Exam #1

1.(t/f) In the survey discussed in class, the majority of Americans surveyed underestimated the degree to which wealth is concentrated in the top twenty per cent of the population.

2.(t/f) While net worth has become more and more concentrated in the top 1%, financial wealth has become more evenly distributed throughout U.S. society.

3.(m/c) Which of the following is true about the concentration of wealth in the U.S?

a. The top 1% has doubled its share of wealth since the 1970s.

b. The concentration of wealth is greater than other industrial countries.

c. It is the greatest concentration of wealth in the U.S. since the Great Depression.

d. a and c e. all of above

4.(t/f) The Great Recession had a greater negative impact as a per cent on the median net worth of white households than African American or Hispanic.

5.(m/c) All of the following are true about income in the U.S. EXCEPT:

a. income derived from work is taxed at a higher rated than income derived from investments.

b. the top 1% of income earners have been the main beneficiaries of the “economic recovery.”

c. despite growing inequality in income the Gini index continues to decline, so the U.S. is now the most equal country in terms of income distribution.

d. the top 10% receive the majority of their income from investments. e. none are exceptions

6.(m/c) All of the following are true about U.S. corporations under the Obama administration EXCEPT:

a. they are unable to compete globally because of increased taxes and regulation.

b. they set an all-time record in profit in 2010. c. they have cash reserves of $2 trillion.

d. the 500 largest U.S. corporations set an all time record in profits in 2011. e. none are exceptions

7.(m/c) Which of the following disproportionately benefited the rich?

a. Bush and Obama tax cuts. b. cuts in capital gains taxes c. raising threshold for the estate tax.

d. a and b e. all of above

8.(m/c) All of the following benefit from tax loopholes EXCEPT:

a. fast food industry b. Hedge Fund CEOs c. Cruise lines

d. U.S. corporations “located” in the Virgin Islands e. none are exceptions

9.(m/c) Corporations and their shareholders benefited from which of the following legislation?

a. Medicare Prescription Drug bill b. Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”)

c. Cheney Energy Bills d. a and c e. all of above

10.(m/c) Since the end of the Great Prosperity, the financial situation of working class and middle class Americans has deteriorated. All of the following are examples EXCEPT:

a. decline in disposable income b. increase in consumer debt c. increase in mortgage debt

d. increase in student debt e. none are exceptions

11.(m/c) All of the following are true about poverty in the U.S. EXCEPT:

a. benefits for the poor are so generous, people choose not to work.

b. the number of poor increased during the “Great Recession” because people lost their jobs.

c. the U.S. has the highest rate of childhood poverty.

d. the average number of children in a poor household is 1.8. e. none are exceptions

12(t/f) Understanding poverty as an individual problem, lazy people, rather than the result of economic forces, serves the ideological function of making the poor scapegoats for growing inequality..

13.(t/f) According to Inequality for All, a strong middle class is the necessary foundation for a stable consumer-based economy.

14.(t/f) According to Inequality for All, one of the main reasons for the decline of the middle class in the U.S. is their lack of productivity.

15.(m/c) According to Inequality for All, there are strong parallels between the Great Depression and the Great Recession. Which of the following are examples?

a. a boom in the financial sectors based on speculative bubbles.

b. middle class wages were stagnant and the middle class was forced to go into debt.

c. consumer demand decreased d. a and b e. all of above

16.(m/c) The end of the Great Prosperity began in the last part of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. 1960s b. 1970s c. 1980s d. 1980s

17.(m/c) An almost fifty per cent decline in the tax rates for the rich began under which president?

a. Eisenhower b. Ford c. Reagan d. Bush I e. Clinton

18.(m/c) The Great Prosperity, according to Inequality for All, included all of the following EXCEPT:

a. low inequality b. increased educational opportunity, especially affordable higher education

c. increase in union membership d. highly educated work force e. none are exceptions

19.(m/c) According to Inequality for All, the Great Prosperity involved a Virtuous Cycle. All of the following were parts of the Virtuous Cycle EXCEPT:

a. increase in wages for workers. b. increased consumer demand c. decrease in employment

d. increased tax revenue e. increased government spending on education and infrastructure

20.(m/c) According to Inequality for All, the end of the Great Prosperity led to a Vicious Cycle. All of the following are parts of the Vicious Cycle EXCEPT:

a. wages stagnant for workers b. decrease in consumer demand c. companies downsized

d. less government funding of education e. higher welfare payments to those hurt the most.

