

1984

Murray Stedman - State and Local Government Study Guide

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STUDY QUESTIONS

Stedman, State and Local Governments, ch. 1

Students should be able to:

understand the concept of political systems, its applicability and its limits in studying American state and local governments.

describe a political system in terms of inputs, outputs, and conversion.

explain the social setting of state politics.

discuss recent innovations in state government.

review the growth of state services to the individual.

analyze the reasons for the newfound vitality of the states.

review the rise and fall in popularity of "participatory democracy."

explain the purpose of a Governors' Conference.

Questions

1. What four areas of change and progress in state government are identified by the author?
2. What three emphases have characterized political science in the past decade?
3. How did the concept of the "system" find its way into the political science field?
4. What are some distinct characteristics of the political cultures in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, New England, and Maryland?
5. What is a "voucher" in terms of education?
6. What is "zero-base" budgeting?
7. What are some signs of the rise of a new regionalism?

Terms

pork barrel

Sunbelt

Snowbelt

STUDY QUESTIONS

Stedman, chapter 2

Students should be able to:

describe the principal powers given the states by the Constitution.

comment on the general relationship between the national and state governments in the federal system.

discuss the concept of intergovernmental relations.

explain the principal constitutional limitations on the states.

state the case for federalism, and the case against it.

indicate the leading methods of interstate cooperation.

analyze the causes of interstate rivalry.

speculate as to the future of federalism in the third century.

Questions

1. How strong was public sympathy for the War of Independence?
2. What were some of the defects of the Articles of Confederation?
3. What have been some consequences of Chief Justice John Marshall's interpretation of implied powers as stated in McCulloch v. Maryland?
4. What was decided in Coyle v. Smith?
5. Identify some of the reciprocal duties of the nation and of the states.
6. What types of persons are protected under the due process clause, and what are the two major aspects of the process?
7. What Supreme Court decision overturned an earlier ruling that segregation of the races was constitutional as long as everyone is treated equally?
8. What is meant by intergovernmental tax immunity? How has this principle been modified?
9. Describe some of the changes in the concept of federalism.
10. Identify some constitutional provisions regarding interstate relations.

Terms

war powers

Dred Scott case

Plessy v. Ferguson

STUDY QUESTIONS

stedman, chapter 3, "State Constitutions"

Students should be able to:

explain the leading characteristics of the early state constitutions

discuss the importance of bills of rights in constitution

analyze how a constitution provides for governmental structure, powers and procedures

review the process by which constitutions are amended

evaluate the techniques for ratification of amendments

indicate the strong and weak points of advisory commissions

compare existing state constitutions in terms of length and complexity with the United States Constitution

point out in what ways present-day constitutions reflect a widespread distrust of legislative bodies by the electorate

Questions

1. What is an ex post facto law?
2. Which two colonies already had substantial powers of self-government and kept their colonial charters as state constitutions for a considerable time?
3. How do state constitutions today typically differ from early state constitutions?
4. Identify some of the specific parts of a typical state constitution.
5. How does length and detail in a constitution tend to protect vested interests and have a conservative impact?
6. How may a constitution be changed? What role may be played by the convention, the popular initiative, or the popular referendum?

Terms

preamble

colonial charters

Dorr's Rebellion

STUDY QUESTIONS

Stedman, chapter 4, "State Parties and Interest Groups"

Students should be able to:

identify the leading characteristics of American party systems

discuss the importance of interparty competition

describe the organization of state parties

explain the generally used procedures for nomination to office

analyze the electoral process used in the states

recognize the problems created by the need to raise money to finance campaigns

explain the relationship between interest groups and political parties

identify those interest groups that are most active and permanent on state politics

support the argument that interest groups are basic to the stability and maintenance of political parties

Questions

1. Identify four major functions or activities of American political parties. Which one is the most important?
2. Is the concept of "party responsibility" basically compatible with our traditional separation of powers approach?
3. Why are political parties considered "semi-public associations?"
4. Identify ways in which government regulates political parties.
5. Which groups tend to be associated with the Democratic and Republican parties?
6. Identify three ways party officials are selected.
7. What ways have been used to strengthen party discipline even though the formal party structure remains weak?
8. Identify the different forms a primary election may take. What has been the effect of the primary on party discipline?
9. Identify some of the patterns of interest group influence.

