

Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs
TEST B

1. The American political culture roots its governing political systems in

- a. The consent of the people
- b. Coercion
- c. Rule by elites
- d. Compulsion

2. Public trust in the government is an important indicator of a healthy democracy. What conclusion can be drawn from the longitudinal data below?

Public Trust in the Federal Government: 1958-2014

1958: 73%
1964: 77%
1968: 61%
1976: 35%
1980: 32%
1987: 48%
1998: 31%
2006: 30%
2010: 23%

- a. Public trust is an accurate indicator of government success
- b. Republicans are trusted more than Democrats
- c. Trust increases during war conditions
- d. Trust in government has steadily declined over time

3. It is argued that institutions alone, like our three branches, are insufficient to maintain a healthy political system. In addition to our institutions what else is necessary to preserve a strong democracy?

- a. A democratic political culture
- b. An army of volunteer servicemen
- c. A diverse demographic of people
- d. Wealthy landowners who create jobs

4. Political scientist William C. Mitchell has created a list of American beliefs, values and norms. On his list you would find: *“To be legitimate, political authority and power must be rational and legal.”* Which of the following would be a real life example of this American belief, value and norm?

- a. Reliance on a written constitution
- b. The War of Drugs
- c. The Senate minority leadership has decided to block and inhibit the president’s agenda
- d. The Supreme Court used judicial review to check the president’s unilateral immigration policy

5. Which of the following is not part of our commonly held political culture?

- a. Liberty
- b. Equality of results
- c. Self reliance
- d. Limited government

6. In addition to demographic influences, our political ideology is most impacted by

- a. Family
- b. Education
- c. Social media
- d. Age

7. Political socialization involves the process of

- a. Learning how to think politically
- b. Running for public office
- c. Leaving one political party for another
- d. Becoming a public servant

8. Tom has just retired to Florida after a successful career as a dentist in the western suburbs of Chicago. Using the demographic clues provided where would Tom most likely be found on the political spectrum?

- a. Liberal Democrat
- b. Moderate Democrat
- c. Moderate Republican
- d. Conservative Republican

9. Tom was the first African American to join the prodigious Chicago law firm of Kirkland and Ellis. Using the demographic clues provided where would Tom most likely be found on the political spectrum?

- a. Liberal Democrat
- b. Moderate Democrat
- c. Moderate Republican
- d. Conservative Republican

10. Mary is an evangelical Protestant stay-at-home mom from rural Georgia who never went to college. Using the demographic clues provided where would Mary most likely be found on the political spectrum?

- a. Liberal Democrat
- b. Moderate Democrat
- c. Moderate Republican
- d. Conservative Republican

11. When John Doe assesses government, both nationally and locally, he affirms its representative and responsive nature. He possesses high efficacy. Which of the following would be the most likely outcome?

- a. John Doe is a Democrat
- b. John Doe votes
- c. John Doe has a job
- d. John Doe is an elected official

12. What is the most important benefit of public opinion polls?

- a. Determining what people are thinking about at any given moment
- b. Discovering rigidly held political beliefs
- c. Find discrepancies between fact and fiction
- d. Testing political algorithms

CNN/ORC Poll. May 29-31, 2015. N=1,025 adults nationwide. Margin of error +/- 3.

“We’d like to get your overall opinion of some people in the news. As I read each name, please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of these people – or if you have never heard of them. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts.”

Favorable	Unfavorable	No Opinion	Never Heard of
33%	24%	16%	27%

Source: pollingreport.com

13. Using the cautionary steps when assessing public opinion polls, what statement below most accurately describes the validity of the poll above?

- a. The size of the sample is too small and appears not to be random
- b. The question is confusing to read
- c. CNN is a biased news source and therefore invalid
- d. The poll appears valid

14. Testing the validity of public opinion polls depends upon following critical cautionary steps. All of the following are critical cautionary steps when assessing the validity of public opinion polls EXCEPT

- a. Were questions asked on the telephone?
- b. Size of random sample
- c. Margin of error
- d. Wording of questions

15. Stan works for a congressional candidate. In an attempt to persuade prospective voters he contracts with a polling service to ask leading questions that disparage the reputation of the opposition candidate. In political science what is this practice called?

