

Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

TEST A

1. Even though we have always valued diversity here, we have ultimately agreed that our political systems have the goal to protect our freedoms, to promote the general welfare and to keep us safe. At our core, popular sovereignty defines our representative democracy. How is this best exalted in our constitution?
 - a. The first three words, “We the people”
 - b. The fact that our courts practice “judicial review”
 - c. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal”
 - d. Frequent and bold amendments changing the basis of our Creed

2. For most of human history political systems have been built on
 - a. Democratically held elections
 - b. Divine right
 - c. Popular sovereignty
 - d. Coercive force

3. Political culture, as it has been commonly applied, is defined as “the system of empirical beliefs, expressive symbols, and values which defines the situation in which political action takes place.” Political culture, the core American beliefs, values and norms, provide the invisible glue that holds our system of government together. In other words, America’s greatness is found in
 - a. Our “manners and customs”
 - b. Our “three branches of government”
 - c. Our “commitment to federalism”
 - d. Our “laws and statutes” that govern our choices

4. Political socialization can best be defined as
 - a. Learning how to vote
 - b. Learning to think politically
 - c. Learning how to become an ex-pat
 - d. Learning to be popular in order to get elected

5. Certain demographic characteristics have a profound influence on our political attitudes. All of the following would be examples of demographic characteristics studied by political scientist EXCEPT
 - a. Family
 - b. Gender
 - c. Age
 - d. Religion

6. Political scientists have traditionally used a political spectrum to simplify and provide clarity to the consequences of our civic opinions. If you are on the left, you are _____; and if you are on the right, you are _____.
- conservative; liberal
 - liberal; conservative
 - voters; non-voters
 - elected officials; unelected citizens
7. The Democratic Party represents his ideology in our government. They tend to look forward. Rather than relying upon old ideas, they favor policy experimentation.
- Liberals
 - Conservatives
 - Libertarians
 - Communitarians
8. The Republican Party represents this ideology in our government. They tend to look back. They are fond of the glory days of the past. This ideology tends to hold traditional moral values.
- Liberals
 - Conservatives
 - Libertarians
 - Communitarians
9. When Tom votes, he looks for ideological candidate that speaks loudly about the trustworthiness of market forces. He is skeptical of government solutions. What ideology is Tom?
- Liberal
 - Conservative
 - Libertarian
 - Communitarian
10. This factor more than anything else influences our politics
- Family
 - Gender
 - Age
 - Religion
11. Political science studies the influence of certain demographics on our partisan behavior. Men tend to be _____.
- Liberal
 - Conservative
 - Libertarian
 - Communitarian

12. Political science studies the influence of certain demographics on our partisan behavior. With increasing age, you tend to be _____.
- Liberal
 - Conservative
 - Libertarian
 - Communitarian
13. Political science studies the influence of certain demographics on our partisan behavior. If you are faithfully practicing a religious belief, you tend to be _____.
- Liberal
 - Conservative
 - Libertarian
 - Communitarian
14. Political science studies the influence of certain demographics on our partisan behavior. Ninety percent of all African-Americans vote
- Liberal
 - Conservative
 - Libertarian
 - Communitarian
15. Political science studies the influence of certain demographics on our partisan behavior. The more educated you are the more likely you are to be
- Liberal
 - Conservative
 - Libertarian
 - Communitarian
16. Democrats do better in _____ environments while Republicans win more in _____ areas.
- warm; cold
 - cold; warm
 - urban; rural
 - rural; urban
17. Globalization has transformed our world in ways we are still trying to figure out. Forces have been unleashed that carry far reaching consequences. Positively the world has grown smaller. Due to globalization,
- Democratic ideals along with classical liberalism have spread worldwide
 - Authoritarian ideals along with tyrannical police activity have spread worldwide
 - The Republican Party has become the model for electoral success
 - The world is inching closer and closer to war, destruction and political division

