

Viking Quest: Government Assignments

May 2015

Week: 4th -8th

- *Read and complete chapter 23 section (3 & 4) assessments pages 648-658, Government textbook*
- *Complete Chapter 23 Assessment and Activities pages 660-661, Government textbook*

Name _____

Date _____

Class _____

STUDY GUIDE Chapter 23, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 648–651.

STATE GOVERNMENT POLICY

KEY TERMS

corporate charter A document that gives a corporation legal status (page 648)

public utility An organization that supplies necessities such as electricity, gas, or telephone service (page 648)

workers' compensation Payments people unable to work receive as the result of a job-related injury or ill health (page 649)

unemployment compensation Payments to workers who lose their jobs (page 649)

conservation The care and protection of natural resources including oil, natural gas, and other energy sources; land, lakes, rivers, forests, and wildlife (page 651)

mandatory sentencing A system of fixed, required terms of imprisonment for certain types of crimes (page 651)

victim compensation A program in many states whereby the state government provides financial aid to victims of certain crimes (page 651)

extradition The legal procedure through which a person accused of a crime who has fled to another state is returned to the state where the crime took place (page 652)

parole Means by which a prisoner is allowed to serve the rest of a sentence in the community under the supervision of a parole officer (page 653)

shock probation Program designed to show young offenders how terrible prison life is through brief incarceration followed by supervised release (page 653)

shock incarceration A prison program involving shorter sentences in a highly structured environment where offenders participate in work, community service, education, and counseling (page 653)

house arrest A sentence which requires an offender to stay at home except for certain functions the court permits (page 653)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Who decides what textbooks you use? In many states, the state government decides.

This section focuses on state governments' major areas of concern, including education.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the graphic organizer below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the areas that state governments regulate and protect.

CONCERNS OF STATE GOVERNMENTS			

STUDY GUIDE (continued)**Chapter 23, Section 3****READ TO LEARN****Introduction** (page 648)

The major areas of concern for most states include:

- A. Regulating business
- B. Administering and controlling natural resources
- C. Protecting individual rights
- D. Carrying out education, health, and welfare programs

State Regulation of Business (page 648)

Every business corporation must have a charter issued by a state government. A **corporate charter** is a document that grants certain rights, powers, and privileges to a corporation.

To regulate corporations, state governments have passed laws that:

- A. regulate interest rates that banks can charge;
- B. set insurance companies' rates; and
- C. administer licensing exams.

State laws regulating banks, insurance companies, and public utilities are especially strict. A **public utility** supplies a necessity such as electricity, gas, telephone service, or transportation. However, states have recently reduced regulations to encourage competition.

Nearly all of the states have laws regulating landlord-tenant relations. Most states also regulate health-care industries. In addition, state laws try to protect consumers from high interest on credit cards, unfair estimates for automobile repairs, unfair home-repair costs, and unreasonable mortgage rates.

Many states regulate the hours that 16- and 17-year-olds work. In most states, minors need permits to work. State governments also provide **workers' compensation**. This program provides payments to people unable to work as a result of a job-related injury or ill health. State governments also set up and regulate **unemployment compensation**—payments to workers who lose their jobs. Some states have passed laws that protect workers from being forced to join unions.

State governments also try to attract new businesses. They may offer a tax credit, or a reduction in taxes, in return for new businesses or more jobs.

1. How do states try to protect non-adult workers?

States and the Environment (page 650)

Economic growth can cause environmental problems. Factories offer jobs, but they also can produce air and water pollution. However, most states tried to fight pollution only after the federal government passed strong environmental laws. Most states now require reports on how a project is likely to affect the environment before they permit major government or private projects.

STUDY GUIDE (continued)**Chapter 23, Section 3**

Many states require industries to get permits if their wastes pollute the air or water. Often the permits cost so much that businesses find installing antipollution devices cheaper. In addition, most states have developed garbage management programs, and they regulate the disposal of radioactive waste.

Recently, state governments have increased their efforts in *conservation*. This is the care and protection of land, lakes, rivers, forests, energy resources, and wildlife. State laws allow the state to plan and regulate land use. For example, states can set aside land for parks.

2. How do many states pressure businesses into installing anti-pollution devices?

☐ Protecting Life and Property (page 651)

States deal with crimes such as murder, rape, assault, burglary, and the sale and use of dangerous drugs. Several states have *mandatory sentencing*. This is fixed, required terms of imprisonment for certain kinds of crime. In most other states, a judge has more choice when imposing sentences. Most states also have *victim compensation* laws, which provide financial aid to victims of crime.

