**Chapter 1 The Social and Economic Environment of Texas Politics**

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. Compared to the 1940s, the population of Texas is now \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. more urbanized

b. much smaller

c. more concentrated in rural areas

d. less diverse

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** Challenges of the Twenty-First Century

**Learning Objective:** 1.1 Assess major challenges facing Texas in the twenty-first century.

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

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

2. Systems for structuring conflict and creating a process for the expression of competing interests are called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. businesses and the economy

b. religious hierarchies

c. politics and government

d. security apparatuses

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** Challenges of the Twenty-First Century

**Learning Objective:** 1.1 Assess major challenges facing Texas in the twenty-first century.

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

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

3. Political environment refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. systems for structuring conflict and creating a process for the expression of competing interests

b. the context in which political institutions operate

c. individuals’ general attitudes about the proper role of government in society

d. a method for determining who gets what, when, and how

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** Challenges of the Twenty-First Century

**Learning Objective:** 1.1 Assess major challenges facing Texas in the twenty-first century.

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

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

4. Political myths \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. are usually constructed by minority groups in society

b. offer interpretations of alternative future paths for public policy

c. affirm the values, customs, and beliefs of a specific group of people

d. typically serve to undermine the values and beliefs held by individuals

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The Myths of Texas’s Political Culture

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Describe the political myths used to define and interpret the political culture of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

5. Which best describes the role of the battle of the Alamo in Texas’s political myths?

a. It revealed the importance of government provision for the common defense.

b. It showed the dangers of frontier settlement in areas with indigenous populations.

c. It showed the uniqueness of a political order that included independence.

d. It set a precedent that the federal government can never intervene in the affairs of Texas.

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The Myths of Texas’s Political Culture

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Describe the political myths used to define and interpret the political culture of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

6. The Texas frontier experience and the image of the cowboy’s rugged individualism help perpetuate the myth of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. dependence on governmental assistance

b. limited government and unlimited personal opportunity

c. communalism in the face of threats from outsiders

d. invincibility in the face of overwhelming odds

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** The Myths of Texas’s Political Culture

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

7. Individualism, such as the rugged cowboy, symbolizes a political culture that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. expects the government to always act in the interests of the common good

b. exhibits a high degree of dependence on government to solve its problems

c. features a strong belief in self-reliance

d. expects government to provide for its poorest citizens

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The Myths of Texas’s Political Culture

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Describe the political myths used to define and interpret the political culture of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

8. Why have the Texas myths primarily been the myths of Anglos and not of other groups?

a. Anglos were the primary writers of history; therefore, the history reflects the Anglo worldview.

b. Other groups have refused to take part in the political, social, and economic development of Texas.

c. In the interest of self-preservation, other groups have kept their myths to themselves.

d. Texas law has forbidden the teaching of diverse historical perspectives.

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** The Myths of Texas’s Political Culture

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Describe the political myths used to define and interpret the political culture of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

9. The population growth and political and economic gains of Hispanic, African American, and other non-Anglo groups since the 1970s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. is likely to have no enduring effects on Texas’s political mythology

b. has led to the reinforcement of dominant mythology created by the white population

c. means that some aspects of contemporary mythology will be challenged and revised

d. is responsible for the creation of the myth of rugged individualism

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The Myths of Texas’s Political Culture

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Describe the political myths used to define and interpret the political culture of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

10. The settlers coming to Texas during western expansion primarily represented which two political subcultures?

a. moralistic and traditionalistic

b. moralistic and individualistic

c. individualistic and paternalistic

d. traditionalistic and individualistic

**Answer:** d

**Topic:** The Political Culture of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Compare and contrast the political subcultures of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

11. Political culture is often defined as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that give order and meaning to the political process.

a. economic beliefs and goals

b. political party affiliations

c. religious ideals

d. a set of attitudes, beliefs, and sentiments

**Answer:** d

**Topic:** The Political Culture of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Compare and contrast the political subcultures of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