Terms

ticket splitting

ex officio

challenge primary

STUDY QUESTIONS

Stedman, chapter 5, "State Legislatures"

Students should be able to:

define bicameralism and unicameralism

explain how legislatures are apportioned and reapportioned

analyze the background of state legislators in comparison with other groups in the population

review the organization of state legislatures

indicate the roles of the principal officers of the legislature

evaluate the operations and effectiveness of legislative committees

comment on the function of conference committees

discuss the use of the initiative and the referendum as means to create laws

describe in what ways the overall performance of American state legislatures might be improved

Questions

1. How do Congress and the state legislatures typically compare in terms of length of session, institutionalization, and turnover? Why is turnover typically greater in legislatures?
2. Compare the advantages and disadvantages of unicameralism and bicameralism. What factors work against adoption of unicameralism?
3. What effects have the reapportionment rulings of the 1960s had on the composition of state legislatures and the representation of urbanites?
4. What four categories of legislators did James Barber identify?
5. Outline the basic procedure by which a bill becomes law.
6. What significant role is played by party caucuses and leaders?
7. Identify some of the ways a governor may reject legislation.

Terms

institutionalization Baker v. Carr

special sessions

pocket veto

item veto

STUDY QUESTIONS

Stedman, chapter 6, "Governors and State Administrative Systems"

Students should be able to: ~~review~~

review the history of the colonial executive

discuss the structure and powers of the original state governments

trace the growth in the powers of the governor over the last two centuries

discuss the qualifications, terms, and compensation of governors

analyze the power of the governor to appoint and to remove personnel

explain the power of the governor as leader of the state's armed forces

compare the overall authority of the governor and of the legislature

identify the principal tasks of a modern governor

describe the ways in which a governor may control his or her administrative staff

review the efforts to bring about administrative reorganization

explain the problems inherent in trying to achieve administrative reform

Questions

1. Contrast the colonial with the post-revolutionary governor in terms of his administrative and legislative power.
2. What did Woodrow Wilson and other reformers see as the basic defect of the state administrative apparatus? What reforms have been attempted to remedy this defect? 124-25, 137-39
3. What variables in the power and prestige of governors have been identified by Joseph Schlesinger?
4. What considerations and conflicting perspectives have complicated labor-management issues in the public sector?

Terms

executive supremacy martial law

Jacksonian Democracy

STUDY QUESTIONS

Stedman, chapter 7, "State Courts"

Students should be able to:

define common law and equity

distinguish between civil and criminal law

discuss the idea of judicial review

comment on the utility of advisory opinions

review the overall organization of state court systems

recognize the key role of state supreme courts

understand the ways in which judges may be selected

explain why there is a continuing effort to bring about equal justice for the poor and minorities

identify the leading criticisms of the state judicial systems

analyze various plans for judicial reform and reorganization

Questions:

1. What is the supremacy clause and how important has it been in shaping our history?
2. How have common law principles been modified through American practice?
3. What doctrine was upheld in the Marbury v. Madison case?
4. What is stare decisis?
5. What was decided in the Gideon v. Wainwright case?

STUDY QUESTIONS

Stedman, chapter 8, "Forms and Institutions"

Students should be able to:

explain the legal relationship between a municipality and the state

describe how cities are incorporated

discuss how cities receive their charters

explain what is meant by home rule

discuss what is involved both in annexation and in consolidation

identify the leading forms of city government

analyze the strong and weak points of each form

define a special district

discuss the uses of special districts

analyze the functions of American counties

evaluate the performance of American counties

STUDY QUESTIONS

Stedman, chapter 9, "Conflict and Participation"

Students should be able to:

identify the cleavages in urban politics

discuss the conflict between haves and have-nots

analyze the reasons for political conflict between the central city and its suburbs

explain how racial and ethnic differences may result in political controversy

evaluate the role of political parties in the management of conflict

understand why political participation tends to be higher in general elections than in primaries

recognize the role of neighborhood organizations in urban politics

discuss the part played by interest groups in municipal politics

evaluate the influence of the mass media on urban politics

STUDY QUESTIONS

Stedman, chapter 10, "Styles"

