

SZZk questions – Bachelor's program in Political Science

Comparative Political Science

1. **Characterize the three basic approaches to political science and explain why and how we use this division (explain with examples).**

Cabada, L. and Kubat, M. 2007. Introduction to the Study of Political Science. Plzeň: Aleš Čeněk Publishing House, pp. 38-52.

2. **Describe the systemic approach in political science and D. Easton's model of the political system. Use a specific example to show how it is used in political science.**

Říchová, B. 2006. Overview of Modern Political Science Theories, Prague: Portál, pp. 45-60.

3. **Using a selected example, explain the basic differences between direct and representative forms of democracy. What arguments can be used for and against direct and representative democracy?**

Clarke, W. R. – Golder, S. – Golder, S. N.: Principles of Comparative Politics. London, SAGE 2018, 145–170. Budge., I. Direct Democracy. In: Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions.

4. **Present the instruments of direct democracy in representative democracies. List their objectives, advantages, and disadvantages using examples of their use in European countries. Explain the differences in strategies for using elements of direct democracy in democratic and non-democratic countries.**

Gallagher, M. 2020. Elections and Referendums. In: Comparative Politics, ed. D. Caramani. Budge., I. Direct Democracy. In: Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions.

5. **Present the main features of majority (Westminster) and consensus democracy and explain what expectations are associated with their functioning. Use examples to show how political and party systems work in countries that fall under the majority (Westminster) and consensus types of democracy.**

Pérez-Liñán, A. (2020). Democracies. In: Caramani, D. (ed.), Comparative Politics (95-101).

6. **Using specific countries in Europe and the US as examples, explain the basic differences between presidential, semi-presidential, and parliamentary systems.**

Hague, R. Harrop, M., McCormick, J. (2011): Comparative government and politics: an introduction. Chapter 9 (Executives).

- 7. Characterize the basic types of undemocratic political regimes (totalitarianism, authoritarianism, hybrid regimes). Give examples of each type and explain the differences in their actual functioning and survival strategies.**

Linstaedt, Natasha: Authoritarian Regimes. In: Camarani, Danielle (ed.): Comparative Politics, 103–116.

Schmoltz, A. (2019). Hybrid Régimes. In: Wolfgang Merkel (ed.) et al. The Handbook of Political, Social, and Economic Transformation, 521-525.

- 8. Explain what transition is and what its results can be. Using examples of successful and unsuccessful democratization processes, describe the types and stages of transition and the factors for a successful transition to democracy.**

Hague, R. Harrop, M., McCormick, J. (2011): Comparative government and politics: an introduction. Chapter 3 (Democratic rule, part Waves of Democracy, Democratization).

- 9. Explain what the legislature is and what its functions are in democratic countries. Using examples from Europe, describe what types of legislatures exist, how and why they can be filled, and what their structure is.**

Hague, R. Harrop, M., McCormick, J. (2011): Comparative government and politics: an introduction. Chapter 8 (Legislatures).

- 10. Explain what the executive branch is and what its functions are in democratic countries. Explain and illustrate with examples how the type of government (single-party/coalition; majority/minority) affects the ability of governments to act and survive. How do political parties influence the process of governance?**

Müller, W. C. (2020). Governments and Bureaucracies. In D. Caramani (ed.): Comparative Politics, 139-159.

- 11. Present the main approaches to defining a political party. Explain what functions political parties usually perform in modern democracies.**

White, J. K. 2006. What is a Political Party? In: Katz, R.S. & Crotty, W., eds. Handbook of party politics, 5-15.

Dalton, R.J., Wattenberg, M. P. Unthinkable Democracy: Political Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies. In: R.J. Dalton, M.P. Wattenberg, eds. Parties without Partisans: Political Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies, 3-14.

- 12. Characterize the developmental typology of political parties (elite parties, mass parties, catch-all parties, cartel parties, corporate parties). Focus on the differences in the origins of parties, their voter base, ideology, organization, and resources. Which newer types of parties could we add to the typology?**

Krouwel, A. 2006. Party Models. In Katz, R.S. & Crotty, W. eds. Handbook of party politics, 249-269.

- 13. Introduce S. M. Lipset and S. Rokkan's concept of cleavages and its extension to the materialism/post-materialism cleavage. Briefly characterize each cleavage and explain what role they played in the formation of parties and party systems in Western Europe. How can we use the concept of cleavages today?**

Clark, W.R., Golder, M., Golder, S.N. (2018). Where do parties come from? In: W.R. Clark, M. Golder, S.N. Golder, eds. Principles of Comparative politics.

- 14. Briefly describe the conflict lines that are used to describe the formation of party systems in Central and Eastern Europe after 1989. Explain how the building of parties and party systems differed from the processes in Western Europe.**

Kitschelt, H. 1995. Formation of Party Cleavages in Post-Communist Democracies. Party Politics 1(4), 447-472.

- 15. Explain the concept of a party system and describe the elements that party system typologies usually focus on. Explain how and why G. Sartori influenced thinking about party systems and their types. Choose a European country and characterize its current party system according to different party system typologies.**

Wolinetz, S. B. 2006. Party Systems and Party System Types. In: Handbook of party politics 1st ed., Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, pp. 51-62.
Caramani, D. 2020. Party systems. In: D. Caramani, ed. Comparative politics, 231-250.

