

TEST BANK



**UNDERSTANDING
PUBLIC POLICY**

THIRTEENTH EDITION

THOMAS R. DYE

**INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL/
TEST BANK**

FOR

THOMAS R. DYE

UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC POLICY

THIRTEENTH EDITION

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CHAPTER 1

POLICY ANALYSIS

CHAPTER OUTLINE AND SUMMARY

I. What Is Public Policy?

A study of public policy examines what governments do, why they chose certain actions, and what the impact of these actions is. Public policy is worth studying because it focuses on the choices governments make and, more particularly, the intended and unintended consequences of policy decisions.

- A. Definition of Policy
- B. Policy Expansion and Government Growth
- C. Scope of Public Policy

II. Why Study Public Policy?

Political science goes beyond an understanding of governmental institutions and processes. It also includes public policy, which focuses on the causes and consequences of government actions.

III. What Can Be Learned from Policy Analysis?

Policy analysis examines the actions of governments, the causes of those actions, and their impact. Descriptive analysis of the government examines what the government does or does not do. Why do governments take or fail to take certain actions? In this analysis, policy is the dependent variable, and the causes or determinants of public policy are the independent variables. Policy evaluation studies the results of implementing public policy. In this context, policies are independent variables, and their impacts are dependent variables.

- A. Description
- B. Causes
- C. Consequences

IV. Policy Analysis and Policy Advocacy

Policy analysis is contrasted with policy advocacy; the latter prescribes actions. Policy analysis takes a scientific approach. The three main elements of policy analysis are: explanation takes precedence over prescription, a thorough search for the causes and consequences of public policies, an effort to test theories with reliable findings.

V. Policy Analysis and the Quest for Solutions to America's Problems

Policy analysis should assume that not all of our society's problems can be eradicated. Government is constrained by—and cannot ever dominate—a mass of social forces. What problems should be the targets of public policy? Without agreement on this issue, public policy has little hope of success.

- A. Limits on Government Power
- B. Disagreement over the Problem
- C. Subjectivity in Interpretation

- D. Limitations on Design of Human Research
- E. Complexity of Human Behavior

VI. Policy Analysis as Art and Craft

Policy analysis is both an art—requiring insight and creativity—and a craft—requiring knowledge of applied sciences. Aaron Wildavsky was firm in asserting that no one model can be used, and no model of choice will be presented in this text.

KEY TERMS

Students should be able to define each of the following key terms:

Public Policy (p. 1)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (p. 1)

Political Science (p. 3)

Policy Analysis (p. 4)

Policy Advocacy (p. 6)

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- 1) According to the text, _____ is a common indicator of governmental functions and priorities.
- a) policy advocacy
 - b) government spending
 - c) regulatory activity
 - d) policy analysis

Answer: b (p. 1)

- 2) Government's responsibilities have generally
- a) grown in recent years.
 - b) constricted in recent years.
 - c) stayed about the same in recent years.
 - d) both grown and constricted in recent years.

Answer: a (p. 1)

- 3) Governmental growth during the twentieth century may be attributed to all *except* one of the following:
- a) World War I and World War II
 - b) the Great Depression
 - c) massive immigration
 - d) increases in expenditures for homeland security

Answer: c (pp. 1–2)

- 4) Total government spending (state, local, and federal) accounts for about what percentage of the gross domestic product?
- a) 35
 - b) 25
 - c) 45
 - d) 15

Answer: a (p. 2)

- 5) The most expensive undertaking of the federal government is
- a) education.
 - b) national defense.
 - c) Social Security and Medicare.
 - d) interest on the national debt.

Answer: c (p. 3)

- 6) The most expensive undertaking of state and local governments is
- a) highways.
 - b) education.
 - c) national defense.
 - d) welfare.

Answer: b (p. 3)

- 7) Traditional political science focuses primarily on
- a) causes of government activity.
 - b) the behavioral processes of government.
 - c) the institutional arrangements (e.g., constitutional requirements) of government.
 - d) an evaluation of the consequences of societal policies.

Answer: c (p. 3)

- 8) Learning about the consequences of public policy is often referred to as
- a) policy advocacy.
 - b) policy evaluation.
 - c) policy analysis.
 - d) policy description.

Answer: b (p. 4)

- 9) Prescribing a direction in public policy is referred to as
- a) agenda setting.
 - b) policy advocacy.
 - c) policy evaluation.
 - d) policy analysis.

Answer: b (p. 6)

- 10) The work of a policy analyst includes all of the following *except*
- a) rigorous examination of the causes of public policy.
 - b) systematic examination of the impact of public policy.
 - c) prescribing policy preferences.
 - d) scientifically studying public policy.

Answer: c (p. 6)

- 11) Policy _____ requires the skills of rhetoric, persuasion, organization, and activism.
- a) analysis
 - b) evaluation
 - c) advocacy
 - d) expansion

Answer: c (p. 6)

- 12) One problem that researchers have in their attempt to find solutions for public problems is
- a) an inability to quantify data.
 - b) a lack of understanding of the scientific method.
 - c) a disagreement about what the problems are.
 - d) the lack of understanding of the social and economic environment.

