - b Sklair
 - c Chomsky
 - d Lukes
- 14 Which of these writers is most skeptical about the theory of globalization?**
 - a Sklair
 - b Ohmae
 - c Giddens
 - d Hirst & Thompson
- 15 Sklair identified three spheres of globalization. Which is the odd one out?**
 - a Economic
 - b Social
 - c Political
 - d Cultural-ideological
- 16 Which one of these statements is not true? Giddens believes that globalization:**
 - a Is destroying the power of the nation-state
 - b Involves better communications
 - c Is partly caused by the increasing power of corporations
 - d Can sometimes increase nationalist sentiments

- 17** Which two of these statements would postmodernists tend to agree with?
- a Power is increasingly related to knowledge
 - b Power is increasingly related to image
 - c Power is increasingly about money
 - d Voters have a real choice in democratic elections
- 18** Which two of the following does Hallsworth see as characteristic of new social movements?
- a They tend to be concerned with materialistic issues
 - b They tend to have bureaucratic organizations
 - c They tend to see private life as a political sphere
 - d They tend to be concerned with culture
- 19** According to Naomi Klein, culture jamming involves:
- a Interfering with TV and radio broadcasts to combat propaganda
 - b Changing society through improvised music
 - c Opposing the lifestyle of groups who damage the environment
 - d Changing the logos of companies to highlight their harmful activities
- 20** Which two of the following are usually seen as left-wing policies?
- a Nationalization of industry
 - b Low income tax
 - c Cutting spending on welfare
 - d Redistributing wealth from the rich to the poor
- 21** Which two of the following characteristics are associated with Butler & Stokes's analysis of voting from 1945 until the early 1970s?
- a Partisan alignment
 - b A strong third party
 - c Strong political socialization
 - d A volatile electorate
- 22** Which two of the following elections were won by the Labour Party?
- a 1983
 - b 1992
 - c 1997
 - d 2001
- 23** Sanders *et al* believe that British political parties will only succeed in elections if:
- a They have an image as economically competent
 - b They have popular policies on health and education
 - c They are promising tax cuts
 - d They appeal to middle-class voters
- 24** In the 2005 general election:
- a The Conservatives captured 25% of the upper-class vote
 - b New Labour captured a large part of the core Conservative vote
 - c Most people supported political parties quite strongly
 - d There was a huge turnout
- 25** Which one of these is declining in importance in voting behaviour?
- a Gender
 - b Ethnicity
 - c Type of constituency
 - d Social class
- 26** According to Bartle & Laycock, New Labour won the 2005 election because:
- a Labour handled the economy well
 - b People preferred Labour Party policies
 - c People voted on issues that concerned them personally
 - d The Conservative Party had such a poor image
- 27** Pocketbook voting is voting for:
- a The party that will do most for one's own prosperity
 - b The party that has an image of economic competence
 - c The party whose policies include support for the poor
 - d The party recommended by celebrities
- 28** Which one of these is not a finding of the Power Inquiry?
- a Membership of political parties has fallen below 2% of the population
 - b People find it convenient to vote
 - c People are interested in current affairs and politics
 - d There is a move to a postindustrial society
- 29** Stoker believes that:
- a Party politics can be revived
 - b Political activism is increasing
 - c Boycotting goods is ineffective
 - d Political corruption is rife
- 30** According to Crouch, which of the following is not a feature of post-democracy?
- a Global firms are important
 - b Power has shifted to the corporate elite
 - c Public administration has become commercialized
 - d Globalization is unimportant

Answers

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|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | <i>b</i> | 16 | <i>a</i> |
| 2 | <i>c</i> | 17 | <i>a, b</i> |
| 3 | <i>a</i> | 18 | <i>c d</i> |
| 4 | <i>c</i> | 19 | <i>d</i> |
| 5 | <i>b</i> | 20 | <i>a, d</i> |
| 6 | <i>d</i> | 21 | <i>a, c</i> |
| 7 | <i>b</i> | 22 | <i>c, d</i> |
| 8 | <i>d</i> | 23 | <i>a</i> |
| 9 | <i>b</i> | 24 | <i>b</i> |
| 10 | <i>c</i> | 25 | <i>d</i> |
| 11 | <i>a</i> | 26 | <i>d</i> |
| 12 | <i>a</i> | 27 | <i>a</i> |
| 13 | <i>c</i> | 28 | <i>b</i> |
| 14 | <i>d</i> | 29 | <i>a</i> |
| 15 | <i>b</i> | 30 | <i>d</i> |