

Exam 3

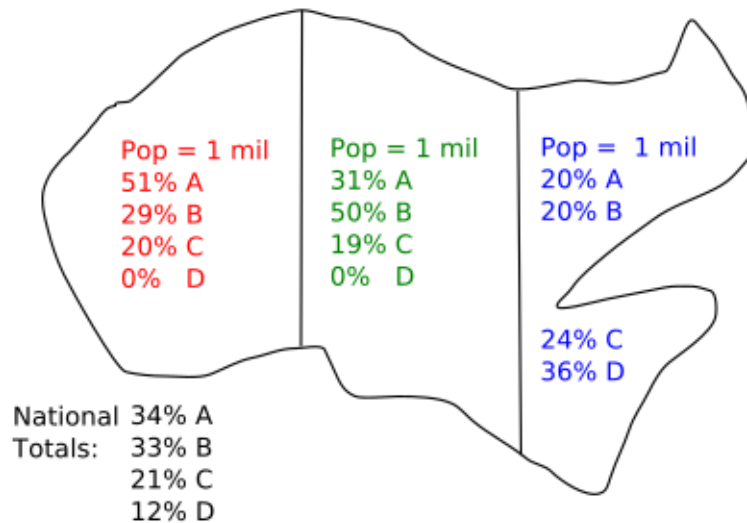
POLS 225

Fall 2023

The exam consists of 15 multiple choice questions and three short answer questions. The multiple choice questions are worth five points each while the short answer questions are each worth 25 points, for a total of 150 points. Limit your short answers to the space available. Good luck!!

1. Canada held an early general election on January 23, 2006, after the Liberal Party's minority government was toppled in a no-confidence vote on November 28, 2005. Canada does not have an independently elected president. Based on these two pieces of information, is Canada a presidential, parliamentary, or mixed democracy?
 - a. Presidential.
 - b. Parliamentary.
 - c. Mixed.
2. In which system(s) is the government **NOT** responsible to the legislature?
 - a. Parliamentary.
 - b. Presidential.
 - c. Mixed.
 - d. Presidential, parliamentary, and semi-presidential.
3. A vote of confidence is
 - a. a legislative vote held in presidential systems to indicate whether or not the government has the support of a majority of legislators.
 - b. a referendum held in either parliamentary or presidential systems to indicate whether or not the government has the support of a majority of citizens.
 - c. a vote held in parliamentary systems to indicate whether or not the government has the support of a majority of cabinet members.
 - d. a legislative vote held in parliamentary systems to indicate whether or not the government has the support of a majority of legislators.
4. It is possible for a candidate to win in a majoritarian electoral system, such as single-member district plurality (SMDP), without receiving a majority of the votes.
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. The country pictured below contains three states, each of which elect 100 politicians to the national legislature in single member plurality districts. The numbers in the figure detail the support for each party (A, B, C, and D) in each state. You may assume that districts are homogeneous within states so that within every district voters support each party at the same rate as they do in the state as a whole. How many seats will each party capture in the legislature?



- a. A: 150 (50%); B: 150 (50%); C: 0 (0%); D: 0 (0%)
- b. A: 102 (34%); B: 99 (33%); C: 63 (21%); D: 36 (12%)
- c. A: 120 (40%); B: 120 (40%); C: 24 (8%); D: 36 (12%)
- d. A: 100 (33%); B: 100 (33%); C: 0 (0%); D: 100 (33%)
6. Consider the picture from the previous question again. How many seats would each party obtain under state-wide proportional representation districts, with 100 legislators elected from each of the three districts?
- a. A: 150 (50%); B: 150 (50%); C: 0 (0%); D: 0 (0%)
- b. A: 102 (34%); B: 99 (33%); C: 63 (21%); D: 36 (12%)
- c. A: 120 (40%); B: 120 (40%); C: 24 (8%); D: 36 (12%)
- d. A: 100 (33%); B: 100 (33%); C: 0 (0%); D: 100 (33%)
7. What is district magnitude?
- a. The number of voters in a district.
- b. The geographic size of the district.
- c. The number of seats in a district.

- d. The relative importance of the district.
8. Which type of party list gives the most power to the party leadership and the least power to individual candidates?
- Closed party list.
 - Open party list.
 - Free party list.
9. Refer to the table below. If a government formed between the People's Party and the Left Party, then what type of government would it be?

Party	Seats	Ideological Position
Left Party	20	Most left
Social Democrats	166	
People's Party	21	
Moderate Unity Party	86	
Center Party	56	Most right
Total	349	

- Minority coalition government.
 - Surplus majority government.
 - Connected minimal winning coalition.
 - Minimal winning coalition.
10. Refer to the table in the previous question. If a government formed between the Social Democrats, the Center Party, and the Moderate Unity Party, then what type of government would it be?
- Minority coalition government.
 - Surplus majority government.
 - Connected minimal winning coalition.
 - Minimal winning coalition.

11. Four parties are trying to form a coalition government. Each party controls the number of legislative seats (total=101) indicated in the table below. Assume that all parties and their members are pure office-seekers. What is the minimum winning coalition?

Party	A	B	C	D
Seats	45	20	26	10

- a. Parties A & B.
 - b. Parties A & C.
 - c. Parties A & D.
 - d. Parties B & C & D.
12. Political parties
- a. help to structure competition in democracies.
 - b. mobilize the masses.
 - c. recruit and socialize the political elite.
 - d. provide a representational link between the rulers and the ruled.
 - e. do all of the above.
13. Does cleavage theory anticipate more political parties in a state with cross-cutting or reinforcing social cleavages?
- a. Cross-cutting.
 - b. Reinforcing.
 - c. Cross-cutting and reinforcing cleavages are unrelated to the number of parties.
14. Duverger's Law (or the institutional theory of party systems) helps explain what phenomenon?
- a. The correlation between SMDP and two-party systems.
 - b. Ethnic party creation.
 - c. The politicization of social cleavages.
 - d. Why Canada has more than two parties.
15. Three-party-land has three political parties. Parties A and B each hold 45% of the seats in the legislature. Party C holds the remaining 10% of the seats. The effective number of parties in Three-party-land is
- a. three.
 - b. more than three.
 - c. less than three.

Short Answer

1. Policy-based theories of coalition formation predict the formation of “connected” coalitions. What are connected coalitions? Why are policy-focused politicians unlikely to form coalitions that are not connected?
2. Imagine you live in a country with two competitive political parties, representing rich and working-class people, respectively. Over the years a new social cleavage—urban vs rural—has emerged, cutting almost evenly across the class, and party, divide. Your country uses a single-member-district plurality electoral system to elect members of parliament. Say you belong to the urban working class and want to represent both your social identities in political office. Does it make more sense to join the existing working-class party or to work to start a new party focused on urban working-class interests? Briefly explain why.

3. Politically active Americans often evaluate their political representatives in very personal terms. They often know their names, and especially savvy voters will see distinctions between representatives and their political parties, and know relevant things about candidates' backgrounds (e.g., prior career or military veteran status). They will also value things like whether or not politicians grew up in the districts in which they campaign for election. Say you were discussing politics with students from Brazil (open list PR, presidential), the Netherlands (closed list PR, parliamentary), and the Philippines (mostly single member district plurality, presidential). Which of these students would be most likely to find this sort of evaluation of politicians' personal characteristics and history natural, and which would not? Explain your answer.