

Texas Government Final Exam (Chapters 11 – 14)

Short Answers: This exam is comprised of four (4) short answers.

Students will choose **ONE** (1) question **FROM EACH SECTION** found below. Each answer is worth 25 points (100 points total).

An acceptable short answer means to me that you do not need an introduction or a concluding paragraph. However, the question must be answered **thoroughly** to show that you understood the material and reflect your best efforts in grammar and spelling. **Make sure to include definitions, important events, laws, people, court decisions, institutions, acts, ideologies, etc. to support your answer.** Of course, you won't be able to include all these topics in an answer, but make sure to include them if they exist.

Some of these questions ask for your opinion, however, your opinion should be backed by what you read in the textbook and your analysis of the material (not just regurgitating what you read). If this was just about your opinion or regurgitation, then there would be no reason to read the textbook. Therefore, include pertinent information and analysis or you will not receive full credit.

When writing your responses – please do not copy and paste from another source (**including copying directly from the textbook**). Answers to these questions are to assess understanding. **If you study with other people, do not go to your study group deciding to answer all the same questions and share your pre-written answers. You will be flagged for plagiarism when your document is submitted, and you will receive a zero for an exam grade.**

Only submit your exam as a Word document. Do not submit your exam as a text document, google document, pages document, etc. or anything else that is not a Word document. Do not copy and paste into the Comments Window. **I will give those who submitted incorrectly a zero and ask that they be submitted correctly. If the corrected document is submitted after the due date, the exam will be late (10% deducted each day).** Make sure to read your feedback in a timely manner.

If you do not understand these instructions, please contact me with your questions well before the exam is due. If you feel that you know what you are doing, then carry on. However, I will deduct points if these instructions are not followed.

Your exam must include your name, date, and have a title of Texas Government 2306 Final Exam. **INCLUDE THE CHAPTER AND QUESTION WITH YOUR ANSWER.** It should look something like this:

Your First and Last Name

Date

Texas Government Final Exam

Chapter 11

Question: Answer

Chapter 12

Question: Answer

Texas Government Final Exam (Chapters 11 – 14)

Chapter 13

Question: Answer

Chapter 14

Question: Answer

Chapter 11

- Discuss the difference between administrative federalism and fiscal federalism.
- Contrast local government in Texas and Ohio. What conclusions can you draw from the information available?
- What is the role of a board of trustees for an independent school district?
- What are the benefits and drawbacks of homeowners' associations in the state of Texas?
- What is the purpose of sanctuary cities? What happens when those sanctuary cities find themselves in conflict with state or federal government? Discuss an example city.
- How did Hurricane Harvey influence policies in Galveston, Texas?
- How do zoning laws work? Discuss an example of the Texas legislature attempting to limit zoning laws.

Chapter 12

- How has the size of the Texas budget changed in the past thirty years?
- The authors discuss the following types of taxes: severance, franchise, sin, excise, and ad valorem. Compare and contrast three of these five.
- List and discuss the differences between the steps in the policymaking process.
- Trace the major steps in the Texas state budgeting process. If you were asked to improve the process, what steps would you remove and why? Would you add any steps?
- What are the benefits and limitations of the pay-as-you-go system?
- Who are the winners and losers in Texas fiscal policy? Be sure to support your answer with details and concrete examples.
- Describe the difference between distributive and regulatory policy. What are the benefits and drawbacks of each approach?
- Compare and contrast regressive and progressive taxes. Use examples of each and discuss who benefits and who is burdened most by each form of taxation.

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Chapter 13

- Discuss the costs and benefits of fracking. Which side makes the most sense to you and why?
- Texas’s environmental policies tend to be less strict than those found in other states. What is it about Texas politics and culture that explains this?
- Funding for Texas roads has changed substantially in the past couple of decades. What have the changes been, and how have Texas legislators’ views on taxes been a primary cause?
- What are the major problems facing Texas when it comes to transportation?
- What are the issues surrounding water usage in the state of Texas? How should the use of water change as the state continues to grow?
- In what ways has Texas embraced alternative forms of energy? Are these alternative forms viable? Why or why not?
- In what ways does trade impact the state of Texas?

Chapter 14

- How does the reliance on property taxes create funding differences among school districts?
- Why has tuition at Texas state universities increased substantially since 2003?
- What is the status of the Affordable Care Act under President Trump?
- How does the selection process of the State Board of Education make it likely that debates over the K–12 curriculum will be intense and repeated often?
- Given current law, Texas does not stand alone in providing for its low-income residents. On which social programs does the federal government work with Texas, and how do the two governments work together?
- Describe how accountability measures in the Education Reform Act impacted students, administrators, and teachers.
- How might the League of United Latin American Citizens’ 2014 lawsuit impact the future of both Latino and non-Latino Texans? How could a win or loss impact the political system?
- What are the culture wars, and how do they impact curriculum in the state of Texas? What are the potential costs to teachers and students in the state of Texas?
- Discuss the costs and benefits of immigration.