

(POS 2112) EXAM 2 ESSAY QUESTIONS

Use these answer/video links as a guide for your studies!

- 1. Can all interests be organized and represented? Discuss the critiques of pluralism by Schattschneider and Lindblom. Do they make convincing arguments? Give one example that highlights their arguments.**

*****[Read pages 180-182 for a thorough understanding](#)*****

-All interests cannot be organized and represented.

-**E.E. Schattschneider** simply stated, "The flaw in the pluralist heaven is that the heavenly chorus sings with a strong upper-class accent." Clearly, the pluralist system has a mobilization of bias which benefits the private, organized interests. The powerful interest groups have more of an advantage when they go up against the public interests. The reasoning for this is the powerful interest groups privatize conflict which in turn limits the other interests ability to become involved in the policy-making process.

-**Charles Lindblom** disputed that business (economic) interest groups have an advantage in regard to politicians in market economies. Citizens and government officials can be hurt by the private decisions made by the business.

-Schattschneider and Lindblom make convincing arguments because money seems to play a large role in who makes the rules. The private, business, for-profit organizations seem to have the power and are organized, whereas the other interests are limited.

-**Example:** a business's decision to relocate or lay off workers can threaten the economic stability of a state or local government. If an automobile manufacturer in Michigan announces plans to move its operations to Mexico, the plant closing will likely increase unemployment in the community, prompt other businesses to also move, and discourage economic investment in the area. Using its threat of exit, business is able to indirectly limit the ability of governmental officials to regulate economic interests.

-<http://study.com/academy/lesson/the-public-policy-process-problem-recognition-policy-formation-policy-implementation.html>

- 2. Discuss how states regulate lobbyists, comparing the stringency of the rules and which are most effective.**

*****[Read pages 185-191 for a thorough understanding](#)*****

-How States Regulate Lobbyists:

- 20 states regulate lobbying of both executive and legislative officials, 12 regulate only legislative lobbying and 18 regulate lobbying of all government officials.
- Every state requires lobbyists to register with a state regulatory agency or the state legislature.
- 19 states require lobbyists to register prior to plying state policymakers. Another 26 states allow lobbyists to register within the first 10 days of engaging state lawmakers. 5 states, as well as the District of Columbia, are much more lenient. These 5 states give lobbyists a grace period of 10 days to register after trying to influence legislation.
- Lobbyist pricing for admissions varies even more. 8 states (Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, and Washington) do not require lobbyists to pay a fee to conduct business. Half of the states charge an annual fee of

up to \$500, with another 17 charging \$50 or less a year. Massachusetts requires all lobbyists to pay \$1,000, giving them 10 days to register after making their first contact.

-Effectiveness:

- The effectiveness of lobbyists is influenced by institutional constraints existing within a state.

3. Describe the different kinds of lobbyists and their effectiveness, and detail the types of techniques they tend to use.

****Read pages 187-189 for a thorough understanding****

-Types of Lobbyists:

- In-house lobbyists:
 - Employed individuals of a membership group, association, or institution representing their own organization (About 40% all lobbying done in state capitals is conducted by in-house lobbyists).
 - Executive directors, public relations officers, and lawyers often serve as this type of lobbyist. The major companies who use these lobbyists do so to maintain a foot in the doors of policy makers and state lawmakers. The majority of in-house lawyers have extensive experience working in the area in which they are doing the lobbying.
- Contract lobbyists:
 - Work for a lobbying firm or independently.
 - Predominately male, former legislators, elected or appointed state officials, or staff.
 - Charge clients hourly fee; typically work for multiple clients.
 - Around 20% of lobbying corps in state capitals are composed of contract lobbyists (depending on the professionalization of the state legislature).
- Government lobbyists:
 - About 30% of all lobbyists in the states are government lobbyists.
 - Public sector entities (county, regional governments, municipal, special districts like police and fire forces, hospitals, public colleges/universities, etc.) employ governmental relations personnel to advocate their vested interests in state capitals.
 - Many are female; tend to be career bureaucrats or former legislative staff with experience in dealing with the governmental agency they represent.
- Volunteer lobbyists:
 - 10% of state lobbying communities are composed of these individuals; also known as hobbyists.
 - No compensation.
 - Assist in public interest groups.
 - Examples of some volunteers: Retirees, college students, high school students.
 - Others are a nuisance by hanging around state legislatures and taking part in the action.
 - "Volunteer lobbyists are the only ones left worthy of the name lobbyists, as contract and in-house lobbyists do not need to hang out in the lobbies anymore;

their campaign contributions and influence enable them to be ushered directly in the front door of legislator's offices."

[-https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTbtKRdYbYo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTbtKRdYbYo)

4. Compare the different perspectives that David Truman and Mancur Olson have regarding how and why interest groups form.

*****Read pages 183-184 for a thorough understand*****

-David Truman:

- Argued that humans are naturally predisposed to creating and participating in groups in order to satisfy their needs.
- Many individuals have diverse interests, therefore people belong to several groups.
- Following the pluralist logic that groups emerge when a disturbance in the status quo occurs, the number and types of interest groups will grow as a society becomes more complex. As a state's economy grows, so does the number of interest groups operating in that state.

-Mancur Olson:

- In contrast to Truman, Olson contended there are many costs associated with an individual joining a group. If given a choice, rational actors would generally not join groups, choosing instead to benefit from the actions of the groups without bearing any of the attendant costs.
- Pointed out that individuals usually joined groups for three reasons: peer pressure, coercion, or if they receive some type of selective benefit.

[-http://study.com/academy/lesson/development-maintenance-of-interest-groups.html](http://study.com/academy/lesson/development-maintenance-of-interest-groups.html)

[-http://study.com/academy/lesson/what-are-interest-groups-in-the-united-states-history-types.html](http://study.com/academy/lesson/what-are-interest-groups-in-the-united-states-history-types.html)

5. Assess how a state's socioeconomic makeup influences its interest group density and diversity, discussing which factors contribute to the dynamics of a state's interest group system.

*****Read pages 201-204 for a thorough understanding*****

-As a state's economy grows, so does the number of interest groups operating in that state. States with the largest economies invariably have the most interest groups.

-Wealthier states tend to have more interest groups, in part because governments are able to attract new business by increasing their expenditures. In states with fairly dense interest group systems, the relative power of each group is lessened.

-Interest group diversity is positively related to a state's economic diversity.

-Legislatures of states with denser interest group systems tend to be less productive, as measured by the proportion of all bills introduced that are passed.

-States that have the initiative process has on average 17% more interest groups between 1975 and 1990, after controlling for other factors that might lead to interest group growth, than states without the process.

-Actual initiative use by a state leads to a general increase in the number of membership groups, associations, and not-for-profit organizations that have registered lobbyists in the