Chapter 13

1. Why have lobbying expenditures decreased since 2010?

\*a. Gridlock in Congress has led interest groups to scale back on lobbying costs

b. The Lobbying Cost Act limits lobbying expenditures

c. The number of interest groups has decreased substantially

d. Members of Congress have adopted a new norm of refusing to meet with lobbyists in many situations

2. According to Olson’s free rider analysis, which of the following groups would find it easiest to overcome the free rider problem and organize effectively?

a. An advocacy organization hoping to help single mothers living in poverty

\*b. The owners of major oil companies

c. Parents concerned about the nutritional content of school lunches

d. Environmentalists

3. Which of the following is an example of “reverse lobbying”?

a. The NRA makes the uncharacteristic choice to support a restriction on firearms

b. Despite spending less money than their opponents, an environmental lobby succeeds in getting an antilogging bill passed

\*c. Congressional Democrats lobby the AARP and win their support for the Affordable Care Act.

d. A lobbying group puts pressure on a Senator based on constituency factors.

4. Which of the following is *not* a type of lobbying?

a. Direct lobbying

b. Electronic advocacy

c. Grassroots mobilization

\*d. Penny lobbying

5. Which of the following is an example of coalition lobbying?

\*a. Environmental and public health groups work together on a bill concerning greenhouse gasses

b. A lobbyist chats with a Senator about a new antigun bill while hosting a campaign fundraiser

c. A former Senator lobbies a current Senator about a bill that would limit campaign finance regulations

d. A lobbyist specializes in social media campaigns targeted at members

6. Which of the following is an example of grassroots lobbying?

a. A lobbyist meets a House member for a golfing game, where they discuss energy policy

\*b. Planned Parenthood encourages its members to e-mail their Senator about an upcoming vote

c. An NRA lobbyist provides a Senator with valuable fundraising advice

d. A lobbyist for an environmental group provides a House member with expert information on the details of a planned dam.

7. Which of the following members of Congress would a PAC be most likely to donate to?

a. A staunch opponent

b. A swing voter who has not yet made up his/her mind

\*c. A strong supporter

d. A new member who has few existing ties

8. Which of the following would a lobbyist be likely to provide under the “legislative subsidy” theory?

a. Donating to an opponent to convince them to change their vote on a bill

b. Sending detailed legislative text to an undecided member in order to convince them to introduce a bill

c. Providing voters with stamped envelopes to send letters to their member of Congress

\*d. Providing a supporter with political advice that helps them rally support for a bill

9. What do lobbyists believe is the most effective way to influence lawmakers?

\*a. Providing good information and analysis

b. Donating money

c. Grassroots lobbying

d. Hosting social events

10. Which of the following was the main objective of the 1946 Lobbying Law?

a. Prohibiting abusive lobbying practices

\*b. Public disclosure of lobbying activities

c. Limiting campaign contributions

d. Placing time limits on certain lobbying practices

11. Which of the following is true about foreign lobbyists?

a. Foreign lobbyists make similar sized campaign contributions as domestic groups

b. Lobbying by foreign groups was prohibited by the Lobby Disclosure Act of 1995

\*c. One in every eight dollars spent on lobbying comes from foreign governments

d. Although foreign lobbying is legal, it is very rare

12. Which of the following would *not* be considered part of a subgovernment?

\*a. A voter who votes primarily on agriculture issues

b. The Agriculture Committee in the House

c. National Farmer’s Union

d. Department of Agriculture

13. Lobbying expenditures rise dramatically every year.

a. True

\*b. False

14. According to Olson’s free rider theory, the pressure group system will be tilted toward narrow economic interests and will underrepresent broad public interests.

\*a. True

b. False

15. Those with higher incomes and more education tend to participate more in politics.

\*a. True

b. False

16. Most legislators rely heavily on lobbyists for information.

\*a. True

b. False

17. It is always illegal for interest groups to donate money to congressional campaigns.

a. True

\*b. False

18. Contributions are more likely to buy access than votes.

\*a. True

b. False

19. PACs tend to donate the most money to members who are undecided on an issue.

a. True

\*b. False

20. “Bundling” is the process of combining many votes into a single report card for each member of Congress.

a. True

\*b. False

21. Lobbyists tend to spend the most time lobbying members who already agree with them.

\*a. True

b. False

22. Foreign governments are prohibited from making campaign contributions, but they can lobby members of Congress.

\*a. True

b. False

23. The form of lobbying known as “electronic advocacy” was prohibited by the 2007 Honest Leadership and Open Government Act.

a. True

\*b. False

24. The 1995 Lobby Disclosure Act put into place strong, effective regulations that decreased the number of lobbyists in DC.

a. True

\*b. False

25. What is a legislative subsidy?

\*a. Answers Vary

@A legislative subsidy is the idea that legislators benefit from the help of lobbyists by outsourcing work and expertise. Lobbyists primarily assist and underwrite the efforts of legislative allies by providing information, legislative language, policy analysis, and political advice.

26. What is bundling and how is it relevant to recent ethics reforms?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Bundling is a fund-raising technique. It allows lobbyists to solicit checks from various sources and then give them all at once to a candidate’s campaign committee. This allows them to get around donation limits and also potentially gain more interest from the lawmaker through a large, one-time donation. Ethics reforms in 2007 instituted disclosure requirements on this practice (previously donors using this method were allowed to remain anonymous), but the disclosure requirements are still limited.

