

4.10 Ideology and Social Policy

Explain how political ideologies vary on the role of government in addressing social issues.

1. 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

2. To cope with the abundant stimuli of our political economy, most of us use heuristics to navigate our way. Heuristics are like short cuts. Heuristic devices allow relatively uninformed individuals to act both rationally and confidently. All of the following could be considered examples of political heuristics EXCEPT

- a. Subscriptions to numerous dailies
- b. Party labels
- c. Trusted business leaders
- d. Elected officials

3. "Republican" is the label given to

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

4. "Democrat" is the label given to

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

5. The primary objective of this ideology is individual freedom. The best way to maximize freedom, according to this group, is to minimize government intervention.

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

6. The soul of this ideology is social connection over individual liberty. This viewpoint is willing to give dominion to government over all while individuals subordinate their self-interest to the public good. In the past they were called Chartists.

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

7. 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

8. 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

9. The vast majority of our citizens have adopted the labels

- a. Conservative and/or liberal
- b. Conservative and/or libertarian
- c. Libertarian and/or communitarian
- d. Liberal and/or Libertarian

Use the exit polling data below from the 2012 presidential election to answer questions 10-11:

2011 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

10. 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

11. 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
- e. Republicans overwhelmingly are the party of the rich and famous

12. 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

13. Republicans would most likely favor this social policy

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

14. *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992), favored by Republicans, allowed for

- a. The prosecution of those growing medicinal marijuana
- b. State legislated restrictions on labor unions
- c. State legislated restrictions on some abortion practices
- d. The prosecution of doctors performing abortions

15. *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992) was a conservative response to

- a. *Barren v. Baltimore* (1833)
- b. *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)
- c. *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963)
- d. *Roe v. Wade* (1973)

16. Conservatives would most likely favor this social policy

- a. School vouchers/school choice
- b. Pro-choice
- c. Strong public employee unions
- d. Higher funding for education

17. Democrats would most likely favor this social policy

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

18. 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

19. Liberals would most likely favor this social policy

- a. Lowering taxes
- b. LGBT rights
- c. War on Drugs
- d. Open carry gun laws

20. 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

21. 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 multimillion-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