

Policy Evaluation – PMAP 4061

QUIZ 1: INTRO

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1. (1 point) The University System of Georgia (USG) pursues the policy objective of increasing student attendance *while not* driving up expenditures. What type of problem are they trying to solve?
 - A. Unconstrained maximization problem
 - B. Unconstrained minimization problem
 - C. Constrained maximization problem**
 - D. Constrained minimization problem

Solution: They want to maximize attendance within their budgetary constraint.

2. (1 point) Your state legislature will adopt a more progressive taxation policy. The policy is set to increase the marginal tax rates faced by high-earning taxpayers while easing the burden on lower income bands. Which of the following data point(s) factors in the equity-efficiency trade-off?
Note: in your policy analysis model, high-income earners invest most of their money and low-income earners consume most of it.
 - A. Investment rate for higher income bands**
 - B. Investment rate for lower income bands
 - C. Consumption rate for higher income bands
 - D. Both B) and C)

Solution: Your “bang-for-the-buck” policy calculation assesses the ratio between decrease in investments of high-income taxpayers and increase in consumption of low-income taxpayers. You don’t need C), therefore A) is correct.

3. (1 point) What field of academic research is the *Developing a Municipal Performance-Measurement System: Reflections on the Atlanta Dashboard* article representative of?
 - A. Political Science
 - B. Program Evaluation**
 - C. Policy Analysis
 - D. Policy Implementation

Solution: The article discusses the performance of one individual program. This is a Program Evaluation research paper.

4. (1 point) What field of academic research is the *It's Abortion, Stupid: Policy Voting in the 1992 Presidential Election* article representative of?
- A. **Political Science**
 - B. Program Evaluation
 - C. Policy Analysis
 - D. Policy Implementation

Solution: The article speaks to the political science audience, not to the policy audience.

5. (1 point) Education policy researchers believe that increases in kindergarten participation substantially reduce welfare entitlements later in life as recipients would do better in the labor markets. Therefore, they support expanding access to kindergarten. What type of argument are they trying to establish here?
- A. Equity reasons must be prioritized over efficiency reasons
 - B. Efficiency reasons must be prioritized over efficiency reasons
 - C. There is a trade-off between equity and efficiency reasons
 - D. **The trade-off between equity and efficiency reasons is only apparent**

Solution: They argue that expanding kindergarten access is an investment which not only repays itself but actually generates cost savings. Therefore, expanding access is not only the *equitable* but also the *efficient* choice.

6. (1 point) Methodological holism is the stance that:
- A. Social aggregates (e.g., social classes) are the sum of individual policy preferences.
 - B. **Social aggregates (e.g., social classes) are not the sum of individual policy preferences.**
 - C. Policy analysis should only be concerned with individuals.
 - D. Policy analysis should only be concerned with social aggregates.

Solution: Methodological holism is not a preference for social aggregates over individuals. It is indeed the descriptive stance positing that social aggregates have their own independent nomological domains and do not add up from individual preferences.

7. (1 point) Which one of the following adopts methodological holism?
- A. Welfare economics
 - B. Neoclassical economics
 - C. **Social constructionism**
 - D. None of the above

Solution: Social constructionism claims that individuals norms embed social constructs. The primary identifier of individuals is the set of norms that society hands on to them rather than their policy preferences.

8. (1 point) Tuition waivers going towards low-socioeconomic status students are a form of:
- A. Distributive policy
 - B. Redistributive policy**
 - C. Regulatory policy
 - D. Constituent policy

Solution: Waivers shifts the burden away from lower socioeconomic status students onto more affluent students.

9. (1 point) Nominal wages are more important than real wages to evaluate redistributive policies.
- A. Yes
 - B. No**
 - C. They are equally important
 - D. It depends on the policy

Solution: Real wages proxy for purchasing power. The goods and services that we might (or might not) buy with our paper money make us better (or worse) off.

10. (1 point) Student debt is a _____ to society *therefore* it must be _____. Which words would a policy analyst choose to fill in the blanks?
- A. [guilt, addressed]
 - B. [guilt, canceled]
 - C. [liability, addressed]**
 - D. [liability, canceled]

Solution: A policy analyst would draw her words from a technical domain. "Canceling" student debt is prescriptive talking and analysts rarely talk prescriptively other than for policy recommendations. "Guilt" is also value-laden prescriptive talking.