Chapter 7

**Knowledge based**

1. What are the differences between an assembly, a legislature, a parliament, and a congress?
2. What are the core tasks of a legislature in a democratic society?
3. What are separation-of-power systems and fused-power systems?
4. How are the oversight and control functions of legislatures different in fused-powers and separation-of-powers systems?
5. What are the five possible tools that legislatures may have at their disposal to influence the policy-making process? Which are ‘negative’ and which are ‘positive’?
6. What is the difference between a symmetric and an asymmetric bicameral legislature? Why is it important?

**Critical thinking**

1. Why are legislatures generally better able to represent the interests of citizens than the executive branch?
2. Why are the structure and role of the committee system a good indicator of the policy-making influence of the legislature?
3. Why are political parties influential in determining the autonomy of a legislature?
4. What are the broader implications of having a strong legislature that is able to independently influence policy outcomes?