The justice system has been described as “decentralized” because criminal justice is usually a state responsibility. Decentralized justice creates some problems. For example, *extradition* is a legal procedure through which an accused person who has fled to another state is returned to the state where the crime was committed. Sometimes governors have refused to extradite people.

State police are normally limited to highway patrol units. However, in many states, state police have investigative powers. State prisons, county and municipal jails, and other houses of detention make up a state’s correction system. However, judges often choose probation as a sentence. Hundreds of other prisoners are on parole. This means that a prisoner serves the rest of a sentence in the community under the supervision of a parole officer. Three-fourths of all offenders are either on probation or on parole. Many states give judges these other sentencing choices:

Shock probation This is a brief imprisonment followed by a supervised release. Shock probation is supposed to show young offenders how terrible prison life is.

Shock incarceration This involves short sentences in a highly structured environment where offenders take part in work, community service, education, and counseling.

Intensive supervision probation or parole This keeps high-risk offenders in the community under close supervision that involves home visits or even nightly curfew checks.

House arrest This choice requires an offender to stay at home with a few exceptions, such as going to work.

3. What are six sentencing choices that many state judges have?

STUDY GUIDE (continued)**Chapter 23, Section 3****☐ Providing for Education, Health, and Welfare** (page 653)

Education, health, and welfare programs make up the largest part of state spending.

Public school financing varies from state to state. For example, in Hawaii the state contributes about 90 percent of all public school funds while South Dakota contributes less than 30 percent. Local funds in South Dakota account for the largest share of school money. State governments establish local school districts and give these districts the power to administer public schools. The states regulate the taxes the districts levy and the amount of money they borrow. Some state governments also establish detailed course content, approve textbooks, and create statewide exams.

In the area of health, the states:

- A. license doctors and dentists;
- B. regulate the sale of drugs;
- C. require vaccinations for school children;
- D. support mental hospitals, mental health clinics, and institutions for the disabled;
- E. provide care for mothers and their newborns;
- F. treat contagious diseases and chronic illnesses and provide immunizations;
- G. provide mental health care and public dental clinics;
- H. control air and water quality, radiation, and hazardous waste management;
- I. provide laboratory services to local health departments; and
- J. pay for public health services that local authorities deliver.

Public welfare consists of government efforts to give poor people basic health and living conditions. In 1996 the federal government replaced its welfare program with lump-sum payments to the states. The states were given the power to use the money to operate their own welfare programs. State governments also administer Medicaid, set certain conditions for eligibility, and provide almost 45 percent of the total cost. Medicaid is another federal-state welfare program that provides money to states to help people who cannot afford the medical services they need. Most states also have programs that help people who do not fall into the federally mandated categories.

4. How are states involved with public education?

Name _____

Date _____

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STUDY GUIDE Chapter 23, Section 4

For use with textbook pages 656-658.

FINANCING STATE GOVERNMENT

KEY TERMS

excise tax Tax on the manufacture, transportation, sale, or consumption of certain items such as gasoline, cigarettes, or liquor (page 656)

regressive tax A tax in which people with lower incomes pay a larger portion of their income (page 657)

progressive tax A tax based on a taxpayer's ability to pay (page 657)

proportional tax A tax that is assessed at the same rate for everyone (page 657)

bond A contractual promise by a borrower to repay a certain sum plus interest by a certain date (page 657)

intergovernmental revenue Revenue distributed by one level of government to another (page 657)

federal grant A sum of money given to a state for a specific purpose (page 657)

block grant A grant of money to a state or local government for a general purpose (page 658)

mandate A formal order given by a higher authority (page 658)

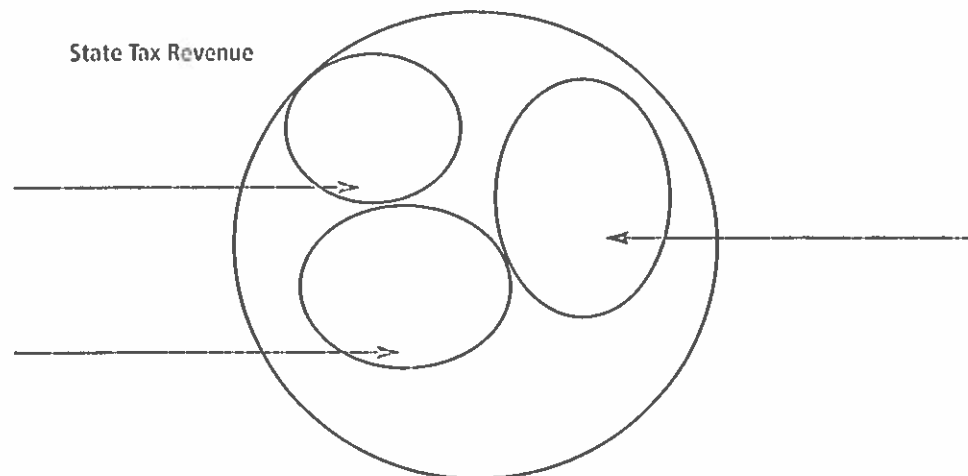
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Did you pay sales tax the last time you made a purchase? The sales tax is an important source of money for most state governments.

This section focuses on how state governments get the money they need.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the graphic organizer below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the different taxes that states use for revenue. Then label the diagram.



STUDY GUIDE (continued)**Chapter 23, Section 4****[READ TO LEARN]****Introduction** (page 656)

State taxes raise nearly half of the general revenue of state governments. States also receive money from the federal government, lotteries, license fees, and borrowing.

Tax Revenue (page 656)

The U.S. Constitution limits a state's power to tax in the following ways:

- A. A state cannot tax goods or products that move in or out of the state or country. Only Congress can tax imports and exports.
- B. A state cannot tax federal property.
- C. A state cannot use taxes to deprive people of the equal protection of the law.
- D. State constitutions may also limit the power of states to tax. For example, some constitutions limit certain taxes such as income tax.

States get much of their revenue from the following types of taxes:

Sales tax The general sales tax is imposed on items such as cars, clothing, household products, and other types of products. Some states do not tax food and drugs. The selective tax, or *excise tax*, is imposed on certain items such as gasoline, liquor, and cigarettes. Critics call the sales tax a *regressive tax* because the percentage of income taxed drops as incomes rise. Thus, the sales tax represents a higher percentage of the poorer person's income.

State income tax Most states have individual and corporate income taxes. When the tax rate rises as a person's income rises, it is called a *progressive tax*. However, some states assess income taxes at the same rate for everyone. This is called a *proportional tax*.

Other taxes States also levy fees or taxes for:

- A. licenses for professions such as doctors, lawyers, realtors, and others;
- B. licenses for bus lines, amusement parks, and other businesses;
- C. motor vehicle registration and drivers' licenses;
- D. the removal of natural resources such as oil, gas, and fish;
- E. certain kinds of property; and
- F. money and property inherited when a person dies.

1. What kinds of fees and taxes do states charge in addition to sales tax and income tax?

STUDY GUIDE (continued)**Chapter 23, Section 4****Other Sources of Revenue** (page 657)

States usually borrow money to pay for large, long-term expenses like highway construction. They borrow by selling bonds. A **bond** is a contractual promise on the part of the state to repay a certain sum plus interest by a certain date.

Almost three-fourths of the states run public lotteries. The states spend about half the lottery earnings on prizes and 6 percent on administration.

Almost 20 percent of all state revenues come from **intergovernmental revenue**. This is money distributed by one level of government to another. It may be in the form of a **federal grant**. Grants supply funds for programs that states may not be able to afford. Grants help carry out programs and goals that the federal government considers important. Finally, grants set minimum standards in states. For example, the federal government provides grants to make sure states provide minimum public welfare programs.

Categorical grants go to states based on a formula. Different amounts go to different states depending on the states' wealth. State governments prefer **block grants**. These are large grants of money to be used for a general purpose, such as public health or crime control. Block grants have fewer guidelines and offer more choice over how the money may be spent than categorical grants.

A **mandate** is a formal order given by a higher authority. Between 1980 and 1990 the federal government increased the number of mandated programs for which states had to raise their own revenue. State and local governments complained about the unfunded or underfunded federal mandates. In 1995 Congress passed the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act (UMRA), which required Congress to estimate the cost of a mandate to the state, local, or tribal government. This helped to reduce state budgetary pressure.

2. What is the difference between categorical grants and block grants?
