

Multiple-Choice Answers

1. (D) Interest groups occur because of diversity. They target all levels of government. American political parties are weaker than in many other countries, but interest groups may be stronger. However, interest groups do not usually run candidates for office. Americans' sense of political efficacy is actually greater than many nations (*American Government*, 15th ed., pages 246–247).
2. (C) Interest groups have been created by professional organizations, such as the AMA, and new government policies, such as wars that create veterans. Interest groups often have a strong leader—historically, the NAACP has had many—who is willing to make personal sacrifices. Interest groups are less likely to arise in good economic times.
3. (B) Interest groups, such as the AARP, often provide incentives to their members, such as magazines and travel discounts. This encourages people to pay a fee to become members of the group (*American Government*, 15th ed., page 249).
4. (A) A social movement is a widely shared demand for change in some aspect of the social or political order. These movements, such as those led by environmentalists, women, and unions, often result in the creation of several related interest groups (*American Government*, 15th ed., pages 253–254).
5. (E) Members of Congress are policy generalists who must decide about a broad range of issues. Lobbyists have expertise in specific fields. Members of Congress need credible information and often rely on lobbyists to provide it (*American Government*, 15th ed., page 256).
6. (D) Not every issue lends itself to grassroots lobbying, which encourages individual interest-group members to contact members of Congress. The more people are directly affected by a policy, the more likely an interest group will use grassroots lobbying (*American Government*, 15th ed., page 258).
7. (A) Many people worry about the “revolving door,” the practice of officials leaving their government positions to accept more lucrative jobs as lobbyists. This may give them undue influence over policymaking (*American Government*, 15th ed., page 260).
8. (B) Beginning March 1, 2007, new regulations took effect to reform the practices of interest groups and lobbyists. Members of Congress may not accept gifts (including free travel) from interest groups or registered lobbyists (*American Government*, 15th ed., pages 263–264).
9. (B) An earmark is a provision in a law that provides a direct benefit to a particular client, without that benefit being reviewed by most members of Congress (*American Government*, 15th ed., page 257).
10. (C) The Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002 (McCain-Feingold) closed the “soft money loophole.” PAC donations to political parties are limited to \$15,000 on the national level and \$5,000 on the state level (*American Government*, 15th ed., page 259).

11. (C) According to most scholars, providing credible information is perhaps the most effective way to influence policy (*American Government*, 15th ed., page 256).
12. (A) Political action committees raise money to contribute to campaigns. PACs grew as a result of reform legislation in the early 1970s (*American Government*, 15th ed., page 245).
13. (B) The most common PAC contribution is a few hundred dollars per House candidate (*American Government*, 15th ed., page 260).
14. (A) The revolving door is when a former federal employee begins to work for the private sector in a closely related field. An example would be an employee of the Defense Department retiring and then working for a defense contractor (*American Government*, 15th ed., page 260).
15. (B) The First Amendment protects the activities of interest groups. The amendment specifically protects speech, press, assembly, and petition. Special-interest groups engage in all of these activities (*American Government*, 15th ed., page 246).

Free-Response Answers

1. (a) Litigation means the bringing of a lawsuit. Interest groups go to the courts to advance their causes. This may happen when Congress is not responsive to the interest group's demands. For example, during the 1950s, civil rights groups supported legislation to bring equal rights to African Americans. However, these efforts were frequently blocked in Congress, sometimes through filibusters in the Senate. So the NAACP turned to the courts to end segregation. In *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court ruled that school segregation violated the Constitution (*American Government*, 15th ed., page 251).
- (b) Interest groups may contribute money to candidates and causes through political action committees. Some people worry that the sea of all this political money has resulted in our having “the finest Congress that money can buy.” This concern was raised during the savings-and-loan scandal when it was found that the same congressmen who delayed the investigation of the savings and loan industry had received substantial campaign contributions from these very institutions. However, so much PAC money is available on so many issues that members of Congress may be able to vote freely. (*Alternate answer*): Grassroots lobbying is designed to generate public pressure directly on government officials. Interest groups contact their members, asking that they contact the members of Congress representing their district or state. Modern technology has made this even easier with email.