12. Political culture \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. is a widely held view about common historical and social experiences

b. helps explain why Texans are so supportive of government efforts to provide a broad range of services

c. includes attitudes about the proper role of government, the relationship of the government to its citizens, and who should govern

d. is a system for structuring conflict and creating a process for the expression of competing interests

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The Political Culture of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Compare and contrast the political subcultures of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

13. Which political subculture is most supportive of widespread public participation in politics?

a. traditionalistic

b. moralistic

c. conservative

d. individualistic

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** The Political Culture of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Compare and contrast the political subcultures of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

14. Why does the individualistic subculture hold that government should be limited?

a. Government exists strictly for utilitarian reasons and to ensure stability in a society.

b. Government should never be trusted, and accordingly its roles should be limited.

c. Individuals can look out for themselves more effectively than the government can.

d. Government has a corrupting influence on a population as a whole.

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** The Political Culture of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Compare and contrast the political subcultures of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

15. The moralistic subculture believes that public policy initiatives can come from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. foreign officials

b. those outside formal governmental structure

c. officeholders only

d. business and corporate interests

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** The Political Culture of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Compare and contrast the political subcultures of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

16. The traditionalistic subculture generally believes that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. mass political participation provides the foundation for the ruling structure

b. government exists to promote the public welfare

c. political power should be concentrated in a few individuals or families

d. the power structure should be completely changed every generation

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The Political Culture of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Compare and contrast the political subcultures of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

17. Politics in Texas \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. is designed to minimize the role of government, is averse to taxes, and is manipulated by elites

b. encourages big government and has a strong tradition of separation of church and state

c. is progressive and supports many social programs to help the needy

d. is moralistically based with a strong tradition of public service among its citizens

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** The Political Culture of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Compare and contrast the political subcultures of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

18. Compared to other states with significant Native American populations, Native Americans in Texas \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. consist of only three small groups living on reservations

b. constitute a significantly larger percentage of the population in Texas than they do in Oklahoma or New Mexico

c. have established hundreds of casinos on public land in Texas in the past several decades

d. are more numerous in Texas than are Hispanics

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** The People of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Describe the history and characteristics of the major population groups in Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

19. Why was there an effort to strip Hispanics of the right to vote at the Constitutional Convention of 1845?

a. It was to counteract the Texas “independencia” movement, which sought to have Texas become part of Mexico.

b. It was to prevent the Hispanic majority from passing laws discriminating against the Anglo population.

c. It was an attempt to further weaken the power of Hispanics in Texas life and politics.

d. It was to prevent the official language from becoming Spanish in a referendum at the end of the year.

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The People of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Describe the history and characteristics of the major population groups in Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

20. The Hispanic proportion of the population in Texas has increased primarily as a result of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. white flight to northern states

b. intermarriage between ethnic and racial groups

c. an effort by the Anglo elites to bring Hispanic workers to Texas

d. immigration and higher birth rates among Hispanic women

**Answer:** d

**Topic:** The People of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Describe the history and characteristics of the major population groups in Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

21. Hispanics in South Texas and along the Mexican border historically \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. were employed in skilled manufacturing jobs

b. dominated local government and politics

c. had high levels of poverty

d. were treated as political equals by Anglos following the moralistic tradition

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The People of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Describe the history and characteristics of the major population groups in Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

22. How did race relations between whites and African Americans in East Texas through the 1960s reflect the traditionalistic political subculture that prevailed there for nearly 100 years after the Civil War?

a. African Americans expanded into job opportunities beyond agriculture, such as into the manufacturing industry.

b. African Americans were denied or had greatly reduced participation in the political process because of restrictive election laws and outright physical intimidation.

c. African Americans and whites developed a political structure where power was shared between groups at the municipal and county levels.

d. African Americans were not allowed to own property or live in most East Texas counties.

