

Final Examination POLI 100E

Summer Session 1, Interest Group Politics

1 August 2009

Professor Poole

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR ANSWERS *SHORT AND SPECIFIC* TO ALL
QUESTIONS**

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Quarter _____ Course _____ Date _____

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1. Explain the Pluralist theory of public policy formation.

2. Suppose there are n individuals in a group and it takes only k individuals, $k \leq n$, contributing to achieve some goal of the group. Let B be the benefit that *every member of the group receives* if k or more members contribute, and let C be the cost of a contribution by a member.

DISPLAY 9.1			
Ms. J's CHOICE	NUMBER OF OTHER GROUP MEMBERS CONTRIBUTING		
	less than $k-1$	exactly $k-1$	k or more
contribute	$-C$	$B-C$	$B-C$
do not contribute	0	0	B

If k , B , and C are held fixed, how will this affect the number of contributors as n is increased?

3. Are political parties simply coalitions of interest groups?

4. Mancur Olsen challenged the idea that individuals with common interests would *automatically* form groups to take collective action to defend and/or advance their interests. Olsen argued that there were three basic problems with this theory of group behavior. What are these three basic problems?

5. Below is Table 1 from Kay Lehman Schlozman's study of the Washington, D.C. interest group system. What is the basic message of this table?

TABLE 1
THE WASHINGTON PRESSURE SYSTEM

	GROUPS HAVING THEIR OWN WASHINGTON OFFICES (%)	ALL GROUPS HAVING WASHINGTON REPRESENTATION (%)
Corporations	20.6%	45.7%
Trade Associations and Other Business	30.6	17.9
Foreign Commerce and Corporations	.5	6.5
Professional Associations*	14.8	6.9
Unions	3.3	1.7
Public Interest Groups	8.7	4.1
Civil Rights Groups/Minority Organizations	1.7	1.3
Social Welfare and the Poor	1.3	.6
New Entrants (Elderly, Gays, Women, Handicapped)	2.5	1.1
Governmental Units—U.S.	1.4	4.2
Other Foreign	1.2	2.0
Other/Unknown	13.2	8.2*
	99.8%	100.2%
	(N = 2810)	(N = 6601)

Sources: Based on information taken from Close (1981) and Akey (1981).

* Includes, in addition to traditional professional associations, organizations of business executives, such as the Data Processing Management Association, and organizations of professionals working in government, such as the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges.

* Includes, in addition to organizations we were unable to classify (292), nine small categories. Among them are farmers' organizations (46), veterans' groups (31), and religious groups (50). Of the nine categories, only educational organizations (124, or 1.9 percent) account for more than 1 percent of the total organizations classified. Otherwise, these categories account for less than 1 percent of the total each.