

一、菁英模型認為公共政策所表現的是菁英的偏好與價值，政策的改變往往是為了維持社會現狀與統治階層的既得利益。然而，公民角色的強化是當代民主治理的重要趨勢，請問，應透過何種機制或制度設計，以強化菁英(或專家)的課責(accountability)機制，才能符合民主政治的價值，請分析說明。(25%)

二、議程設定(agenda-setting)是公共政策研究中，理解公共問題如何轉化成政策問題之過程的重要面向，請以去年(2009)八月莫拉克風災為例，闡釋哪些重要的因素、條件以及行為者(actors)型塑這項議題的發展過程。(25%)

三、In Taiwan, unlike most other countries, the term "welfare" refers only to programs designed to aid the poor by giving them cash benefits. In recent years, a major debate ensued over the best way to deliver aid to the poor. In this question, you are working in the Ma regime early in 2009, and you are asked to prepare a memo to Dr. Lin, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy.

As of 2009, each local government is allowed to determine how much money it wants to spend on cash aid to the poor. Then for each dollar the local government spent, the central government matches it at a rate that varies depending on how rich or poor the local government is. Thus for every dollar a poor local government like Tai-tung spends, the central government will match it with four additional central dollars. For every dollar a richer local government like Hsin-chu spends, the central government will match it with an additional one dollar. The central match money must be spent on the poor as well. In addition, the central government set strict rules about how and where the money could be spent.

Critics contended that the system of central control with matched local spending lead to a rigid system that seemed more oriented toward meeting the central rules than serving the needs of the poor. As a result, a group of local government governors have proposed the following plan.

Instead of matching grants, each local government would be given a flat "block grant" equal to the average amount of matching funds they received over the past 3 years from the central government. Under the new plan, they would still be required to spend the central money on poor families, but the amount they receive would not depend on the amount of money they spent themselves. And, the rules about exactly how the money could be spent would be relaxed dramatically.

As an ex-mayor, President Ma is attracted to the plan. But he needs a more thorough analysis. Dr. Lin wants a memo where you consider the following questions from a public policy perspective.

1. Under the proposed plan would you expect overall spending on the poor (combined local governments and central) to increase, decrease, or remain the same? Can you decide if the new plan will be better or worse as a way to help the poor? Explain your reasoning. (25%)
2. A few advocates have suggested that the proposed system is dangerous because it changes what happens during a recession. During a recession, the cost of aid to the poor grows because more people qualify for benefits. Compare the impact of the proposed block grant plan during a recession to what happens under the current matching grant system. (25%)

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