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** The People of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Describe the history and characteristics of the major population groups in Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

23. What conclusion can be made about the Asian American population in Texas?

a. The rapid increase of Asian Americans in Texas parallels national trends.

b. The greatest number of Asian immigrants to Texas and the rest of the United States came before World War II.

c. The Asian American population in Texas is mostly rural.

d. The Asian American population in Texas is homogenous as most people from this ethnic group are exclusively Chinese and Japanese.

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Describe the history and characteristics of the major population groups in Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

24. An indication of the recent change in the political power of the African American population in Texas is the increased numbers of African American \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. elected officials at all levels of government.

b. faculty in higher education

c. businesses on the Fortune 500 list

d. government services in the state

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** The People of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Describe the history and characteristics of the major population groups in Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

25. What public policy issue is illustrated by the ongoing legal battles over the funding divide between nonminority and minority school districts and discussions concerning social service recipients?

a. employment discrimination

b. voting rights

c. the racial divide

d. housing discrimination

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The People of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Describe the history and characteristics of the major population groups in Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

26. The traditionalistic subculture was brought to Texas by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. the cowboys who worked the cattle ranges

b. the Mexican colonists who competed with Austin’s colonists for land

c. the African American slaves who were used to being cared for by the elites

d. the slaveholding whites who migrated to Texas from the lower South

**Answer:** d

**Topic:** The People of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Describe the history and characteristics of the major population groups in Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

27. The term “Anglos” refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. non-Hispanic whites

b. Irish

c. Italians

d. Anglo-Saxons

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** The People of Texas

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

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

28. After the disasters of the 1980s, which were caused by an overreliance on energy, Texas diversified economically by shifting to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. reliance on natural gas only

b. high-tech industries

c. a reduction in foreign trade

d. manufacturing

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Assess the impact of demographic and economic changes on the political system of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

29. Texas is now the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ most populous state in the nation.

a. first

b. second

c. third

d. fourth

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Assess the impact of demographic and economic changes on the political system of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

30. Which explains the high population growth rate in Texas in recent decades?

a. immigration from Europe, Mexico, and Africa

b. a higher birth rate than other states, migration from Mexico, and in-migration from other states

c. an unusually high per capita income, a high birth rate, and the lack of labor unions

d. low birth rates among Hispanics, the shift of population from the Frostbelt to the Sunbelt, and immigration from Mexico

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Assess the impact of demographic and economic changes on the political system of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

31. Sustained population growth in Texas has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. led to increased clogging of roads and highways in urban and suburban areas

b. led to the rapid construction of nuclear power plants to alleviate energy needs

c. resulted in increasing numbers of Democrats being elected to the state legislature

d. led to significant increases in state tax rates and the provision of far greater services to citizens

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Assess the impact of demographic and economic changes on the political system of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

32. Which of the following three cities are among the ten largest cities in the United States?

a. Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio

b. Dallas, El Paso, and Houston

c. Austin, Houston, and San Antonio

d. El Paso, Houston, and San Antonio

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Assess the impact of demographic and economic changes on the political system of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

33. Why has conflict in Texas politics been heavily influenced by the urban and rural divide?

a. Wealth in Texas is localized in rural rather than urban areas, resulting in conflict over taxes.

b. Rural regions are dominated by minority groups, while rich Anglos live in urban centers.

c. Until recently, the legislature was dominated by rural lawmakers insensitive to urban needs.

d. Constitutionally, rural districts have a far greater say in affairs than urban districts.

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Assess the impact of demographic and economic changes on the political system of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

34. Income levels in Texas \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. are substantially higher than the national average

b. are virtually identical across all racial and ethnic groups

c. have become much closer to one another across geographic areas of the state in the last decade

d. tend to be lower than in most other states

**Answer:** d

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Assess the impact of demographic and economic changes on the political system of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

35. Poverty in Texas \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. is concentrated among Anglos in the Dallas suburbs

b. is more pronounced in the counties along the border with Mexico

c. is defined differently than it is elsewhere in the country

d. is something that tends not to affect children

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Assess the impact of demographic and economic changes on the political system of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

36. Why do financial resources matter in politics?

a. because income determines ability to vote in elections

b financial resources do not matter; politics treats all individuals equally

c. because public policies aiding low-income individuals require that those individuals participate in politics

d. because money can be translated into political power and influence through campaign contributions.