21.(m/c) Which of the following have been benefits to the rich, according to Inequality for All, of the undermining of democracy by the increasing concentration of wealth and income?

a. bailouts b. subsidies c. decreased tax rates for the rich d. Citizens United e. all of above

22.(t/f) According to Aftershock, affluent Americans are able to secede geographically into private communities and fund through fees and taxes, high levels of services and infrastructure.

23.(m/c) According to Aftershock, all of the following made the middle class more secure after the Great Depression EXCEPT:

a. unemployment insurance b. social security c. increased defense spending

d. forty hour work week e. none are exceptions

24.(t/f) According to Aftershock, the “basic bargain” of consumer capitalism is that workers are also consumers. Their earnings are continually recycled to buy consumer goods and services. So workers need a proportionate gain in income growth to keep the economy going.

25.(m/c) The “multiplier effect” means that money spent has which of the following positive outcomes for the economy and workers?

a. creates jobs b. creates a larger tax base c. provides money for research

d. a and b e. all of above

26.(t/f) According to Aftershock, the rescue plan proposed and enacted by the Bush and Obama administrations to solve the crisis of the Great Recession was designed to save the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. financial economy b. real economy

27.(t/f) According to Aftershock, those in power still argue that the problems with the economy can only be solved by less government and worker’s “tightening their belts”, also called austerity.

28.(m/c).According to Aftershock, all of the following could have been done to offset the negative effects of globalization and automation EXCEPT:

a. more bargaining power could have been given to service workers.

b. the safety net could have been enlarged, for example, unemployment insurance covering part time work.

c. insurance for entire communities that lost their major employer.

d. transition assistance to help workers move to new jobs. e. none are exceptions

29.(t/f) According to Aftershock, globalization had completely negative consequences for U.S. workers.

30.(m/c) According to Aftershock, the middle class tried to cope with the stagnant and declining income in all of the following ways EXCEPT:

a. women entering the workforce. b. average worker working longer hours

c. borrowing on their homes d. entering the workforce at an earlier age e. none are exceptions

31.(t/f) In 2009 GM sold more cars in China than the U.S., while being bailed out in the U.S.

32.(m/c) According to Aftershock, a “new deal for the middle class” would include all of the following EXCEPT:

a. a reverse income tax b. higher marginal tax rates on the wealthy

c. school vouchers based on family income d. Medicare for all e. none are exceptions

33.(t/f) According to Aftershock, one of the solutions to the undermining of our democracy is stronger campaign finance laws.

34.(m/c) The capacity of a group or class to realize its goals despite opposition is called:

a. distributive power b. collective power

35.(t/f) According to Domhoff, the upper class, through it social interactions and institutional affiliations, develops a class consciousness-what is good for corporations and the self interest of members of the upper class is good for America.

36.(m/c) According to Domhoff, all of the following are ways in which the power of the upper class is institutionalized in the economic system EXCEPT:

a. concentration of ownership b. shared monopolies c. boards of directors

d. strategic alliances e. none are exceptions

37.(m/c) According to Domhoff, the upper class believes it needs to control the political system because:

a. by doing so it avoids the possibility of the government intervening on behalf of the people.

b. by doing so it hopes to avoid the possibility of the people challenging its power.

c. by doing so it can control foreign policy and make sure that the government’s pursues international policy in its interests. d . a and b e. all of above

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Match the power network to its primary function.

