Chapter 14

**Knowledge based**

1. What is an interest group?
2. Why are interest groups so difficult to define in a comparative context?
3. On which assumptions are republican and pluralist paradigms of interest politics based?
4. To what extent do US and EU lobbying activities differ from each other, and why?
5. What repertoires of interest group action are available to trade unions?

**Critical thinking**

1. Does it make sense to distinguish ‘public’ and ‘private’ interest groups?
2. What advantages do neocorporatist systems of interest intermediation offer governments?
3. Why do business interest groups retain a privileged position in capitalist democracies?
4. Are we witnessing a convergence of interest politics across the globe?
5. ‘The more national interest politics regimes are shaped by supranational developments, the more the “methodological nationalism” of classical country-by-country comparisons is producing biased results.’ Discuss.