- a. Values inventory
- b. Push poll
- c. Public opinion poll
- d. Random sample

16. Elected officials often use public opinion polls for the following reasons EXCEPT

- a. Short cut to hear from their constituents
- b. Helps politicians to properly represent the citizenry
- c. Helps to build political efficacy
- d. Best means to manipulate public opinion

17. Use the following data set to answer the question that follows:

Network Evening News Ratings

1980	42.3
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

18. Use the following passage from a notable political scientist to answer this question:

“[Democratic] government...cannot be worked successfully...unless there is an independent, expert organization for making the unseen facts intelligible to those who have to make the decisions.” Or in other words, a free and independent press is essential. If an elite media is no longer an option then perhaps the responsibility is ours. Each and every citizen must collaborate together, as best as they can, to create pictures and images that simplify the great issues facing our society.”

Why do you suppose the elite media is less of an option today to inform us?

- a. There is no longer an elite media
- b. Explosion of media outlets have diluted elite messaging
- c. Elites have become too expensive to listen to
- d. Elite media has radicalized

19. Political science argues that the greatest check on government action at each level is

- a. Supreme Court opinions
- b. Elite opinion
- c. Public opinion
- d. International government opinion

20. When the media reports like a horse race it means

- a. Emphasis is placed on popularity rather than issues
- b. Emphasis is placed on sports
- c. Emphasis is placed on big money donors
- d. Emphasis is placed on southern voters

21. Which of the following is commonly shared in our unique American political culture?

- a. Autonomy – free to make independent decisions
- b. Equality of results – i.e. income equality
- c. Libertarianism – free from coercive government interference
- d. Government assistance – the best way to advance is through government helps

22. In our *Declaration of Independence* (1776) Thomas Jefferson wrote: “We hold these truths to be self evident, 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.”

Today these words

- a. Reflect the bedrock of our unique American political culture
- b. Reflect the primary platform of the Democratic Party
- c. Reflect the primary platform of the Republican Party
- d. Reflect the source of our deeply divided political ideologies

23. Tom prefers a government willing to play the role of the “nanny.” Broad safety nets, put in place by the government, should protect American citizens from personal tragedies. Tom’s ideological home is with

- a. Conservatives and Republicans
- b. Liberals and Democrats
- c. Libertarians and Independent parties
- d. Communitarians

24. Tom is reluctant to give over his health care decisions to government programs. Government, although necessary, often causes more problems than providing solutions. Tom’s ideological home is with

- a. Conservatives and Republicans
- b. Liberals and Democrats
- c. Libertarians and Independent parties
- d. Communitarians

25. 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

26. What role do elites play in the policy making process?

- a. Disproportionate role
- b. Irrelevant role
- c. Disconnected role
- d. Inappropriate role

27. Cultural imperatives impact our public policy debates. All of the following wedge issues pose challenges to traditional American values EXCEPT

- a. Cutting taxes
- b. Immigration policies
- c. Government surveillance policies
- d. War on Terror

28. Throughout our history governments have served as both defenders and agents of the American Creed. Which of the following policies best exemplifies the American value *progressive populism*?

- a. Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity (1996)
- b. Break up of corporate monopolies
- c. Legalization of medicinal marijuana
- d. Civil Rights Act of 1964

29. A fundamental question we as a democratic-republic have had to answer since our inception is

- a. Should we have a king?
- b. How many states should we have?
- c. Should our Supreme Court be the least dangerous branch?
- d. How strong should our central government be?

30. Our Founding Fathers built a nation based upon principled law not men. Which of the following headlines would be a contemporary example of this?

- a. "Wall Street mogul found guilty of insider trading"
- b. "President's rally draws thousands"
- c. "Hollywood starlet considering a run for the Senate"
- d. "Lotto winner pledges to help homeless shelter"

31. Which of the following groups actively support government regulation of the market?

- a. Conservatives
- b. Liberals
- c. Libertarians
- d. This issue transcends partisanship. Most Americans favor these public policies.

32. President Calvin Coolidge said,

“After all, the chief business of the American people is business. They are profoundly concerned with producing, buying, selling, investing and prospering in the world. I am strongly of the public opinion that the great majority of people will always find these the moving impulses of our life.”

From this quote and what you already know, what is the relationship between our government and the economy?