Power Network Primary Function

38. candidate selection process a. influences legislation

39. special interest process b. controls elections

40. policy planning process c. manufactures consent

41. opinion shaping process d. develops public policy

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42.(m/c) According to Gangs of America, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Amendment is cited as having established the precedent that corporations are persons under the law.

a. Twelve b. Thirteenth c. Fourteenth d. Fifteenth e. Nineteenth

43.(m/c) According to Gangs of America, corporate constitutional rights have had which of the following consequences?

a. hindered the government’s ability to regulate the workplace for safety

b. prevented states from taxing corporations c. prevented campaign finance reform

d. a and b e. all of above

44.(m/c) According to Gangs, the public in early America believed that corporations were necessary to:

a. create jobs b. provide goods and services to consumers

c. meet social needs d. a and b e. all of above

45.(m/c) All of the following were pre-Civil War controls over corporations EXCEPT:

a. life span was limited to 20-30 years.

b. charters limited the amount of investment capital, capitalization

c. corporations were restricted to operation in the state in which they were chartered

d. charters sometimes limited amount of profit e. none are exceptions

46 (t/f) The assumption concerning corporations in early America was that they were inherently dangerous because of their capacity to accumulate power.

47.(m/c) Which of the following were Superpowers that have been given to corporations, according to Gangs?

a. no limits on life span b. no restrictions on location c. no limits on size d. a and b e. all above

48.(m/c) According to Gangs of America, the social theory with the most significant impact on U.S. Supreme Court was:

a. democratic theory b. liberal social theory c. free market theory

d. social Darwinism e. none of the above

49.(m/c) All of the following are means that corporations used to regain power that they had lost in the 1960s and 1970s EXCEPT:

a. ALEC b. front groups like Center for Tobacco Research

c. legislation like food disparagement laws. d. judicial education seminars

d. a and b e. all of above

50.(m/c) All of the following are true in regard to corporate rights of free speech EXCEPT:

a. corporate advertising is protected under the First Amendment by the ruling that advertising increases the amount of information the public will have.

b. corporations have the right of negative free speech; they can limit the amount of information the public can have.

c. non-factual corporate advertising is protected because it increases the information available to the public.

d. the biggest defender of corporate free speech is the American Civil Liberties Union

e. none are exceptions

60.(m/c) According to Gangs, the corporate crime wave of 2001 and 2002 was mainly caused by:

a. stock options for CEOs b. deregulation c. personal greed

61.(m/c) According to Gangs, the biggest problem that arose from the corporate crime wave was:

a. the unsolved problem of personal corruption. b. continued failure to regulate corporate behavior.

c. overwhelming corporate power on government.

49.(m/c) When did labor organization begin in the U.S. and what was its primary goal at the time.

a. pre-Civil War/wages b. Civil War/hours c. Late nineteenth century/wages

d. early twentieth century/hours e. 1950s/wages

42.(m/c) All of the following are examples of the social network of the upper class EXCEPT:

a. exclusive pre-schools b. private prep schools c. elite universities

d. Bohemian Grove e. none are exceptions.

45. (m/c) Which of the following are ways that the upper class controls labor?

a. deskilling b. outsourcing c. automation d. a and c e. all of above

47.(m/c) Which of the following are examples of the upper class winning ?

a. tax breaks for the rich. b. bailout of the financial industry. c. Obama’s healthcare reform

d. a and b e. all of above

49.(m/c) Domhoff argues that the power of the upper class is institutionalized. He calls this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. domination b. autonomy

51.(m/c) According to Domhoff, all of the following are examples of organizational networks EXCEPT:

a. religious b. military c. economy d. political e. mass media

53.(m/c) The relationship Walmart has with its suppliers is an example of a(n):

a. producer network b. strategic alliance

54.(t/f) National Association of Broadcasters is an example of a(n):

a. front group b. grassroots group c. trade group d. astroturf group

56.(m/c) Which of the following are true about think tanks?

a. They are independent knowledge producing institutions.

b. They are funded by foundations and corporations with agendas and interests.

c. They have experts who are invited to be on television and testify d. b and c e. all of above