27. Why is American pluralism said to have a “dual nature”?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Pluralism has two sides. On the one hand is the Washington System: a wide variety of organized interests focused on narrow interests and profit motives. But on the other hand, membership organizations with wide membership are also heavily involved in American politics. These reflect the fact that interest groups can be portrayed both as “special interests” and also as civil society/democratic organization that will naturally arise in a free society.

28. What are the three components of a “subgovernment” and how has the influence of subgovernments changed over time?

\*a. Answers Vary

@A subgovernment is a three-way policy-making alliance that includes congressional committees, executive agencies, and interest groups. Their influence has declined over time as other contending forces (such as journalists and presidents) have ended their policy monopoly.

29. What factors led to the passage of the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007?

\*a. Answers Vary

@There are a variety of answers here, and students should identify an explain at least two: perception that the 1995 Lobby Disclosure Act was weakly enforced, Jack Abramoff bribery scandal, and Democrats made corruption a major campaign theme.

30. How were different types of lobbying involved in the passage of the Affordable Care Act?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students could describe different examples here but might include examples such as grassroots lobbying such as marches, rallies, and demonstrations and electronic advocacy using venues such as MoveOn.org.

31. Why does political science research tend to reject the idea that campaign donations are a form of vote buying?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Looking at who receives donations, PACs tend to donate to members who already support their goals, not opponents. Contributions tend to signal and reinforce a relationship rather than create one. Strategic members interested in reelection are also unlikely to change their vote simply for money; it makes little sense to raise money by taking a vote that is unpopular and may damage future campaign prospects.

32. Madison famously wrote that “Liberty is to faction what air is to fire.” What did Madison mean by this statement?

\*a. Answers Vary

@When Madison talks about factions, he means any sort of group in society, particularly one organized around a particular interest and motivated to become involved in politics. He argues that a free society fosters the development of factions (or interest groups). When individuals are free to develop their interests and associate with others, they will naturally form groups around those interests.

33. Why do interest groups score members of Congress on certain votes?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students could discuss a number of reasons here. Announcing that a vote will be scored might influence legislator behavior on that vote. They may hope to influence voters to vote for candidates with high overall “scores” (or vice versa). And finally, they can use legislative scorecards to determine which candidates they plan to endorse and support with contributions.

34. What factors account for the proliferation of interest groups?  
\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should identify and describe some of the following factors: social and economic complexity, competition for federal dollars, scientific and technological developments, government’s regulatory role, and the diffusion of power in U.S. national government.

35. What are the three major ways that interest groups are involved in congressional elections?

\*a. Answers Vary

@First, they contribute financial resources: groups raise funds and make financial contributions through PACs. Second, they conduct independent campaigns centered on either specific issues or candidates. Finally, they rate the voting records of legislatures and provide this information to voters.

36. What is member-to-member lobbying and why is it particularly effective?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Member-to-member lobbying is lobbying from a former member of Congress who is now employed by a lobbying organization. It is particularly effective because former colleagues are considered insiders and enjoy special access to current House and Senate members and events. Former members may also be persuasive when they have a preexisting relationship with current members.

37. What is the free rider problem in the context of interest group organizing? For which types of groups is it a major problem in organizing, and for which groups is it a more minor problem?

\*a. Answers Vary

@The free rider problem is the tendency of individuals to prefer to rely on the hard work of others to achieve policy benefits they desire instead of paying the cost to produce policy chances themselves. Of course, if everyone takes this attitude, the work of organizing for policy change will never happen. The free rider problem tends to be more problematic for larger, more diffuse interests, and less problematic for smaller, narrower interests.

38. What is grassroots lobbying, and how does it differ from direct lobbying?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Grassroots lobbying involves organizations mobilizing citizens to pressure their senators and representatives. Instead of meeting with members personally, as in direct lobbying, they instead use various tools (such as phone calls or social media) to generate communication to members’ offices from their districts. This type of lobbying may be particularly effective because members know they must keep their constituents happy to remain in office.

39. What is the difference between astroturf, grassroots, and grasstops lobbying?

\*a. Answers Vary

@These all fall under the broad umbrella of grassroots lobbying, wherein organizations mobilize citizens to pressure their senators and representatives. Astroturf lobbying involves “grassroots” groups that are really just front organizations for financial backers, without significant numbers of voters who are actively involved or interested. Grasstops lobbying involves mobilizing just one person—someone such as a mentor or donor to whom the member is unwilling to say no. The lobbyist would try to persuade this person to take his client’s side.

40. What are the five main methods used by lobbying groups? Which do you think is most effective in the modern era?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should identify and describe direct lobbying, social lobbying, coalitions, grassroots mobilization, and electronic advocacy. They should then make a clear argument for which they think is most effective, using examples from the text.

41. How much influence does organized influence wield over congressional legislation? Is this influence excessive? If so, what specific change(s) do you believe should be made to the system.

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should be given wide latitude in answering this question but should make a specific, clear argument that is supported by specific concepts and evidence from the text (i.e., not simply state an opinion). They should grapple directly with counterarguments found in the text (i.e., if arguing groups are too influential, they should address the fact that the side with more money wins only about half the time). They should also be sure to either offer a specific solution or make an argument for why changes are not needed.

42. What are the three main approaches Congress has taken to regulating lobbyists? Give a specific example of each. Which of these approaches seems to be the most effective?

\*a. Answers Vary

@Students should identify the three approaches as defining and prohibiting abusive lobbying practices, requiring registration, and requiring disclosure. Students should provide a clear example of a provision that addresses each approach. They should make an organized, clear argument about which approach is most effective, using concepts and evidence from the text.