

*American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course*

Guided Reading

Section 15.1: Acting Collectively

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

 **Before you read**

**Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.**

**Learning Target:** Describe the factors that impact whether or not interest groups will be effective in reaching their policy objectives.

**AP® Key Concepts**

- interest groups
- social movements
- theory of participatory democracy
- civil society
- pluralist theory
- elitist theory
- policy agenda
- collective action
- collective good
- free riders
- selective benefits

 **While you read**

**Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.**

<b>Incentives to join interest groups</b>	<b>Characteristics of interest groups</b>	<b>Impact on policy</b>

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 **After you read**

**Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.**

1. Interest groups are formed when people voluntarily come together in order to:
  - A. get certain policies enacted.
  - B. force elected officials out of office.
  - C. demand that government listens to the people.
  - D. keep an eye on political parties.
  
2. While interest groups tend to focus on one issue, social movements tend to:
  - A. gain more support over the life of the movement.
  - B. focus on educating the public to bring about social change.
  - C. be even more narrow on certain legislation.
  - D. require less organization and get more done.
  
3. During the Obama Administration, "net neutrality" became the:
  - A. term used to describe the use of the internet for illegal activities.
  - B. regulatory framework for the internet.
  - C. framework for building the internet.
  - D. term used to protect internet users accused of illegal activity.

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4. The new net neutrality rules allow internet service providers to create:
  - A. "fast lanes" for users who pay for special treatment.
  - B. more rules for users.
  - C. ghost accounts for users.
  - D. more ads targeted at specific users.
  
5. One way to limit the damage factions can do is to allow for \_\_\_\_\_ between factions.
  - A. alliances
  - B. competition
  - C. associations
  - D. division
  
6. When citizens impact policymaking by their involvement in civil society, it is called the:
  - A. theory of participatory democracy.
  - B. pluralist theory.
  - C. elitist theory.
  - D. collective action theory.
  
7. Groups that are working under a pluralist theory often share power in order to:
  - A. keep the elitists in power.
  - B. keep any one group from gaining power.
  - C. keep the government from gaining too much power.
  - D. keep factions from forming.
  
8. Under the elitist theory, it is believed that those with great wealth control the policy agenda, which is the:
  - A. policy action of an interest group.
  - B. policies that are important to a political party.
  - C. set policies that policymakers focus on.
  - D. executive orders a president creates.
  
9. Interest groups often face issues in collective action, which is when:
  - A. individuals get a free ride.
  - B. individuals contribute time, money, and energy to a group goal.
  - C. individuals push for selective benefits.
  - D. individuals refuse to join the interest group but want to use the benefits.
  
10. Many interest groups have begun to try to overcome the problems free riders cause with selective benefits, which are:
  - A. benefits for members of the group only.
  - B. paid for with membership fees only.
  - C. paid for using fines collected from free riders.
  - D. benefits that members get to choose first.