Chapter 9: Assessment

Political Dictionary
- public policy (p. 236)
- labor union (p. 244)
- single-interest group (p. 251)
- propaganda (p. 248)
- trade association (p. 244)
- lobbying (p. 251)
- grass roots (p. 263)

Practicing the Vocabulary
Matching: Choose a term from the list below that best matches each description:
1. A type of interest group that represents business interests
2. The events and issues of concern to all the people in a society
3. Political action committee devoted to one issue
4. A type of interest group that works for the public good
5. The means by which group pressures are brought to bear on all aspects of the policy-making process
6. Of or from the common people, the average voters

Word Recognition: Replace the underlined definitor with the correct term from the list above
1. Interest groups exist for the purpose of influencing all of the many goals that a government pursues in all of the many areas of human affairs in which it is involved.
2. In many industries workers have formed organizations of those who share the type of job or who work in the same industry.
3. One type of interest group is an organization devoted to the interests of all the people.
4. The development of mass media encouraged the use of this technique of persuasion aimed at influencing individual or group behavior.
5. Interest groups helped to stimulate interest in the events and issues that concern people at large.

Reviewing Main Ideas
Section 1: Why are interest groups sometimes called “pressure groups” or “special interests”?
12. At what level of government can you find interest groups operating?
13. In what ways are interest groups both similar to and different from political parties?
15. Summarize the debate over the role of interest groups in the American political system.
16. How do interest groups add an element to the checks-and-balances feature of the political process?

Section 2: What is a federation? Give an example of a federation in your state or at the national level.
1. For what reason has the United States often been called “a nation of cities”?
18. What do the following terms mean: lobbying, special interests, pressure group?
19. What is the difference between private and public interest groups?
20. On what kinds of issues do labor unions generally agree?
21. On what kinds of issues might labor interests have different points of view?
22. Describe three types of interest groups that are not based on economic interests. List at least one example of each type of group.
Section 3: What is a political action committee (PAC)? How can PACs influence the political process?
23. What are the goals of a political committee?
24. What is the function of a political committee?
25. What role do political action committees play in the political process?
26. The Lobbysting Disclosure Act requires registration by all those individuals and organizations that do what?

Analyzing Political Cartoons
Using your knowledge of American government and this cartoon, answer the questions below
30. (a) What does the building in the cartoon represent? (b) What is the source of the words on the building?
31. What is the cartoon saying about the influence of special-interest groups on the political process?

Critical Thinking Skills
27. Applying the Chapter Skill Use the Internet to find three recent proposed amendments to the Constitution. Who is promoting these amendments, and why?
28. Demonstrating Reasoned Judgment You have read about how interest groups are both practical and democratic. (a) Explain your understanding of this statement. (b) What issues in your school or community might usefulness be addressed by forming interest groups?
29. Drawing Conclusions Consider the discussion of the functions and criticisms of interest groups in Section 1. Based on this information, discuss your opinion about whether or not interest groups are positive or negative influences on the American political process.

Participation Activities
32. Current Events Watch Scan recent newspapers and magazines to find an article about an interest group at work. Then answer the following questions: What is the interest group? What appears to be its goal? How is it attempting to reach that goal? Share your findings with those of your classmates. What do the interests you and your classmates have found seem to be the most powerful? Why?
33. Chart Activity Create a chart that summarizes the types of interest groups mentioned in Section 2. Use the headings in Table as your categories, and list up to five examples in each category. Then choose one of these groups and find out more about it. As the issues it follows, how it attempts to influence public policy, and its success rate in reaching its goals.
34. It's Your Turn Conduct a survey to discover the interest groups people in your community belong to and why. Before you begin your interviews, frame the questions you wish to ask. Be sure that groups not commonly thought of as interest groups, such as church clubs, are included in your survey. Plan to interview at least ten people. What conclusions do your interviews suggest? (Conducting a Survey)

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For: Chapter 9 Self-Test Visit: PHSchool.com
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As a final review, take the Chapter 9 Self-Test and receive immediate feedback on your answers. The test consists of 20 multiple-choice questions designed to test your understanding of the chapter content.