- a. Government has a role in promoting economic stability
- b. Governments and economies don't mix
- c. Governments should plan economic outputs
- d. Governments should pick entrepreneurial winners and losers

33. Libertarians would favor all of the following economic issues EXCEPT

- a. Laissez-faire attitudes
- b. Trust in markets
- c. Raising the military budget
- d. Little to no government regulation

34. Republicans would favor all of the following economic issues EXCEPT

- a. Lowering marginal tax rates
- b. Government as an economic referee
- c. Reducing government spending
- d. Legalizing marijuana

35. Democrats typically promote Keynesian economic theories. Keynesian economic theories are characterized by

- a. Balanced budgets
- b. Low taxes
- c. Deregulation of the means of production
- d. Government debt

36. Pocket-book issues move and mobilize voters perhaps greater than any other issue. What does this mean?

- a. We vote by impulse
- b. We vote based upon our income
- c. We vote based upon our zip code
- d. People vote using notes

37. Monetary policy in the United States is the primary responsibility of

- a. The Federal Reserve
- b. Congress
- c. The Supreme Court
- d. The Department of Commerce

38. Who would most favor the following headline – “*The State of Illinois raises minimum wage*”?

- a. Democrats
- b. Republicans
- c. Libertarians
- d. Both Democrats and Republicans

39. Republicans would most likely favor this economic policy

- a. Policies protecting against harmful industrial emissions
- b. Policies reducing corporate income taxes
- c. Policies giving benefits to bank customers
- d. Policies that limit access to voting

40. Which of the following economic policies would receive bipartisan support?

- a. Inheritance taxes
- b. Minimum wage
- c. Market stability and certainty
- d. Budget deficits

Use the exit polling data below from the 2012 presidential election to answer questions 41-42:

Total Family income	Total	Vote for Obama (D)	Vote for Romney (R)
Under \$30,00	20%	63%	35%
\$30,000-\$49,00	21%	57%	42%
\$50,000-\$99,00	31%	46%	52%
\$100,000-\$199,00	21%	44%	54%
\$200,000-\$249,00	3%	47%	52%
\$250,000 or more	4%	42%	55%

Source: Fox News

41. According to the data, the highest percentage of voters in 2012 earned

- a. Under \$30,00
- b. \$30,000-\$49,00
- c. \$50,000-\$99,00
- d. \$100,000-\$199,00

42. According to the data, what can be said of the typical Republican voter?

- a. Republicans live in the Deep South
- b. Republicans count on the lower classes to win elections
- c. Republicans count on educated minority voters
- d. Republican voters live in the middle class

43. Our demographic inheritance plays an important part in our political socialization. In addition to our demographic inheritance, which of the following factors likely provides an important cleavage when determining our political destiny?

- a. Gender
- b. Religious heritage
- c. Economic status
- d. Life experiences

44. This ideology tends to be forward looking. They favor policy experimentation. They are often characterized as “the tax and spend” party. Although they oppose government intervention when it comes to private choices, this ideology advocates for the government to address societal injustices.

- a. Conservatives
- b. Liberals
- c. Communitarians
- d. Libertarians

45. This ideology looks fondly on traditions. They approve of government intervening to uphold traditional values. They do not, however, welcome government interference in private business affairs.

- a. Conservatives
- b. Liberals
- c. Communitarians
- d. Libertarians

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

Policy trends concerning the level of government involvement in social issues reflect the success of conservative and liberal perspectives. Both the Republicans and Democrats, respectively, have built broad coalitions that attract large groups of both advocates and voters. As an effective heuristic, Republicans attract conservatives while Democrats attract liberals.

Using context clues, which of the following best defines the word heuristic?

- a. Short cut
- b. Road block
- c. Obstruction
- d. Unwelcoming

47. Republicans would most likely favor this social policy

- a. Pro-life
- b. Pro-choice
- c. Legalization of marijuana
- d. Prison reform

48. Democrats would most likely favor this social policy

- a. Lowering taxes
- b. Environmental protections
- c. Strong military
- d. Law and order

49. In the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) a plurality of justices ruled in favor of

- a. The legitimacy of medicinal marijuana
- b. The legitimacy of same-sex marriage
- c. The legitimacy of abortion rights
- d. The legitimacy of charter schools

50. 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