**Chapter 12: Legislative Assemblies**

**Multiple-Choice Questions**

1. In this model, legislators are understood as elected to directly serve and promote the preferences of their constituents.

@ See pages 347 and 348.

a. Trustee model

b. Representative model

c. Democratic model

d. Delegate model

e. Parliamentary model

2. Which of the following is typically NOT the purview or responsibility of a democratic legislature.

@ See page 349.

a. Writing, amending, and pass laws

b. Providing a check on the executive branch

c. Debating legislative proposals

d. Adjudicating whether a law is constitutional

e. Scrutinizing the actions of the bureaucracy

3. Media monitoring of legislative debates, as well as legislative oversight of the executive, both provide democratic legitimacy via encouraging \_\_\_ .

@ See page 349.

a. private influence

b. transparency

c. clientelism

d. elite decision making

e. limited debate

4. Which of the following is typically NOT a reason for bicameralism in a particular legislature?

@ See page 353.

a. the country is small

b. the country has a tradition of elite rule

c. the country is federal

d. the country is ethnically diverse

e. the country contains strong regions

5. Which of the following would NOT provide evidence of a strong committee system?

@ See pages 354 and 355.

a. Bills pass through committees before coming to a full vote

b. A diverse array of standing committees exist to cover different areas

c. The country is a presidential system with lowered party discipline

d. Committees may only propose amendments, but not block bills entirely

e. Committee leadership is guaranteed to multiple parties

6. In \_\_\_ , the committee system is highly unspecialized and named only for letters of the alphabet (A, B, C, etc.).

@ See pages 355 and 356.

a. the USA

b. France

c. the UK

d. Germany

e. Japan

7. In the U.S. example, the legislature may overturn a presidential veto of legislation if it has a \_\_\_ of support.

@ See pages 358 and 359.

a. quorum

b. bare majority

c. supermajority

d. unanimity

e. the presidential veto in the United States is permanent

8. Members of parliament that are not part of the leadership are referred to as \_\_\_ .

@ See page 362.

a. backbenchers

b. amateurs

c. rookies

d. frontbenchers

e. novices

9. Party \_\_\_ is often a consequence of highly proportional election systems and may lead to difficulty in coalition formation negotiations.

@ See pages 365 and 366.

a. nationalization

b. fractionalization

c. unification

d. regionalization

e. stratification

10. The German \_\_\_ represents the subnational regions at the national level.

@ See pages 371 and 372.

a. Nationalrat

b. Landtag

c. Bundesrat

d. Bundestag

e. Kreisrat

**True/False Questions**

11. Legislatures historically predate political executives as the oldest branch of governing.

@ See page 347.

a. True

b. False

12. In a presidential system, divided government can complicate executive-legislative relations when the president is elected from a different party than the legislative majority.

@ See page 349.

a. True

b. False

13. In bicameral systems, typically the “upper house” is larger and more powerful.

@ See page 353.

a. True

b. False

14. Legislative coalitions exist in both presidential, as well as parliamentary systems.

@ See page 359.

a. True

b. False

15. While Angela Merkel has remained in charge of the German government since 2005, she has had to change coalition partners after each election, in order to maintain a legislative majority.

@ See page 371.

a. True

b. False

**Essay Questions**

Type: E

16. Discuss three major tasks of the legislature. Which do you believe is the most important for a legislature to undertake, in order to protect a country’s level of democracy?

Type: E

17. Imagine you were describing the U.S. Congress to a friend from abroad. How would you explain the presence of our bicameral legislature?

Type: E

18. Discuss the pros and cons for a specialized committee system. If you were the political executive in your country, which would you prefer to work with?

Type: E

19. How might you increase your role in parliament, if you were a parliamentary backbencher? Would your behavior change if you were “backbencher” in a presidential legislature?

Type: E

20. What strategies are parties most likely to follow when they attempt form a cabinet coalition. How does the ideology and size of the involved parties factor in?

Answers:

1. d

2. d

3. b

4. a

5. d

6. c

7. c

8. a

9. b

10. c

11. False

12. True

13. False

14. True

15. True