18. The vitality of any democratic system is measured by its political efficacy. Political efficacy can be defined as one's feeling that his/her voice matters. A likely result of high levels of political efficacy would be
- a. High incumbency rates
 - b. Large numbers of candidates
 - c. High levels of political participation
 - d. Courts that increase their use of judicial review
19. In a representative democracy it is essential to know what the people are thinking. In a political system where sovereignty resides in the people, elected officials must determine public opinion before enacting public policy. Public opinion is measured through scientific polling. Yet not all polls are accurate. An acceptable poll would contain all of the following EXCEPT
- a. Random samples
 - b. Sufficient sample size
 - c. Margin of error +/- 4
 - d. Endorsement by both political parties
20. Tom was called to be a part of a poll. He was thrilled. Rather than simply being asked a question, Tom learned by the pollster that the person he was leaning toward may have a cloudy past. Tom now is not sure who he supports. What kind of "poll" did Tom participate in?
- a. Political poll
 - b. Push poll
 - c. Exit poll
 - d. Straw poll
21. Use the following data set to answer the question that follows:
Network Evening News Ratings
- | | |
|------|------|
| 1980 | 42.4 |
| 1985 | 37.5 |
| 1990 | 30.4 |
| 1995 | 26.4 |
| 2000 | 23.5 |
| 2005 | 18.9 |
- What conclusion can be drawn from the data set above?
- a. Network evening news ratings have remained the same over time
 - b. Network evening news ratings have dramatically dropped over time
 - c. Network evening news ratings have fluctuated over time
 - d. Network evening news ratings have suffered due to cable news

22. We count on an objective media to inform us about politics. When the media reports on the political process like a horse-race it
- a. Covers poll results rather than in depth issues
 - b. Covers in depth issues without providing context
 - c. Picks who we should vote for rather than informing us about all candidates
 - d. Only reports on scandals and cheating rings

23. Use the following data set to answer the question that follows:
Network Evening News Ratings

1980	42.4
1985	37.5
1990	30.4
1995	26.4
2000	23.5
2005	18.9

What is the most likely explanation for the trend in this data?

- a. Network news is no longer reliable
 - b. Network news is too expensive
 - c. Network news faces more and more competition
 - d. Network news cannot be streamed
24. Which of the following polls would be the least helpful?
- a. A Pew Research poll
 - b. A Gallup poll
 - c. An *ABC-New York Times* poll
 - d. An open access Internet poll

25. The American political culture typically values egalitarianism. This means we value
- a. Democracy
 - b. Equality
 - c. Republicanism
 - d. Liberty

26. Culturally we have much in common. It is our ideologies that separate us. Which of the following best exemplifies this ideological divide?
- a. Tom has worked hard to earn a promotion
 - b. Tom votes for Democrats
 - c. Tom believes in the American Dream
 - d. Tom opposes racism

27. Tom votes for candidates who advocate for greater fairness, equality and moral justice. He views society to be more like a caring family. What political party does Tom vote for?

- a. Democrat
- b. Republican
- c. Libertarian
- d. Socialist

28. Tom votes for candidates who hope to maintain traditions. Tom does not like change, he prefers the status quo to governmental experimentation. Government only makes things worse. What political party does Tom vote for?

- a. Democrat
- b. Republican
- c. Libertarian
- d. Socialist

29. Different ideologies, for example conservatism and liberalism, proliferate in American life because of

- a. An authoritarian government that limits our common-sense solutions
- b. Declining efficacy along with a rigid class system
- c. Our fundamental commitment to limiting the number of legal factions
- d. Our fundamental commitment to basic freedoms of expression

30. The difference between political culture and political ideology is best explained by saying

- a. The prior is the “how” and the latter is the “why”
- b. The prior is the “how” and the latter is the “what”
- c. The prior is the “what” and the latter is the “why”
- d. The prior is the “what” and the latter is the “how”

31. Political scientist Seymour Lipset wrote, “*The nation’s ideology can be described in five words: liberty, egalitarianism, individualism, populism and laissez-faire. The revolutionary ideology which became the American Creed is liberalism in its eighteenth and nineteenth century meanings, as distinct from conservative Toryism, statist communitarianism, mercantilism and noblesse oblige dominant in monarchical, state-church-formed cultures.*”