Students should be able to:

describe brokerage style politics

explain the reasons for the creation of the traditional political "machines" in American cities

discuss the excesses historically attributed to the leading machine organizations

identify the nature, functions, and social bases of the machine

understand the reasons for the growth of a reform movement to oust the machines

identify the nature, functions, and base of the reform type of party organization

discuss the history of Tammany Hall

explain the lasting contributions of the reform movement

compare and contrast the mentality of brokerage politicians with that of trade union leaders

Stedman, chapter 11, "Metropolitan Areas"

Students should be able to:

define a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area

discuss the distribution of SMSAs across the country

make socio-economic comparisons between cities and suburbs

identify the leading problems in metropolitan areas

discuss the political characteristics of suburbia

identify the leading political issues in suburbia

explain why suburban politics is usually considered to be non-partisan in fact if not always in form

discuss the possible ways in which suburbs may evolve in the next decade or two

compare central city and suburban voting patterns

STUDY QUESTIONS

Stedman, chapter 12, "The Politics of Metropolitan Reorganization"

Students should be able to:

identify the state-imposed restrictions on reorganization

discuss and explain the structural and function problems involved in reorganization

analyze the use of intergovernmental agreements

explain what is meant by an urban county

describe city-county consolidation

comment on the federation device for reorganization

discuss the use of special districts to bring about a degree of metropolitan unity

analyze the device of city-council separation

recognize the roles of parties, interest groups, and voters in achieving or preventing metropolitan reorganization

evaluate the principal plans advanced for reorganization

STUDY QUESTIONS

Stedman, chapter 13, "Law Enforcement"

Students should be able to:

identify the chief law-enforcement agencies of the state

explain the role of the state police

identify the local law-enforcement agencies

discuss the operations of the grand jury and of the prosecuting attorney

analyze the work of the attorney general of the state

describe the principal steps in the process from arrest to trial

discuss the punishment of convicted persons

evaluate the effectiveness of penal institutions in terms of deterrence of crime and of rehabilitation of criminals

discuss the role of women in the law enforcement system

identify the leading problems faced by municipal police forces

state the case for and the case against community-control of municipal police forces

explain the operation of civilian review boards in relation to the work of the police

STUDY QUESTIONS

Stedman, chapter 14, "Education"

Students should be able to:

trace the rise of the public school in America

describe the growth of state (as against local) control of public schools

discuss the broad outlines of school administration

analyze the increasing difficulties of obtaining funds for educational purposes

state the cases for and against compulsory busing in order to achieve (a) quality education and (b) racial balance

evaluate the role of the teachers' association in the control of education

discuss the increasing politicization of education

comment on whether teachers' strikes should be permitted by law

analyze recent trends in higher education

discuss the effects of unionization on college and university instructors

STUDY QUESTIONS

Stedman, chapter 15, "Transportation"

Students should be able to:

trace the evolution of Federal highway policy

discuss the organization for state highway administration

describe the various methods by which states raise money to support their highway systems

evaluate the practice of earmarking funds obtained from the gasoline tax to a highway fund

comment on the preference of some states for toll roads as against freeways

analyze the arguments for and against no-fault automobile insurance

identify the principal problems in creating a workable series of urban mass transit systems in this country

discuss the particular transportation problems in the largest urban areas

comment on state efforts to curtail pollution caused by automobile emissions

Stedman, chapter 16, "Welfare, health, and housing"

Students should be able to:

describe the development of welfare policies

assess the impact of welfare payments upon the recipients

identify the leading elements of state health problems

compare the state and the local health programs

discuss the question of compulsory health programs

explain how building codes and zoning regulations affect the character of the neighborhood

recognize the arguments for and against rent control

discuss the successes and failures of public housing

understand the problems associated with attempts at urban renewal

discuss the concept of urban homesteading

STUDY QUESTIONS

Stedman, chapter 17, "State and Local Finances"

Students should be able to:

identify the chief sources of revenue

compare and contrast the effectiveness of the principal taxes

discuss the most commonly voiced criticisms of the general property tax

analyze the advantages of a state income tax as against a state sales tax

evaluate the experience to date with revenue sharing

identify the chief items of expenditures

trace the development of a state or municipal budget

understand the difficulties of "holding the line" in governmental spending during a period of high inflation

identify the chief financial officers of state and local governments

describe the general effects of the mid-1970's recession on state and local finance, and on the operations of state and local governments