

Hello, students. This is what I've slammed together for a Midterm Study guide. Test will have 8 or 10 of these, some small answers, some longer answers. No really long essays, of course, because those strain my attention span :)

1. What is a key difference between a professional association and a labor union?
2. What is the difference between a professional association and a trade association?
3. What is the difference between a "citizen's group" and either a professional association or a labor union?
4. Organizations can make several kinds of demands on the political system.
 1. Make life better for our registered members.
 2. Make life better for people like us, even if they aren't members.
 3. Make life better for some people who are not like us.

When we are discussing "collective goods," how significant is the difference between these kinds of requests?
5. See LB p. 7. 3 part definition of "interest organization". Do we like that definition?
6. According to LB, what are the main points of contention in the "great argument" over organized interests?
7. When LB talk about pluralism or pluralistic theories, what are they referring to? Make a bullet list of the central components of that theory.
8. I think LB present a very limited, restrictive, almost stupid, view of the transactionist theory. You have had a chance to read both Olson and Salisbury, two leading "transactionists." In light of Olson and Salisbury, do you think LB make a fair presentation?
9. LB introduce some ecological concepts in their effort to create a new neopluralist theory of interest groups. List and briefly describe (one sentence) these ecological concepts.
10. True or False: James Madison thought the best way to control "the violence of faction" is to eliminate factions altogether. Please explain your response.
11. Arthur Bentley's influential theory of groups is based on his idea of "empirical" or "measurable" political behavior. How did David Truman's Chapter 16 break from the idea of "measurable political behavior"?
12. What is the importance of "overlapping" or "crosscutting" group membership, in the opinion of David Truman?
13. Why is the idea of "free-riding" important in the critique of the pluralist theory? I mean, what elements of pluralism are most questionable in light of the free-rider problem?
14. Suppose that a person joins an organization if $\Delta V + S > C$. What is the significance of that

fact for organizational entrepreneurs

15. How might we stretch & abuse biological niche theory to apply to explain organizational formation and maintenance?
16. Olson claims that rational, self-interested people will not spontaneously join together as a group to advocate for their collective good. Why?
17. I believe that the element "self-interested" is not a logical necessity in Olson's theory of self-interested, rational actors. If a person is not selfish, she might still be a free rider, so the importance of "self interest" is exaggerated. What do you think?
18. Olson says that large groups are more vulnerable to the free-rider problem than are small groups. Make a list of reasons why large groups might have more trouble.
19. In the last chapter of *The Logic of Collective Action*, Olson argues that collective action is a "by-product." Please define "by-product" and explain what is generating the by-product.
20. I think that participation in an election is a form of "contribution" to a collective good. Surely, if nobody votes, then the democratic system will collapse. Suppose you find a non-voter, a free-rider, who feels her vote would not be likely to affect the election outcome. If you want that person to vote, what do you think your most persuasive approach might be?
21. Salisbury describes Truman's view of interest group formation as having two parts, a "wave" (or proliferation) component and a "homeostatic mechanism" component. Describe these components.
22. Everybody knows there are three types of selective benefits, but not everybody agrees on what they ought to be called or how they should be defined. We seem to agree on Material and Solidary benefits, but are stuck on the question of whether there are "purposive" or "expressive" benefits. What is the big deal there? Are they different? How so?
23. Salisbury argues that his Exchange Theory is more complete than Olson's by-product theory? What does Salisbury argue for that view?
24. The Stork is not a good answer to the question "Where do interest groups come from, daddy?" What do think is the best explanation we have found so far? Should we follow the pluralist view? The transactionist view? Or the neopluralist view?
25. Remember the "by-product" theory according to Mancur Olson? It seems to leave open some possibilities that we don't observe in the "real world". For example, the KKK might entice African Americans to join with material selective incentives. Explain why the by-product theory has a problem and how we should re-evaluate it.
26. I think membership organizations are like "sieves". What is the big idea there?
27. In the article on environmental groups, Johnson argues that there may be a connection between the collective goods that organizations provide and their ability to recruit members. Discuss this seeming contradiction with Mancur Olson's by-product theory.
28. Based on Jack Walker's article, "Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups in America," I'll ask you to fill in some values in a table like the one in Alexander, p. 151.

Typology of Occupational Roles

Percentage

Occupational

_____ 31.7

_____ 11.9

_____ 36.6

Nonoccupational _____ 20.7

After you fill in the missing numbers, I'll ask you to make some kind of comment about the importance of the values that are observed.

29. What does the "year of founding" date of existing organizations tell us about the nature of the interest group system? What dangers are there in basing conclusions on that data?
30. I think the definition of "selective incentive" influences your conclusion about Walker's research. What does Walker want you to believe about selective incentives and nonoccupational groups? How does his conclusion reflect his definition?
31. According to Walker, what is the single best explanation for the rapid increase in the formation of organizations after World War II? What is the best evidence he provides for that view?
32. Consider your ordinary, garden variety "citizen's group." In "Interest Representation: The Dominance of Institutions", Salisbury wants to contend that they are a smaller part of the political universe than we might have thought. Why?
33. Explain this quotation from Salisbury (in Alexander, p. 187) "A central distinction between an institution and an interest group is that institutions have interests that are politically and analytically independent of the interests of particular institutional members."
34. Do you agree with Salisbury that we should be studying "Interest Representation" rather than "interest groups." What's the big deal there?
35. I want to start an organization that will (choose one of these)
 1. raise money for conservative causes and donate it to political candidates, or
 2. raise money to buy TV time for conservative causes, or
 3. raise money to pay for researchers who can find good reasons to adopt conservative policiesShould I form a 501(c)(3), a 501(c)(4), a 527, or a political action committee?
36. What types of organizations have to make the most detailed reports to the federal government about their sources of funds?