1. The policy process that exists within the US political system is extraordinarily complex. In such an open system, there are many opportunities for supporters and opponents of policies to affect the US policy outcomes. First, list and explain the stages of policy process. Then, lay out the main assumptions of the different approaches of public policy. Next, discuss which approach would best explain national security policy process. Under the light of these theories, discuss and explain which actors from the national security power clusters are more influential on the president’s national security policy decision. Finally, discuss how congress influences national security policy making process and why conflict may arise between executive branch and congress in policy making process.

First, list and explain the stages of policy process

The policy process in the United States is incredibly complex but is broken up into policy issue, approval, implementation, and feedback.

* **Policy** **issue**= shaping of policy in response to a problem and its injection into process
* **Approval**= policy passed through formal executive and legislative procedures
* **Implementation**= how a policy is carried out. Interprets congressional and executive intent. Translates into practices rules and regulations.
* **Feedback**= the response of those effected by the policy.

lay out the main assumptions of the different approaches of public policy

Furthermore, there are many different factors that go into public policy and there are assumptions as to which are the most influential.

* **Political System Theory**= public policies are created as response to the political systems need and demand of its environment. So input of demands and support with outputs of law and decisions.
* **Group Theory** (Pluralism) = Policy is made by the people through a variety of procedures such as public opinion pools, elections, constituents pressure on elected representatives, and interests group advocacy.
* **Elite Theory** = Policy is essentially decided by the elites class such as high-level bureaucrats, business interests, and the military. This is often driven by self-centered motives and does not reflect the public interest.
* **Institutionalism** = policy creation is strongly related to the structure and procedures of the government institutions. Driven by like-minded bureaucrats
* **Rational Choice Theory( Downs (1957)** = Self-interest and utility maximization play a large role. Political actors, like economic actors, act rational in pursuing their own interest. Individual values and preferences rather than organizational or social values. Information asymmetry, leads political actors to act primarily for the benefit of themselves

, discuss which approach would best explain national security policy process.

Policy making is very complicated and is a mix of all these theories, but … is the most prevelant.

discuss and explain which actors from the national security power clusters are more influential on the president’s national security policy decision.

There are four power clusters:

1. Policy triad – Secretary of state, Secretary of defense, and National Security advisor
   1. Secretary of state is the president’s Chief foreign affairs advisor.
   2. Secretary of defense is the presidents principal defense policy advisor. Formulates general defense policeies related to matters of direct concern to the department of defesnt
   3. The national Security Advisor Presents intelligence to the president and the National Security Council.
2. Director of national intelligence and the chairmand of the joint chiefs of staff
   1. The Director of the national Intelligence oversees and directs the implementation of the national intelligence programs. And is the principal advisor to the president and the National Security Council.
   2. The chairman of the Joint Chief Of Staff is responsible for the unified strategiv direction of the combatant forces.
3. The president’s white house advisors/ counselor
4. The secretary of Homeland security
   1. The secretary of homeland security oversees the Department of Homeland securitys efforts to counter terrorism and enhance security.

Discuss how congress influences national security policy making process and why conflict may arise between executive branch and congress in policy making process.

The US constitution divides the foreign policy powers between the President and Congress. Congress has four important powers given to it by the constitution:

1. Power of advice and consent in making treatise.
   1. President can only make a treaties with the advice and the consent of the senate. Yet they have no formal role I creating the treaty. Informally they do have the budgetary power to influence treaty making
2. Power to confirm presidential appointments
3. War power
4. Power to regulate commerce ( Power of the purse)

Congress influence on foreign policy can cause conflict. It can influence through:

* + Resolutions and policy statements
  + Legislative directives
  + Legislative pressure
  + Legislative restrictions/funding denials
  + Informal advice
  + Congressional oversight