

## Texas Government 2306 Exam II (Chapters 6 – 10)

**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 II. **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 II

#### Chapter 6

Question: Answer

#### Chapter 7

Question: Answer

## Texas Government 2306 Exam II (Chapters 6 – 10)

### Chapter 8

Question: Answer

### Chapter 9

Question: Answer

### Chapter 10

Question: Answer

### Chapter 6

- Discuss the difference between the burden of proof in civil and criminal cases.
- Discuss the difference between criminal cases and civil cases.
- What is the most salient difference between Texas's two highest appeals courts?
- Discuss the differences between original and appellate jurisdiction.
- Discuss problems in the Texas judiciary.
- How would adopting a merit system change judicial selection in Texas?
- Discuss the process of officially charging a criminal defendant in the state of Texas.
- What is the role of the grand jury in a criminal case?
- Explain the difference between a preponderance of evidence and a reasonable doubt.
- Which of the three ways to remove judges from office is most common? Why?
- Explain why the Commission on Judicial Conduct refused to comply with the Sunset Advisory Commission.
- Describe the path of criminal cases from the court of original jurisdiction to the court of final appeals.
- Describe the path of civil cases from the court of original jurisdiction to the court of final appeals.
- What is the significance of jurisdiction for understanding the court system in Texas?
- Compare and contrast the court systems in Kansas and Texas.

### Chapter 7

- What are Texans' attitudes on the death penalty in relation to those in the rest of the country, and why do they differ?
- How do prison conditions in Texas compare to those found in other states? What do you think are the reasons for the conditions in Texas?
- What is the castle doctrine and how has the doctrine in Texas changed from its first passage?
- Discuss the impact of tort reform and loser pay laws on Texas justice.
- Discuss the incarceration rate in the state of Texas. How does it compare with other states and countries? What conclusions can be drawn from this comparison?
- Discuss the history and importance of the Texas Rangers for Texas political culture.
- How might the decriminalization of marijuana impact the state prison budget?

## Texas Government 2306 Exam II (Chapters 6 – 10)

- Discuss how frontier justice influences the political culture and values of Texans.
- Discuss the case of Marvin Wilson and its significance for justice in the state of Texas.

### Chapter 8

- Discuss the idea that there can be “too much democracy.”
- What is the most salient barrier to regulating the amount of money spent in political campaigns?
- List and discuss the three types of primary elections.
- Following the Civil War, legal barriers to voting were still used in Texas to prevent certain groups from access to elections. List these legal barriers and discuss how they created obstacles to voting.
- What is the impact of a roll off on both voters and candidates?
- What is the purpose of the long ballot and how is party-line voting connected?
- How was Texas directly affected by the Help America Vote Act?
- Why are voter registration laws important, and how do they impact elections?
- What are second-order elections, and why are they important?
- Discuss the various tools and resources available to incumbents during an election. How do these tools and resources create an advantage for the incumbent?
- How would public financing impact elections in the state of Texas?
- What is the importance of disclosure, and how does it work in Texas?
- What has been the cumulative result of minority enfranchisement in the state of Texas?

### Chapter 9

- How well do Texas parties follow the responsible party or electoral competition model?
- What are the events that define the temporary party organization?
- Discuss the development of political parties in Texas.
- What has contributed to parties in Texas becoming weaker than they were in the past?
- Is the Democratic Party currently a chronic minority? Why or why not?
- Compare and contrast the **Texas** (not national) Democratic Party platform with the Texas Republican Party platform. What conclusions can you draw?
- Discuss the reasons why Texas supported the Democratic Party throughout a majority of the state’s history?
- What events helped lead to Texas becoming a Republican-dominated state?
- According to the authors, how does one-party domination impact Texas politics?

## Texas Government 2306 Exam II (Chapters 6 – 10)

### Chapter 10

- How are the members of the Texas Ethics Commission chosen? What relationship does the commission have with interest groups?
- Discuss the difference between grassroots and Astroturf lobbying.
- Discuss the differences between the pluralist perspective and the hyperpluralist perspective in regard to interest group influence on democracy.
- What is the free-rider problem that organized interests face, and how can it be overcome?
- Discuss trade associations, unions, and professional associations. Why are they important for businesses and workers in the state of Texas?
- What are the different types of interest groups, and what issues do they address?
- What is the significance of electioneering, and how does it allow interest groups to shape politics in Texas?
- How have PACs influenced elections in the state of Texas?
- Discuss the history and importance of the League of United Latin American Citizens.
- What are the differences between a PAC and a super PAC?
- What is the impact of the Citizens United case?
- Contrast grassroots and grassstop lobbying. Which is more desirable and why?