**Answer:** d

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Assess the impact of demographic and economic changes on the political system of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

37. The image of Texas Rangers as heroes is ironic because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. many of them participated in the lynchings of African Americans

b. cattle ranchers experienced great losses resulting from rustling by Texas Rangers

c. Hispanics have perceived them as a symbol of ruthless suppression

d. most of them failed to protect the settlers from Indian attacks on the frontier

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The Myths of Texas’s Political Culture

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Describe the political myths used to define and interpret the political culture of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

38. The idea that politics is perceived by the general public as a dirty business that should be left to those willing to soil their hands in the political arena is most closely associated with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ subculture.

a. individualistic

b. moralistic

c. traditionalistic

d. nationalistic

**Answer:** a

**Topic:** The Political Culture of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Compare and contrast the political subcultures of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

39. Between 1930 and 2016, which demographic trend best represented the Hispanic population growth rate in Texas?

a. stagnant until 1970 followed by a rapid growth rate

b. increasing rapidly until 1970 followed by a steady decline

c. slowly increasing for most of the twentieth century, with a more rapid growth rate after 1970

d. increasing continuously throughout this period, but the growth rate was limited to the Rio Grande Valley and El Paso

**Answer:** c

**Topic:** The People of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Describe the history and characteristics of the major population groups in Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

40. How does the population growth rate in Texas compare to the national average?

a. It is slightly below the national growth rate.

b. It is significantly higher than the national growth rate.

c. It is slightly higher than the national growth rate.

d. It parallels the national growth rate.

**Answer:** b

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Assess the impact of demographic and economic changes on the political system of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Essay Questions**

41. Briefly describe the myth of individualism in Texas. What types of individuals have contributed to the myth of individualism in Texas? How has this myth contributed to Texas political culture?

**Answer:** An ideal response will:

1. Explain what is meant by individualism, including its intellectual roots and attitudes toward the proper role of government.

2. Explain how cowboys, wildcatters, and the Texas Rangers play a role in Texas’s myth of individualism.

3. Explain that the concept of rugged individualism, with strong connotations of self-help and independence, symbolizes a political culture in Texas that does not like to look to government as a solution to many of its problems.

**Topic:** The Myths of Texas’s Political Culture

**Learning Objective:** 1.2 Describe the political myths used to define and interpret the political culture of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

42. What is political culture and how does it matter to politics?

**Answer:** An ideal response will:

1. Provide a definition and explanation of political culture.

2. Explain how political culture provides guidelines for things such as public participation and input in politics, the distribution of power, acceptance of government corruption, and governmental policy.

**Topic:** The Political Culture of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Compare and contrast the political subcultures of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Understand the Concepts

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

43. Identify two political and/or policy issues in Texas and explain how they illustrate the role of race and ethnicity, including similarities and/or differences between them.

**Answer:** An ideal response will:

1. Identify two relevant examples, such as voting rights, school finance, redistricting, poverty among minorities, college admissions policies, and others referenced in the text.

2. Explain how race and ethnicity continue to be important even in the aftermath of formal discriminatory laws.

**Topic:** The People of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Describe the history and characteristics of the major population groups in Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

44. Describe the rural–urban relationship in Texas, including its historical roots of power for rural Texas. How has urbanization and the increasing growth of suburbs impacted this relationship?

**Answer:** An ideal response will:

1. Identify what is meant by rural and urban.

2. Explain the process of urbanization and its effects.

3. Explain the historical roots of power for rural areas in Texas.

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Assess the impact of demographic and economic changes on the political system of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

45. Compare and contrast the three economic regions of Texas—the High Plains Region, the South Texas Border Region, and the Upper East Texas region—discussed in the textbook in terms of size, demographics, and economic activities.

