**Chapter 1**

**Texas Society and Political Culture**

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. Why are Texas college students required to take a course in Texas politics?

A. Most states require college students to take a course in state politics.

B. Federal law requires that states require a course in state politics.

C. Because of Texas pride, the Texas legislature requires a course in Texas politics.

D. After the Civil War, the Texas Supreme Court ruled that a course in Texas politics was necessary for college graduation.

Answer: C

Learning Objective: None

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

2. The word *politics* simply refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. the actions of politicians

B. how people view their government

C. the relationship between the people and their government

D. how you interact with the people around you

Answer: D

Learning Objective: 1.1 Differentiate between government and politics and show the relationship between these two elements.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: The Conceptual Pieces

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

3. When speaking about government, someone is really speaking about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. politics

B. public institutions

C. economics

D. sociology

Answer: B

Learning Objective: 1.1 Differentiate between government and politics and show the relationship between these two elements.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: The Conceptual Pieces

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

4. Which of the following groups was first to settle Texas?

A. Native Americans

B. Spanish

C. Mexicans

D. French

Answer: A

Learning Objective: 1.2 Identify the key events from Texas history that have shaped the state’s political landscape.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Early Settlers

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

5. In what year did the French claim Texas?

A. 800

B. 1684

C. 1776

D. 1824

Answer: B

Learning Objective: 1.2 Identify the key events from Texas history that have shaped the state’s political landscape.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Early Settlers

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

6. How did Spain establish dominion over the Texas territory?

A. Spain built more than 40 forts throughout the territory.

B. The Spanish eradicated the Native American population.

C. Spain waged war to take the territory from the French.

D. Spain established missions and attempted to convert Native Americans to Catholicism.

Answer: D

Learning Objective: 1.2 Identify the key events from Texas history that have shaped the state’s political landscape.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Early Settlers

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

7. The official church of Mexico during the time Anglos settled in Texas was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. Calvinist

B. Baptist

C. Catholic

D. Pagan

Answer: C

Learning Objective: 1.2 Identify the key events from Texas history that have shaped the state’s political landscape.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Early Settlers

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

8. What drew Anglos to settle Texas?

A. Texas’s temperate climate

B. Texas’s sandy beaches

C. plentiful open land

D. reception of the native Hispanic population

Answer: C

Learning Objective: 1.2 Identify the key events from Texas history that have shaped the state’s political landscape.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Early Settlers

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

9. From which country did Texas win its independence?

A. Spain

B. Mexico

C. France

D. Great Britain

Answer: B

Learning Objective: 1.2 Identify the key events from Texas history that have shaped the state’s political landscape.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Early Settlers

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

10. At the time of Texas independence, the people of Texas were known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. Texicans

B. Texans

C. Tejanos

D. Mexicans

Answer: C

Learning Objective: 1.2 Identify the key events from Texas history that have shaped the state’s political landscape.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Early Settlers

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

11. Which slogan was inscribed on a banner at the battle of San Jacinto?

A. Long Live the Revolution

B. Freedom for All

C. Remember San Jacinto

D. Come and Take It

Answer: D

Learning Objective: 1.2 Identify the key events from Texas history that have shaped the state’s political landscape.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Early Settlers

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

12. Which of the following was a factor in Texas benefitting from its agricultural products?

A. ports

B. automobile

C. refrigerated rail cars

D. well-established cattle trails

Answer: C

Learning Objective: 1.3 Analyze the economic evolution of Texas and identify economic factors that may influence Texas public policy in the future.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Stage One: “Take It”

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

13. Which of the following is something Texas has that draws industry to Texas?

A. a strong unionized workforce

B. a strong regulatory environment

C. a moderate level of taxes

D. cheap space

Answer: D

Learning Objective: 1.3 Analyze the economic evolution of Texas and identify economic factors that may influence Texas public policy in the future.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Stage Three: “Serve It”

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

14. Juan Mendoza was traveling from west to east in Texas when he started seeing pine trees. Where in Texas had Juan arrived?

A. southern part of Texas

B. central part of Texas

C. eastern part of Texas

D. Llano uplift area of Texas

Answer: D

Learning Objective: 1.4 Compare and contrast the geographic regions of Texas and show how the land has shaped Texans and their politics.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Piney Woods to the Post Oak and Prairies

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

15. Carla Sanchez was traveling from south Texas when rocky plateaus and cliffs came into view. What area of Texas is Carla approaching?