According to Lipset, the American Creed holds to all of the following EXCEPT

- a. Government supported safety-net
- b. Equality
- c. Freedom to choose without government interference
- d. Economic decisions made by the marketplace

32. Political scientist Seymour Lipset wrote, “*The nation’s ideology can be described in five words: liberty, egalitarianism, individualism, populism and laissez-faire. The revolutionary ideology which became the American Creed is liberalism in its eighteenth and nineteenth century meanings, as distinct from conservative Toryism, statist communitarianism, mercantilism and noblesse oblige dominant in monarchical, state-church-formed cultures.*”

If still true, how does this American Creed impact public policy-making?

- a. Limits policy-makers
- b. Fixes power in the hands of elites
- c. Allows for great experimentation by elites
- d. Tends toward extremist positions, like Socialism

33. How has our tendency toward populism affected critical issues like immigration?

- a. Inclination toward nativism
- b. Broad public approval of open borders
- c. Placed all power in the hands of elites
- d. Made immigration less of a priority

34. How do our cultural imperatives affect the government’s “war on terror”?

- a. Laws prevent the government from keeping us safe from terrorism
- b. Public policy advances without any impediments due to our fear of terror
- c. Exposes the tension between individual liberty and the demand for security
- d. Majorities typically doubt any attempt by our government to keep us secure

35. A political culture once rooted in individualism, has evolved with progressive shadows. What has this meant regarding the relationship between the individual and government?

- a. Government serves as a referee
- b. Government has taken on greater responsibility to cure societal ills
- c. Individuals and governments are always at odds with each other
- d. Government continues to serve only the top 1%

36. Our commitment to self-reliance still prevails. Which of the following policies best reflects our cultural commitment to be free from governmental dependence?

- a. Crop Risk Options Plan Act
- b. Dream Act
- c. Preventing Abuse of Cough Treatments Act
- d. Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996

37. Which of these issues tend to receive the greatest attention of public policy makers?

- a. Issues relating to crime
- b. Economic issues
- c. Immigration issues
- d. Agricultural issues

38. Which political party is most active when supporting government regulation of the market?
- a. Democrat
 - b. Republican
 - c. Libertarian
 - d. Reform Party
39. Which political party is most likely to favor economic experimentation?
- a. Democrat
 - b. Republican
 - c. Libertarian
 - d. Reform Party
40. Which political party is most likely to oppose government bailouts? This party favors little or no regulation of the marketplace.
- a. Democrat
 - b. Republican
 - c. Libertarian
 - d. Reform Party
41. Which political party is most likely to favor supply-side economics, usually calling for lower marginal tax rates?
- a. Democrat
 - b. Republican
 - c. Libertarian
 - d. Reform Party
42. Public policy has economic consequences. American political beliefs not only affect who governs us but what we have in our pocketbooks as well. Whereas laissez-faire ideals are talked in theory, this political party demands such policies.
- a. Democrat
 - b. Republican
 - c. Libertarian
 - d. Reform Party
43. Big government, ever reaching into our pocket books to cure societal ills has grown due to all of these issues EXCEPT
- a. Economic crises
 - b. Wars
 - c. Acts of terror
 - d. Constitutional imperatives
44. Which political party is most likely to favor raising the minimum wage?
- a. Democrat
 - b. Republican
 - c. Libertarian
 - d. Reform Party

