

Week 6 Practice Questions

The Media and Interest Groups

October 13/14, 2020

In section we will discuss questions 1 and 2, but please make sure you can answer the following two questions on your own.

Question 1 In lecture, Professor Kertzer explained three reasons why the president may not matter as much as we think: socialization, selection, and _____.

- a) Please fill in the blank.
- b) What do we mean by socialization, selection, and _____?

Question 2 According to Lindsay (2003), when does Congress flex its foreign policy powers as opposed to giving the president a greater handle on it? *Why?*

Review your notes and the readings to make sure you can answer the following four questions. We will not review them in class.

Question 3 Please explain whether each of the following exemplifies *framing*, *agenda-setting*, or *priming*.

[1] The media has placed a growing emphasis on candidates' personalities and personal lives, and so you've observed a rise in "water-cooler conversations" about Donald Trump's and Joe Biden's personalities at your new job. [2] One of your co-workers, an avid consumer of Fox News, finds Trump's willingness to break norms refreshing, whereas another, who prefers MSNBC, finds it concerning. [3] Eager to make new friends, and having taken Gov 1790 and read Mutz (2015)¹, you interrupt their heated debate to with the sage observation that this behavior is situational, not dispositional, that television networks tend to caricature each candidate, and that each candidate may change their behavior when they assume office.

¹Mutz (2015) argues notes that television's ability to provide extreme close-ups of individuals provides a *symbolic approximation of proximity* that may cause people to respond as they would to actual proximity. Consequently, the current political atmosphere does not reflect a rise in conflict, but rather a rise in the extent to which it is personal.

Question 4 Explain the “conveyor belt” view of media.

Question 5 What is the *instability* challenge/critique? What are two solutions (responses)?

Question 6 In class, we discussed two definitions of *stovepiping*? What were they?

References

- [1] James M Lindsay. “Deference and Defiance: The Shifting Rhythms of Executive-Legislative Relations in Foreign Policy”. In: *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 33.3 (2003), pp. 530–546.
- [2] Diana C Mutz. *In-your-face politics: The consequences of uncivil media*. Princeton University Press, 2015.