

## Texas Government 2306 Exam I (Chapters 1 – 5)

**Short Answers:** This exam is comprised of **five (5)** short answers.

Students will choose **ONE (1)** question **FROM EACH CHAPTER** found below. Each answer is worth either 20 points.

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 Exam I. **INCLUDE THE CHAPTER AND QUESTION WITH YOUR ANSWER. Failure to do this will result in a 10-point deduction from your exam grade.** It should look something like this:

**Your First and Last Name**

**Date**

### Texas Government 2306 Exam I

#### Chapter 1

Question: Answer

#### Chapter 2

Question: Answer

## Texas Government 2306 Exam I (Chapters 1 – 5)

### Chapter 3

Question: Answer

### Chapter 4

Question: Answer

### Chapter 5

Question: Answer

### Chapter 1

- According to the authors, what three major issues are facing Texas early in the twenty-first century? Which issue do you think is the most important and why?
- One of the most significant forces for change that has shaped Texas is immigration, and no immigrant population has been more integral to the state than Hispanics. Discuss the importance of Hispanics for Texas. How have Hispanics been treated by the Anglo population in Texas?
- What is meant by the statement that Texas is a “majority-minority” state? What are the political and social implications of this reality?
- Describe the ways that geographic size has both helped and inhibited politics in Texas.
- List the major ethnic groups that have laid the foundation of Texas culture. Describe their contributions.
- Describe in your answer the role of political culture in shaping Texas today.
- What is presidential republicanism, and why was it found in Texas?

### Chapter 2

- Describe and explain the significance of the full faith and credit clause of the U.S. Constitution. What does this mean for intrastate relationships politically and socially?
- How is popular sovereignty included in the Texas Constitution? Why do you think popular sovereignty is so important to Texans?
- How did the Constitution of 1845 reflect the experiences of Texans when they had lived under Mexican rule? How did these experiences lead to the Texas Revolution?
- What are the major criticisms of the current Texas Constitution? Which do you see as being the most problematic and why?
- Why did the authors of the current Texas Constitution want to place strong limits on the Texas government? Discuss the ways in which they accomplished this goal.
- How common have amendments to the Texas Constitution been? How does the number of amendments to the Texas Constitution compare to the number of amendments in other states’ constitutions, and what are the major criticisms of the amendment process?
- Does the supremacy clause make the reserved powers irrelevant? Why or why not?
- How have the various state constitutions impacted the lives and rights of African Americans in Texas?

## Texas Government 2306 Exam I (Chapters 1 – 5)

### Chapter 3

- What are the major arguments against the imposition of term limits on members of a state legislature? Do you agree or disagree with term limits? Why?
- What is legislative turnover and what causes it? What are the political implications of legislature turnover?
- Identify and discuss the factors that make the Texas Legislature more like a citizen legislature and those that make it more like a professional legislature. Which type of legislature does the Texas Legislature most resemble? What are the major consequences of this condition?
- How did the decisions of *Baker v. Carr* (1962) and *Reynolds v. Sims* impact the redistricting process in Texas?
- Of the three principal-agent theories of representation, which is the best model for Texas and why?
- Define a politico and discuss the positive and negative outcomes of this style of representation.
- Compare and contrast single-member districts with multimember districts. What are the political implications of both types of districts?

### Chapter 4

- Discuss the governor's role in the legislative process. What are his or her sources of power and influence? What are his or her weaknesses?
- Discuss the governor's informal powers. What are the governor's informal powers? How do the informal powers help the governor?
- How can the governor use his or her appointment powers to affect the judicial branch, even though the Texas judiciary is elected?
- Describe the ceremonial duties of the governor in Texas. Be sure to offer recent examples from the current governor.
- Describe the role of the political ambition ladder in the success or failure of a governor.
- Is the Texas governor weak? If so, why? If not, why not?
- Discuss the common characteristics of previous governors in the state of Texas. What do you see as being unique compared to other state governors?
- What were the reasons for Ann Richards's ascension to the governor's office?
- What led to the creation of the Legislative Budget Board?
- Discuss the process of emergency legislation. There is a potential for governors to abuse this process. Give an example.
- Discuss the contributions made by former governors to the office of the governor. Which do you see as being the most important contribution and why?

## Texas Government 2306 Exam I (Chapters 1 – 5)

### Chapter 5

- What is meant by the term plural executive? Remember, this is Texas Government – not federal. List the members of the plural executive, their job description, how they get their job, and explain why you think Texas has a plural executive.
- What are the two most important duties of the secretary of state? Which do you see as the most important and why?
- Elected executives in the federal government almost never express significantly different opinions on policy proposals and find themselves in conflict with one another, whereas in Texas this is common. Why is this?
- What are the most salient differences between the patronage and merit-based systems? Which do you see as being the best system and why?
- What is the difference between sunshine and sunset in the Texas executive? Do you think this is a worthwhile process? Why or why not?
- Compare and contrast key sectors of state employment with other states in the United States.
- What are the benefits and drawbacks of the patronage system of staffing?
- What are the benefits and drawbacks of the merit-based system of bureaucratic staffing?
- Compare and contrast the state cabinets in Texas and Nevada.
- Who do the authors of the text argue are the winners and losers in the Texas bureaucracy? Why?