45. Which political party has actively worked in Congress to cutting inheritance taxes?
- a. Democrat
 - b. Republican
 - c. Libertarian
 - d. Reform Party
46. The Federal Reserve was created to oversee
- a. Monetary policy and interest rates
 - b. Fiscal policy
 - c. Tax policies
 - d. Gold supply and intra-governmental trade
47. Keynesian economic policies, made popular during the Great Depression, are characterized by
- a. Government debt
 - b. Balanced budgets
 - c. Localized markets
 - d. High tariffs
48. Which political party is outspoken in their support for Keynesian economic polices?
- a. Democrat
 - b. Republican
 - c. Libertarian
 - d. Reform Party
49. "Frugal in nature, heuristics provide "all the information that is required" by way of a short cut. Heuristic devices allow relatively uninformed individuals to act both rationally and confidently. They are political cues that inform our political beliefs. Heuristics help us participate in the political process without having to exert too much effort. Heuristics come in a variety of forms." Which of the following would be an example of a political heuristic?
- a. College degree in political science
 - b. Watching a documentary of presidential power
 - c. Political party position papers
 - d. Political party labels
50. Which political ideology advocates against abortion, drug use and promiscuity?
- a. Liberal
 - b. Conservative
 - c. Libertarian
 - d. Communitarian
51. Which political ideology welcomes the elimination of private property along with the elimination of elite privileges?
- a. Liberal
 - b. Conservative
 - c. Libertarian
 - d. Communitarian

52. Which political ideology advocates for a minimalist state? Everyday citizens are empowered to make the primary decisions in life for themselves.
- Liberal
 - Conservative
 - Libertarian
 - Communitarian
53. Which political ideology opposes government intervention when it comes to private choices?
- Liberal
 - Conservative
 - Libertarian
 - Communitarian
54. Which political party advocates for a women's right to choose an abortion and to approve of same sex marriage?
- Democrat
 - Republican
 - Libertarian
 - Reform
55. In the case *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992) the U.S. Supreme Court upheld certain state policies that legislated certain abortion restrictions unless they imposed "an undue burden" on women? President Allen approved of this decision because he is a
- Democrat
 - Republican
 - Libertarian
 - Communitarian
56. School choice and voucher programs have been upheld in court cases like *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris* (2002). Speaker Allen pushed legislation to support these precedents because he is a
- Democrat
 - Republican
 - Libertarian
 - Communitarian
57. In the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) a plurality of justices ruled in favor of the constitutionality of differing state recognitions concerning marriage. In particular, the court recognized the legitimacy of same-sex marriage. This came as little surprise since Chief Justice Allen is a
- Democrat
 - Republican
 - Libertarian
 - Communitarian

58. Use the following passage to answer the question that follows:

Education is much more than schooling. It is the whole range of activities by which families and communities transmit to a younger generation, not just knowledge and skills, but ethical and behavioral norms and traditions. It is the handing over of a cultural identity. That is why American education has, for the last several decades, been the focus of constant controversy, as centralizing forces from outside the family and community have sought to remake education in order to remake America. They have done immense damage. The federal government should not be a partner in that effort, as the Constitution gives it no role in education. At the heart of the American Experiment lies the greatest political expression of human dignity: The self-evident truth that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” That truth rejects the dark view of the individual as human capital — a possession for the creation of another’s wealth?

Whose political party platform would you most likely find this passage?

- a. Democrat
- b. Republican
- c. Libertarian
- d. Both Democrat and Republican

59. Much of our political culture we share in common, while particulars on issues we differ greatly. What does this mean for the public policy process?

- a. Like making sausage, it certainly is not pretty
- b. Like most things, it will get done sooner or later
- c. We often look past our partisan differences to serve the poor
- d. “We the people” are incorrigible and cannot work with each other on any issue of note

60. Use the following passage to answer the question that follows:

We will ensure those at the top contribute to our country’s future by establishing a multimillionaire surtax to ensure millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share. In addition, we will shut down the “private tax system” for those at the top, immediately close egregious loopholes like those enjoyed by hedge fund managers, restore fair taxation on multi-million-dollar estates, and ensure millionaires can no longer pay a lower rate than their secretaries. At a time of near-record corporate profits, slow wage growth, and rising costs, we need to offer tax relief to middle-class families—not those at the top.

Whose political party platform would you most likely find this passage?

- a. Democrat
- b. Republican
- c. Libertarian
- d. Both Democrat and Republican