- 16. Characterize majority electoral systems, their main types, and their expected effects. Use specific examples.**

Chytilek, R., Šedo, J., Lebeda, T., & Čaloud, D. (2004). Majority electoral systems (chap. 5). In Electoral Systems. Masaryk University in Brno. International Institute of Political Science, 111-165.

- 17. Characterize proportional electoral systems, their main variables, and expected effects. Use specific examples.**

Chytilek, R., Šedo, J., Lebeda, T., & Čaloud, D. (2004). Proportional electoral systems (chap. 7). In Electoral Systems. Masaryk University in Brno. International Institute of Political Science, 183-211.

18. Present the main expectations of Duverger's laws. Present possible criticisms of them, including empirical examples.

Chytilek, R., Šedo, J., Lebeda, T., & Čaloud, D. (2004). Examination of electoral systems (chap. 2). In Electoral Systems. Masaryk University in Brno. International Institute of Political Science, 49-70.

Chytilek, R., Šedo, J., Lebeda, T., & Čaloud, D. (2004). Quantitative Research on the Effects of Electoral Systems (chap. 3). In Electoral Systems. Masaryk University in Brno. International Institute of Political Science, 49-70.

19. Characterize the party families of conservative and Christian-democratic parties (list the main similarities and differences in their development and ideology). Give examples of such parties from Western and Central Eastern Europe.

Gallagher, M., Laver, M., Mair, P. 2006. Party Families. In: Representative Government in Modern Europe. New York: McGraw Hill, 230-262.

20. Characterize the party families of socialist and communist parties (list the main similarities and differences in their development and ideology). Give examples of such parties from Western and Central Eastern Europe.

Gallagher, M., Laver, M., Mair, P. 2006. Party Families. In: Representative Government in Modern Europe. New York: McGraw Hill, 230-262.

21. Characterize the party families of far-right parties and green parties (list the main differences in their development and ideology). Give examples of such parties from Western and Central Eastern Europe.

Gallagher, M., Laver, M., Mair, P. 2006. Party Families. In: Representative Government in Modern Europe. New York: McGraw Hill, 230-262.

22. Using the Czech Republic as an example, explain the pluralistic and (neo)corporatist models of interest mediation.

Říchová, B. 2006. Overview of Modern Political Science Theories, Prague: Portál, pp. 141-158.

Lijphart, A. 2012. Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 158-173.

23. Using the example of elections in the Czech Republic, present and explain the theory of second-order elections (which elections are considered first-order elections and why? How and why do parties and voters behave in them? Which elections are, on the contrary, so-called second-order elections? How and why does the behavior of parties and voters differ in them?).

Balík, S. (2019). Electoral systems and obsession with elections. In: From Palacký to Babiš: Czech politics from the 19th to the 21st century. Eds. Balík, S. et al.; 166-183.

Chytilek, R., Šedo, J., Lebeda, T., & Čaloud, D. (2004). Electoral systems. Masaryk University in Brno.

- 24. Characterize the position of the Parliament of the Czech Republic in relation to the executive and judicial powers. Describe the composition, method of appointment, and structure of the chambers. Explain what type of bicameralism (symmetrical/asymmetrical; congruent/incongruent) it is and how this is reflected in its functioning.**

Vodička, K., Cabada, L. 2011. The Political System of the Czech Republic: History and Present. 3rd updated and expanded edition. Prague: Portál, pp. 311-378.

- 25. Describe the government of the Czech Republic – focus on its structure, internal functioning, and relationship to the president and the legislative branch. Describe how the government is formed and how it can be dissolved – use examples of Czech governments.**

Vodička, K., Cabada, L. 2011. The Political System of the Czech Republic: History and Present. 3rd updated and expanded edition. Prague: Portál, pp. 311-378.
Havlík, Vlastimil. Czech Republic. In S. Balík and V. Havlík (eds.). Coalition Government in Central Europe (1990-2010). Brno: Munipress, pp. 39-90.

- 26. Characterize the position of the President of the Czech Republic in relation to the government, parliament, and judiciary. Describe, using examples of Czech presidents, the exercise of their formal powers and informal influence. How and why would we classify the Czech political system in the typology of political systems (presidential, semi-presidential, parliamentary)?**

Vodička, K., Cabada, L. 2011. The Political System of the Czech Republic: History and Present. 3rd updated and expanded edition. Prague: Portál, pp. 311-378.

- 27. Characterize the party system in the Czech Republic from 1992 to 2010 and its development using the typologies of party systems by J. Blondel and G. Sartori.**

Balík, S., Hloušek, V. 2016. The development and transformation of the Czech party system after 1989. Acta Politologica 8, 2, pp. 103-117.

- 28. Characterize the party system in the Czech Republic from 2010 to the present and its development using the party system typologies of J. Blondel and G. Sartori.**

Balík, S., Hloušek, V. 2016. The development and transformation of the Czech party system after 1989. Acta Politologica 8, 2, pp. 103-117.
Pšeja, P. 2019. From apolitical politics to anti-politics: transformations of the Czech party system. In Balík, S. et al. From Palacký to Babiš: Czech politics from the 19th to the 21st century. Dokořán.