Answer: c (p. 7)

- 13) In scientific terms, when we study the causes of public policy, policies become the _____ variables and their determinants become the _____ variables.
- a) evaluation, recommendation
 - b) independent, dependent
 - c) cause, consequences
 - d) dependent, independent

Answer: d (pp. 4–5)

- 14) The most serious reservation about policy analysis is the inability to make accurate predictions because of
- a) lack of accurate data.
 - b) the complexity of social problems and human behavior.
 - c) value conflicts among researchers.
 - d) the Hawthorne effect.

Answer: b (p. 8)

- 15) Policy analysis is an art and a craft. It is an art because of the need for
- a) knowledge of economics.
 - b) knowledge of public administration.
 - c) creativity in dealing with public issues.
 - d) statistical expertise.

Answer: c (p. 8)

ESSAY QUESTIONS

- 1) Understanding public policy is both an art and a craft. Explain.
- 2) Policy analysis is finding out what governments do, why they do it, and what difference it makes. What can be learned from policy analysis?
- 3) What is the role of the policy advocate?
- 4) Why study public policy?
- 5) Distinguish policy analysis from policy advocacy.

WEB SITES

The below Web sites are provided at the end of the chapter:

Office of the President. White House home page, with president's policy positions, speeches, press releases, etc. www.whitehouse.gov

U.S. House of Representatives. Official House Web site, with links to individual House members' Web sites. www.house.gov

U.S. Senate. Official Senate Web site, with links to individual senators' Web sites. www.senate.gov

U.S. Congress on the Internet. Library of Congress Thomas search engine for finding bills and tracing their progress through Congress. <http://thomas.loc.gov>

Federal Statistics Online. Links to federal statistical reports, listed by topic A–Z.
www.fedstats.gov

U.S. Census Bureau. The official site of the Census Bureau, with access to all current reports: population, income and poverty, government finances, etc. www.census.gov

First Gov. U.S. government's official portal to all independent agencies and government corporations. www.firstgov.gov

Federal Judiciary. U.S. judiciary official site, with links to all federal courts. www.uscourts.gov

Supreme Court Cases. Compilation of all key U.S. Supreme Court decisions.
www.supct.law.cornell.edu

Library of Congress. Compilation of the laws of the United States. <http://thomas.loc.gov>

CHAPTER 2 MODELS OF POLITICS

CHAPTER OUTLINE AND SUMMARY

I. Models for Policy Analysis

Models represent simplified versions of reality, to aid comprehension.

- A. Uses of Models
- B. Selected Policy Models

II. Institutionalism: Policy as Institutional Output

The institutions of government were the traditional concerns of political science. Government institutions are important as they are the means by which solutions to policy issues become public policy. Though the Constitution provides the basic framework for government institutions, considerable change has occurred since its adoption.

III. Process: Policy as Political Activity

The six-part policy process applies generally to all policymaking, beginning with problem identification and ending with policy evaluation.

IV. Rationalism: Policy as Maximum Social Gain

The idea of “maximum social gain” assumes that the costs of any policy will be less than the gains achieved and that the policy producing the greatest benefit should always be chosen. The rational-policy approach also assumes that it is possible to identify what an entire society wants. The difficulties in this approach mean that it is rarely used.

V. Incrementalism: Policy as Variations on the Past

In reaction to rational-comprehensive policymaking, incrementalism uses the status quo as a basis for modifications. The approach assumes that comprehensive change is not practical and that incremental change is more easily achieved. However, incrementalism is less viable in crisis situations.

VI. Group Theory Policy as Equilibrium in the Group Struggle

Group theory assumes that the interests and actions of groups are central in politics, and it posits that public policy is the equilibrium achieved by struggle among influential groups. The approach includes the notion that equilibrium is maintained by a latent group composed of most Americans, by overlapping group membership, and by checks and balances produced by competition among groups.

VII. Elite Theory: Policy as Elite Preference

The elite theory assumes that the masses are apathetic and that public policy reflects the wants and beliefs of the elite.

VIII. Public Choice Theory: Policy as Collective Decision Making by Self-Interested Individuals

Public choice theory looks at policymaking from an economic point of view, with the idea of the social contract as one of its key tenets. It assumes that government must provide public goods, and address the issue of externalities, when the activities of one actor impose costs on another.

IX. Game Theory: Policy as Rational Choice in Competitive Situations

In this theory, players make interdependent choices, using brinksmanship and deterrence to achieve their goals.

X. Models: How to Tell If They Are Helping or Not

Models are only useful if they help us to understand political life, identify key aspects of policy, mimic reality, communicate concepts in a meaningful way, give means by which they can be tested, and hypothesize about the causes and consequences of public policy.

