

Wilson 16 Chapter 15 Assignment

1. What is bureaucracy?
2. How does having decision making power spread over multiple people/positions make it harder/slower to do things?
3. Where does the authority to do whatever a particular agency or department does come from?
4. What is the goal of the Superfund program?
5. In what ways are federal departments insulated from working directly with the American population to achieve their goals?
6. How does our propensity for litigation lead to negative interaction between the people and the bureaucracy?
7. What is the primary motivation of operating government by proxy?
8. What are the potential consequences of operating government by proxy?
9. How would keeping regulatory actions as government duties better ensure uniformity and quality of action?
10. What are the advantages of using private contractors to do certain duties deemed necessary by government?
11. What authority does congress maintain over the bureaucracy?
12. How does the choice of who is appointed to bureaucratic leadership roles affect the implementation of law and execution of duties?
13. Why was the original role of the bureaucracy to serve rather than to regulate?
14. What does the 16th Amendment do?
15. What does it mean (p. 370) that congress “leaves it almost exclusively to the discretion of federal bureaucrats to decide what the laws mean, how to apply them, and how much money is needed for implementation”?
16. How is the size of the federal workforce an understatement for how many people work to carry out governmental duties and functions?
17. Why is it wrong to say the size of government is smaller if basing it on Figure 15.1?
18. Why is discretionary authority important to a functioning government?
19. Based on Figure 15.2, why could a conservative president Trump issue an executive order requiring the bureaucracy to remove two regulations for every new one it approves?
20. How has OPM’s effort to maintain a “qualified” federal bureaucracy become harder?
21. How does the name request practice result in better qualified and/or better politically aligned employees?
22. How is upper management potentially in more tenuous job security than rank-and-file bureaucrats?
23. What practices can cause agencies to feel emboldened to act independently though potentially at risk of alienating the president or congress?
24. Why is the Whistle Blower Protection Act necessary?
25. How does the Administrative Procedure Act provide transparency in government?
26. Why is transparency in governmental actions important?
27. How does the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) help keep government accountable?
28. How do Open Meeting Laws protect the ideals of a free society?
29. Why are the realities of multiple agency jurisdictions likely to lead to duplication, deliberate (not on purpose) action, opportunity for opposition, and red tape?
30. What are sunshine laws?
31. How is the bureaucracy the victim rather than the perpetrator when it comes to the existence of red tape?
32. What is an iron triangle?
33. Using guns describe how an iron triangle would work.
34. How does pluralism limit the effectiveness of iron triangles?
35. What factors have limited the ability of interest groups to form effective iron triangles?
36. Why should the public be aware of issue networks?
37. What does it mean that congress has oversight over the bureaucracy?
38. What forms of oversight does congress have over the bureaucracy?
39. What’s the difference between authorized funds and appropriated funds?
40. What branch of government houses every department, agency, and bureau?
41. What is marking up a bill?
42. Why are trust funds used?
43. How is committee clearance used to control the bureaucracy?
44. Why were legislative vetoes ruled unconstitutional in the *Chadha* decision?
45. How is the threat of a congressional investigation a means of congressional oversight over the bureaucracy?
46. Explain the five types of problems bureaucracies face.
47. Where in the chapter did you read about how oversight looks at the effectiveness of the bureaucracy?
48. How is the bureaucracy the rope in the tug of war between the president and congress?