

Lecture Notes: Essential Knowledge of Democracy

What is the **simple** definition of democracy? _____

Why is this definition inadequate? _____

What is the **strictest** definition of democracy? _____

Why is this definition inadequate? _____

What is the **measurable** definition of democracy? **A)** _____

B) _____

How can participation be measured? _____

How can competition be measured? _____

What are examples of direct democracy?

A) _____

B) _____

What are the limitations of direct democracy?

A) _____

B) _____

C) _____

Define representative democracy.

What does representative democracy require?

A) _____

B) _____

C) _____

Describe in greater detail the conditions in which political freedom, information and perception of a choice operate (List three out of five)

A) _____

B) _____

C) _____

D) _____

E) _____

What are some of the forms of representative democratic systems?

A) _____ or B) _____;

and either C) _____ or D) _____.

According to Hedenius and Van Hanen, what are some of the social conditions that support the development of democracy?

A) 1 _____;

B) _____

C) _____;

D) _____;

E) _____

What does the phrase "Power structures become adjusted to resource structures" mean?

Anthony Downs assumes that democracies include what three factors?

A) _____; B) _____;

C) _____

What does he assume politicians want?

A) _____; B) _____; C) _____; D) _____

What does his model assume that a voter can do?

A) _____;
B) _____;
C) _____

What is "The Arrow Problem?"

What are examples of "future oriented" voting?

A) _____;
B) _____

What three types of groups are influential in democracy, what do they do and what does this mean for democracy?

A) _____;
B) _____;
C) _____.

Downs uses the distribution of voters on a political scale to determine what three major characteristics?

A) _____;
B) _____;
C) _____.

From logic, if there is a bell-shaped curve of political preferences, what can you predict will be the result?

A) _____;
B) _____;

C) _____
_____;

What are some examples of individually rational, but socially irrational voting?

_____.

What factors should motivate involvement in government?

What is the role of ideology in this motivation?

_____.

What is the most important cost to voting? _____

Is political equality possible in democracy? (Or, "Can democracy live up to the hopes that people have for it?") Why, when, or why not?