- A. Order and Simplify Reality
- B. Identify What Is Significant
- C. Be Congruent with Reality
- D. Provide Meaningful Communication
- E. Direct Inquiry and Research
- F. Suggest Explanations

KEY TERMS

Students should be able to define each of the following key terms:

Institutionalism (p. 12)	Policy Process (p. 14)
Rational Model (Rationalism) (p. 15)	Policy Legitimation (p. 14)
Group Theory (p. 19)	Policy Implementation (p. 14)
Elite Theory (p. 20)	Agenda Setting (p. 14)
Public Choice Theory (p. 22)	Policy Evaluation (p. 14)
Game Theory (p. 23)	Elitism (p. 22)
Federal System (p. 13)	Incrementalism (p. 17)

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- 1) Models are used for all of the following reasons *except*
- a) to simplify our thinking about public policy.
 - b) to suggest explanations for public policy.
 - c) to discover the morally good policies we ought to adopt.
 - d) to identify important aspects of policy problems.

Answer: c (p. 11)

- 2) Those that focus on the three branches of government (executive, legislative, and judicial) when studying public policy would be primarily interested in the
- a) institutional model.
 - b) the game theory model.
 - c) public choice model.
 - d) rational model.

Answer: a (p. 12)

- 3) _____ is the distribution of money and power among federal, state, and local governments.
- a) American federalism
 - b) Policy formulation
 - c) Incrementalism
 - d) Policy legitimation

Answer: a (p. 13)

- 4) Which of the following is not part of the policy process?
- a) agenda setting
 - b) policy evaluation
 - c) problem identification
 - d) policy input

Answer: d (p. 14)

- 5) "Maximum social gain" is most associated with the
- a) institutional model.
 - b) rational model.
 - c) elite model.
 - d) group model.

Answer: b (p. 15)

- 6) To make a rational policy decision, the makers must
- a) chose a policy based only on its benefits.
 - b) assess a policy based only on its costs.
 - c) chose a policy with the greatest advantage.
 - d) weigh benefits against costs

Answer: d (p. 15)

- 7) Incrementalism views public policy as
- a) the product of group conflict.
 - b) the desire of the elites.
 - c) the continuation of past policies.
 - d) the most cost-effective alternative.

Answer: c (p. 17)

- 8) Group theory views public policy as
- a) the balance that is achieved between competing interests.
 - b) the desires of the elites.
 - c) the continuation of past policies.
 - d) incremental in nature.

Answer: a (p. 19)

- 9) Elite theory maintains that
- a) society is divided into the many who have power and the few who do not.
 - b) the few who govern are typical of the masses that are governed.
 - c) the movement of nonelites to elite positions should be as rapid as possible.
 - d) elites share consensus on the need to preserve the system.

Answer: d (p. 21)

- 10) Elitism views the masses as largely
- a) passive, apathetic, and ill-informed.
 - b) active, positive, and well-informed.
 - c) fundamentally uncontrollable.
 - d) maintaining a direct influence over the decision-making behavior of elites.

Answer: a (p. 20)

- 11) Public choice theory views policy as
- a) similar to the decisions made in marketplaces.
 - b) the desires of the few who have power.
 - c) the outcome of conflict between self-interested groups.
 - d) rational choice made in competitive situations.

Answer: a (p. 22)

- 12) Public choice theory
- a) views individuals as reacting very differently in politics than in the marketplace.
 - b) does not agree with Locke's social-contract view as to the origin of government.
 - c) helps explain why political parties and candidates do not like to offer clear policy alternatives.
 - d) does not examine the economic cost of externalities.

Answer: c (p. 22)

- 13) In public choice theory, _____ occur when one actor or group imposes costs on others without compensation.
- a) group conflicts
 - b) rational choices
 - c) externalities
 - d) deterrents

Answer: c (p. 25)

- 14) Deterrence is
- a) a form of elitism.
 - b) effective against an irrational opponent.
 - c) a psychological defense.
 - d) a final form of defense that does not rely on maintaining a credible retaliatory threat.

Answer: c (p. 25)

- 15) The notion of deterrence is an important component of
- a) incrementalism.
 - b) systems analysis.
 - c) public choice theory.
 - d) game theory.

Answer: d (p. 25)

ESSAY QUESTIONS

- 1) The policy process can be viewed as a series of political activities. Define each of these political activities.
- 2) Define any four of the policy models. Give examples, explain where these models overlap, and share assumptions.
- 3) Explain the general criteria for evaluating the usefulness of policy models.

WEB SITES

The below Web sites are provided at the end of the chapter:

American Political Science Association. Home page of academic political scientists' professional organization. www.apsanet.org

Public Agenda Online. Brief guide to a variety of policy issues, including public opinion surveys on these issues. www.publicagenda.org

Almanac of Policy Issues. Background information on a variety of issues with links to sources. www.policyalmanac.org

Public Opinion Online. Compilation of recent public opinion polls on policy issues, political actors, government institutions, etc. www.pollingreport.com

The Gallup Organization. Home page of the Gallup public opinion organization. www.gallup.com

National Center for Policy Research. Conservative policy research organization, with studies on a variety of policy issues. www.nationalcenter.org

Progressive Policy Institute. Liberal policy research organization, with policy briefs on a variety of issues. www.ppionline.org

National Issues. Collection of current articles on a variety of policy issues. www.nationalissues.com