A. western highlands

B. piney woods

C. coastal plains and Gulf lowlands

D. basin and range

Answer: A

Learning Objective: 1.4 Compare and contrast the geographic regions of Texas and show how the land has shaped Texans and their politics.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Western Highlands to the High Plains

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

16. Where in Texas are the Davis Mountains located?

A. western highlands

B. piney woods

C. coastal plains and Gulf lowlands

D. basin and range

Answer: D

Learning Objective: 1.4 Compare and contrast the geographic regions of Texas and show how the land has shaped Texans and their politics.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Basin and Range

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

17. Where in Texas is the Big Bend State Park located?

A. western highlands

B. piney woods

C. coastal plains and Gulf lowlands

D. basin and range

Answer: D

Learning Objective: 1.4 Compare and contrast the geographic regions of Texas and show how the land has shaped Texans and their politics.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Basin and Range

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

18. Where in Texas can one find rice paddies?

A. western highlands

B. piney woods

C. coastal plains and Gulf lowlands

D. basin and range

Answer: C

Learning Objective: 1.4 Compare and contrast the geographic regions of Texas and show how the land has shaped Texans and their politics.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Coastal Plains and Gulf Lowlands

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

19. Frankie was at a bar and met a girl. He asked her, in English, if she was Latino. She said yes, and so Frankie began speaking Spanish to her. However, she did not understand him and so Frankie asked, again in English, if she was from Latin America. She said yes. Based on information in the textbook, which country would you say the girl was from?

A. Colombia

B. Peru

C. Venezuela

D. Brazil

Answer: D

Learning Objective: 1.5 Profile the current Texas population (including the major ethnic groups) and identify future demographic developments.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Ethnic Demographics

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

20. Younger people who move into Texas are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ groups that came in the past.

A. more homogenous

B. older

C. about the same in age as

D. more diverse than

Answer: D

Learning Objective: 1.5 Profile the current Texas population (including the major ethnic groups) and identify future demographic developments.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Ethnic Demographics

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

21. According to the latest Census numbers, which of the following groups has the highest median income?

A. Anglos

B. Blacks

C. Hispanics

D. Asians

Answer: D

Learning Objective: 1.5 Profile the current Texas population (including the major ethnic groups) and identify future demographic developments.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Income Demographics

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

22. Which part of Texas has the highest poverty rates?

A. North Texas

B. West Texas

C. South Texas

D. Central Texas

Answer: C

Learning Objective: 1.5 Profile the current Texas population (including the major ethnic groups) and identify future demographic developments.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Education Demographics

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

23. Which part of Texas has the lowest poverty rates?

A. North Texas

B. West Texas

C. South Texas

D. Central Texas

Answer: A

Learning Objective: 1.5 Profile the current Texas population (including the major ethnic groups) and identify future demographic developments.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Income Demographics

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

24. In terms of percentage of college graduates, where does Texas rank among all states?

A. very low compared to other states

B. about 25th

C. in the top 10 percent

D. in the top 5 percent

Answer: A

Learning Objective: 1.5 Profile the current Texas population (including the major ethnic groups) and identify future demographic developments.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Education Demographics

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

25. Which of the following is considered reflective of Texas conservative values?

A. trust in government

B. support for ethics changes for government officials

C. concern for the needs of the community

D. resistance to change

Answer: D

Learning Objective: 1.6 Discuss three political cultures in the United States, and identify the dominant political cultures in Texas.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and the political culture of Texas.

Topic: Traditionalistic

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

**Short Answer Questions:**

26. During Reconstruction, which group was restricted from voting, and what was a result of that group not being allowed to vote?

Answer: During Reconstruction, former secessionists, who were Democrats, were not allowed to vote; in Texas, this resulted in the Republican Party gaining political power.

Learning Objective: 1.2 Identify the key events from Texas history that have shaped the state’s political landscape.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: The Changing Loyalties of Texas

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

27. What is the difference between the terms “Hispanic” and “Latino”?

Answer: The term “Hispanic” describes a person of Spanish descent, while “Latino” describes a person of Latin American origin. While many Latin Americans speak primarily Spanish (making them Hispanic), some speak other languages, such as the people of Brazil, where Portuguese is spoken. Thus, Brazilians are not Hispanic but are, rather, Latino.

Learning Objective: 1.5 Profile the current Texas population (including the major ethnic groups) and identify future demographic developments.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Ethnic Demographics

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

28. According to the textbook, which group in Texas will in the near future be larger than that of Whites, and why?

Answer: According to the text, because of Hispanics’ birth rates, in the near future the number of Hispanics in Texas will surpass the number of Whites.

Learning Objective: 1.5 Profile the current Texas population (including the major ethnic groups) and identify future demographic developments.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Ethnic Demographics

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

29. Who are the oldest Texans, in terms of ethnicity? How does this compare to the group that makes up the youngest age category?

Answer: According to Figure 1.8 in the text, 64 percent of Texans who are older than 65 years of age are non-Hispanic Whites, while 22 percent are Hispanic and only 9 percent are non-Hispanic Blacks. Conversely, of Texans under age 19, only 33 percent are non-Hispanic Whites, while 12 percent are non-Hispanic Blacks and almost half, 49 percent, are Hispanic.