**Answer:** An ideal response will:

1. Identify the three economic regions and their geographic locations.

2. Compare the relative size and growth of the regions.

3. Compare the primary economic activities of the regions.

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Assess the impact of demographic and economic changes on the political system of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

46. Compare and contrast two of the more significant public policy issues facing Texans at the start of the twenty-first century. Which issue do you find more important? Defend your choice.

**Answer:** An ideal response will:

1. Identify at least two of the issues mentioned in the textbook. Examples include the regressive tax system, expenditures for public education and public services, and water conservation.

2. Explain dimensions of the issues, comparing them and contrasting them.

3. Present and defend a choice about the most compelling policy issue.

**Topic:** Challenges of the Twenty-First Century

**Learning Objective:** 1.1 Assess major challenges facing Texas in the twenty-first century.

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

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

47. Compare and contrast Daniel Elazar’s three political subcultures. Which of these most accurately describes the Texas political culture? What explanations can you provide for the prevalence of these views and attitudes among Texans?

**Answer:** An ideal response will:

1. Identify the major features of each of the three subcultures—individualistic, moralistic, and traditionalistic—and explain how they differ from one another.

2. Identify individualistic and traditionalistic as the two dominant subcultures of Texas and explain how they have combined to produce a conservative culture.

3. Explain the patterns of settlement of Texas by Anglo populations and the subcultures brought by Anglos.

**Topic:** The Political Culture of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.3 Compare and contrast the political subcultures of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

48. Compare and contrast the Hispanic, African American, and Anglo populations in Texas. What has happened to the percentages of each in recent decades and how are they expected to change in coming decades? Where is each of the populations concentrated? What has historically been their influence in politics and how, if at all, has it changed?

**Answer:** An ideal response will:

1. Explain the growth of the Hispanic population as a result of high birth rates and immigration.

2. Identify predicted patterns in demographic change with continued growth of Hispanics, possibly becoming a majority by about 2030, and the decline in the percentage of the population represented by Anglos.

3. Identify East Texas and major cities as population centers for African Americans and South Texas and along the Mexican border (and, more recently, cities) as population centers for Hispanics.

4. Explain the lack of historical influence of minority groups in Texas, largely as a result of the traditionalistic subculture dominant in the regions where most African Americans and Hispanics were located. Explain the growing political influence of Hispanics and African Americans, including growing numbers of elected officials.

**Topic:** The People of Texas

**Learning Objective:** 1.4 Describe the history and characteristics of the major population groups in Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

49. Describe and analyze patterns in income, poverty, education, and literacy in Texas. How does Texas compare to other states and the United States as a whole? What types of differences exist within Texas as a function of geography and race/ethnicity? Do these patterns matter in terms of political participation and influence?

**Answer:** An ideal response will:

1. Explain that Texas has lower levels of income and education than most other states and higher levels of poverty, including among children.

2. Explain that there are significant differences across ethnic/racial groups, with Anglos having higher income and education levels. Poverty is related to income and education, so some of the poorest counties in the country are in largely Hispanic counties along the border with Mexico.

3. Identify financial resources as a source for political voice through ability to finance political campaigns, purchase media access, etc.

4. Identify education as a major determinant of interest in, understanding of, and participation in politics.

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Assess the impact of demographic and economic changes on the political system of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

50. Explain the causes of the economic problems in Texas in the 1980s. What did state leaders do in response, and how has the nature of the Texas economy changed as a result?

**Answer:** An ideal response will:

1. Explain the historic dependence of the Texas economy on the oil and gas industry and identify a drop in oil prices as a major cause for economic downturn.

2. Identify Mexican currency rates and weather (freeze and drought) as additional causes of economic downturn.

3. Explain the concept of diversification and identify growth in new sectors as ways in which diversification occurred.

**Topic:** Growth and Changing Demographics

**Learning Objective:** 1.5 Assess the impact of demographic and economic changes on the political system of Texas.

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

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate