

Cabinet Review Sheet (Chapter 8.3)

Major Factors in making Appointments

- *When choosing their department heads, presidents must consider political, social, and management issues. This is done before inauguration day.*
- When considering a person they look at their compatibility with the department, which can bring geographical balance to the cabinet. For example the secretary of interior is usually someone from a western state having experience in land policy.
- The president should satisfy powerful interest groups, which have a stake in the department policies.
- Appointees must have a high level of administrative skills
- Cabinet officers are in charge of huge departments that employ thousands of people a year

Background of Cabinet Members

- Women and minority groups have gained power leading to presidents to consider the race, gender and ethnic background of the candidates
- In 1966 Lyndon Johnson named the *first African American department secretary, Robert Weaver.*

Nominations and Confirmation

- Before the final decision they will sometimes leak the candidate's name in order to see the response of the public
- *Most who accept are college graduates, who have advanced degrees and are leaders in business, industry, law, science and education.*
- *They will earn \$151,800 Per year*

The Role of the Cabinet

- Responsible for executive departments
- Intended to serve as an advisory to the president
- Cabinet only meets when the president says so
- Meetings are typically once a week
- where? in the cabinet room of the White House

- (closed to public and the press)

The Cabinet in History

Cabinets role in decision making usually always depends on how the president wanted to define it

- Jackson, Lincoln, Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt pay little attention to the cabinet
- Andrew Jackson depended on a small group of friends (professors and his wife) instead of the cabinet during the time of the Great Depression
 - Group known as the “kitchen cabinet”
- Some thought Lincoln was weak in his position
 - William Seward reassured them that he’s the one who makes all the decisions- he’s the best
- Before the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln called his cabinet together to end slavery

The Modern Cabinet

- After president Kennedy’s assassination, Lyndon Johnson was anxious to get along with his predecessor’s cabinet
- Johnson’s cabinet had more success compared to Richard Nixon’s
- Ronald Reagan stated he’d make better use of the cabinet by making that department be his “inner circle of advisers”
 - Divided his cabinet into smaller groups
 - Each group in charge of a broad policy

The Influence of Cabinet Members

- Secretaries of state, defense, treasury, and the attorney fill the administration's role
 - Sometimes called “inner cabinet”
- Other secretaries heading less influential interests have less access to the president

Factors Limiting the Cabinet

- Several factors limit the president the use of the cabinet for advice in key decisions or for help in the executive branch.
- Presidents have come to rely on assistants in the Executive Office of President

(A presidential advisory agency established by congress.

Conflicting Loyalties

- No president has complete control over who can become a member of the cabinet.
- There are three other constituencies that require loyalty: career officials in their own department, members of congress, and special interest groups.
 - Can push secretary in directions not always according to the president's plans and policies.
- Disagreement among secretaries can be from loyalty to their department's program of constituent group.

Secrecy and Trust

- Factor that reduces usefulness of the cabinet is the difficulty of maintaining secrecy when 14 cabinet secretaries are involved in a discussion of sensitive topics.
- Presidents prefer to discuss tough problems with the people they know and trust.
 - Due to all the factors that must be considered when choosing department heads, presidents appoint strangers to their cabinet.
- Presidents for this reason turn to the Executive Office of the President and to their own personal White House staff for help.

The Cabinet Test (Chapter 8.3)

1. What will members of the cabinet earn per year?
 - a. \$151,800
 - b. \$200,000
 - c. \$100,000
 - d. \$600,000

2. Who will most likely accept the cabinet position?
 - a. Adults who have stable jobs
 - b. College graduates
 - c. College students
 - d. Retired people

3. Who was the first African American department secretary?
 - a. Robert Weaver
 - b. James Smith
 - c. Theodore Roosevelt
 - d. Barack Obama

4. When choosing their department heads presidents must consider what?
 - a. Political Issues
 - b. Management Skills
 - c. Social Issues
 - d. All of the Above

5. What are members of the cabinet intended to do?
 - A. Serve as an advisory to the president
 - B. Serve to end slavery
 - C. Make all the decisions
 - D. Support immigration

6. Who formed the group that became known as the “kitchen cabinet”?
 - A. Theodore Roosevelt
 - B. Abraham Lincoln

- C. Andrew Jackson
 - D. Franklin Roosevelt
7. What did Ronald Reagan do in order to make better use of the cabinet?
- A. Kicked people out
 - B. Divided the cabinet
 - C. Added more people to the cabinet
 - D. Kicked everyone out except his friends
8. Who has the president come down to rely on?
- A. Secretaries
 - B. George Schulz
 - C. Assistants in the Executive Office of the President
 - D. Inner Cabinet
9. 9. Does the president have complete loyalty of the cabinet members?
- A. True
 - B. False
10. Who does the President consider when choosing department heads?
- A. Relative Strangers
 - B. White House staff
 - C. Executive Office
 - D. Congress

Answer Key

1. A
2. B
3. A
4. D
5. A
6. C
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. A