Learning Objective: 1.5 Profile the current Texas population (including the major ethnic groups) and identify future demographic developments.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Age Demographics

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

30. Dan is not all that certain that ethics rules for government officials is a good thing. Knowing this, explain which political culture probably informs Dan’s thinking.

Answer: Dan’s attitudes, beliefs, and behavior are probably shaped by the traditionalistic political culture, which does not have a favorable view of ethics reform.

Learning Objective: 1.6 Discuss three political cultures in the United States and identify the dominant political cultures in Texas.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and the political culture of Texas.

Topic: Putting It Together: The Political Culture of Texas

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

**Essay Questions**

31.What were the perceived abuses of the administration of Governor E. J. Davis, and how has this administration affected policy choices that have been made, and are still being made, in Texas?

The ideal answer should include:

1. The E. J. Davis administration was said to have (1) used the state’s militia to intimidate political opponents; (2) suppressed the publication of newspapers critical of his leadership; and (3) bolstered the rights of newly free slaves. It was also characterized by excessive public spending, significant property tax increases, appropriation of public funds for the benefit of the governor’s political and financial allies, and strict control of voter registration by the occupying Union military.

2. The effect of the administration is that it acted to reinforce views against both centralized government power and government and power in general. Today, especially among members of the modern Republican Party, any expansion of government power is subject to intense scrutiny and is often followed by charges of overreach.

Learning Objective: 1.2 Identify the key events from Texas history that have shaped the state’s political landscape.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: The Changing Loyalties of Texas

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

32. Identify the things Texas possesses that give it significant influence within the nation, and explain why.

The ideal answer should include:

1. Texas has an abundance of fertile soil, ideal grazing conditions for cattle, access to the ocean, and a central location in the United States.

2. Fertile soil has allowed Texas to develop a large agrarian economy. Access to the ocean allows Texas to have an active fishing industry and ports. Ports and Texas’s central location provide Texas with an advantage as a central importation and distribution hub. Texas’s oil production provides a source of wealth for the state.

Learning Objective: 1.2 Identify the key events from Texas history that have shaped the state’s political landscape.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Topic: Modern Statehood

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

33. Identify the conservative influences on Texas’s history and discuss how those influences have affected policy decisions in the state up to the present day.

The ideal answer should include:

1. Conservative influences have remained remarkably consistent over the course of 180 years of Texas history.

2. Staunch Democrats that ruled the state for the first 100 years after the Civil War and the Tea Party activists today all have a fierce distrust of government in all forms.

3. In Texas the role of the government is still in question as politics revolve around not only the federal government’s role in state affairs but also the rights of the state to set policy.

Learning Objective: 1.6 Discuss three political cultures in the United States and identify the dominant political cultures in Texas.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.

Topic: Putting It Together: The Political Culture of Texas

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

34. Gregg wants to see Texas remain business friendly in the future and is against the state creating more regulations. In fact, all Gregg really wants is for the state to reduce the number of regulations it currently has. Which political culture do you think Gregg does not care for and why? Which political culture does Gregg most align with?

The ideal answer should include:

1. Gregg probably has a dislike for the moralistic political culture, which focuses on the collective good and considers the desires and needs of the community.

2. If one puts the needs of business in front of the needs of the community, a person is mainly influenced by the individualistic political culture, which centers on the individual’s achievement and needs, as opposed to those of the community.

3. Gregg appears to align with the individualistic political culture.

Learning Objective: 1.6 Discuss three political cultures in the United States, and identify the dominant political cultures in Texas.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies, and the political culture of Texas.

Topic: Putting It Together: The Political Culture of Texas

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

35. Compare and contrast the three political cultures. Which one do you believe is the best for Texas?

The ideal answer should include:

1. In the individualistic culture, private concerns are more important than public concerns. Those who ascribe to this political culture support relatively low taxes and smaller government and have a general distaste for politicians.

2. This is in contrast to the moralistic political culture, which focuses on the collective good and considers the desires and needs of the community. In this culture the desires of the community, not individual interests, hold sway over policy.

3. Somewhat different than these two is the traditionalistic political culture, which emphasizes a rigid desire to maintain traditional customs and values. Those who ascribe to this political culture have an intense resistance to change.

4. Students should come up with some reasoning that draws from one of the political cultures and tie it to some aspect of policy (smaller government, better protection of the environment, etc.) in Texas. For example, if, as the authors state, voters choose and the winners get to spend tax dollars implementing their goals, then the will of the community should be deemed paramount. Thus, the moralistic political culture would be best for Texas’s collective good.

Learning Objective: 1.6 Discuss three political cultures in the United States, and identify the dominant political cultures in Texas.

Texas Government Learning Outcome: Analyze issues, policies and the political culture of Texas.

Topic: Putting It Together: The Political Culture of Texas

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It