

CHAPTER 4: American Political Culture

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. de Tocqueville's notable visit to the United States was prompted by the desire to study
 - a. farming.
 - b. prisons.
 - c. the legislative process.
 - d. campaigns and elections.
 - e. Both C and D.

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2. A political culture exists where
 - a. there is a distinctive and patterned way of thinking about political and economic life.
 - b. the demographics of a nation suggest the presence of a fairly homogeneous group.
 - c. a constitution creates an orderly society.
 - d. there is a large amount of agreement among the public.
 - e. there is elite guidance in matters related to politics.

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3. In a classic study of the political beliefs and attitude of children, American children were more likely to argue that a president who was pulled over for speeding would be
 - a. warned.
 - b. reprimanded.
 - c. let off completely.
 - d. fined or ticketed.
 - e. impeached.

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4. The text says that one notable distinction between two democracies, the United States and Japan, is in regard to
 - a. commerce.
 - b. legislative processes.
 - c. executive privilege.
 - d. political commentary.
 - e. immigration policy.

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5. All of the following are basic elements of the U.S. political culture *except*
 - a. liberty.
 - b. democracy.
 - c. individualism.
 - d. civic duty.
 - e. economic equality.

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6. The text lists three critical questions to ask about political culture. One of these is:
 - a. To what extent are political culture and political ideology synonymous?
 - b. What is the self-interest of those who describe the alleged beliefs?

- c. Why does political culture develop in some places and not in others?
- d. Why do political cultures tend to override political issues?
- e. How do we know that people share the alleged beliefs?

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7. What was the Swedish sociologist Gunnar Myrdal referring to when he spoke of “America’s dilemma”?
- a. Affluence
 - b. Race relations
 - c. Corporate dominance
 - d. Political ignorance
 - e. Economic disparities

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8. Political conflict can occur over specific policies even among those who share common beliefs. One reason for this is that
- a. political culture typically takes precedence over political ideology.
 - b. a unitarian political system allows little room for compromise.
 - c. our interpretations of these common beliefs are also alike.
 - d. many political values are irrelevant to specific controversies.
 - e. ideology is rarely a feature of political conflict.

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9. According to the text, the persistence in our political vocabulary of the term _____ is evidence of Americans’ common hopes and values.
- a. freedom
 - b. Americanism
 - c. morality
 - d. equality
 - e. righteousness

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10. Which of the following are Americans *more* likely to tolerate?
- a. Political as opposed to economic inequality
 - b. Ideologues as opposed to activists
 - c. Economic as opposed to political inequality
 - d. Activists as opposed to ideologues
 - e. Political as opposed to sociological inequality

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11. According to polls, which of the groups below are Americans most willing to help?
- a. People on welfare
 - b. Feminist groups seeking preferential hiring programs
 - c. The elderly
 - d. Recent immigrants
 - e. Civil rights groups seeking preferential hiring programs

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12. Social policy in the United States is dominated by a common belief among Americans in the
- a. ethic of self-reliance.

- b. value of group harmony.
- c. need to protect all citizens.
- d. value of preferential hiring.
- e. sense of community.

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13. The citizens of _____ are *most* likely to say they are proud to be citizens of their country.
- a. the United States
 - b. Canada
 - c. Britain
 - d. France
 - e. Germany

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14. Which of the following statements concerning attitudes and opinions expressed by Americans in surveys is *incorrect*?
- a. They have greater faith in political institutions than citizens of other nations.
 - b. They are more likely to be patriotic than citizens of other nations.
 - c. They have greater faith in private institutions than citizens of other nations.
 - d. Their trust in government has declined in recent years.
 - e. None of the above.

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15. There is, in fact, less income inequality in Sweden than in America because
- a. workers there are more similar in their talents.
 - b. employers have different notions of economic fairness.
 - c. the government ensures that it is so.
 - d. education levels are much lower in Sweden.
 - e. political parties are stronger in the United States.

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16. Which group attracted an enormous amount of media attention and became a prominent force in many national, state, and local elections during the 1990s?
- a. Great Beginnings
 - b. Prohibitionists
 - c. Spiritual Awakening
 - d. Hyper-Dispensationalists
 - e. the Christian Coalition

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17. The distrust of political authority so evident in American political culture has its basis in
- a. English literature.
 - b. middle-class values.
 - c. imperialism.
 - d. religious beliefs.
 - e. private property.

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18. Which statement is *incorrect*?
- a. The Federalists were led by Hamilton and Adams.

- b. The Democratic–Republicans were led by Jefferson and Madison.
- c. The Federalists passed laws to suppress journalists favorable to Jefferson.
- d. The Federalists and the Democratic–Republicans deeply distrusted one another.
- e. The Federalists sought to repeal laws that suppressed journalists favorable to Jefferson.

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19. The dominant religious tradition in the early United States was
- a. Catholicism.
 - b. Protestantism, especially Presbyterianism.
 - c. Protestantism, especially Puritanism.
 - d. Protestantism, especially Lutheranism.
 - e. nonexistent; the United States had no dominant religious tradition.

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20. One aspect of the American family that contributes to the way Americans regard their political system is the
- a. emphasis in the American family on group harmony.
 - b. relatively small degree of freedom found in American families.
 - c. emphasis in the American family on respect for authority.
 - d. tendency of families to disagree about matters that is most personal.
 - e. large measure of equality among American family members.

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21. Most conspicuous among the orthodox are
- a. conservative persons from the Midwest.
 - b. Catholics.
 - c. fundamentalist Protestants.
 - d. labor leaders.
 - e. members of the Hollywood elite.

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22. Although the proportion of people who say they trust the government in Washington to do the right thing has steadily declined since the 1950s, it should be remembered that
- a. surveys on this particularly topic are notoriously unreliable.
 - b. the numbers were even lower in the 1920s.
 - c. more was expected of the government in the 1950s.
 - d. they are talking about government officials, not the system of government.
 - e. the proportion of people who trusted the government was never very high.

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23. The percentage of Americans who say that they have a lot of confidence in Congress is typically
- a. quite large.
 - b. around sixty-five.
 - c. around fifty.
 - d. almost forty.
 - e. fairly low.

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24. Over the last three decades, public trust has declined for all of the following *except*

- a. newspapers.
- b. public schools.
- c. the military.
- d. churches.
- e. labor unions.

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25. According to the text, a degree of tolerance toward political discussion without too much oppression is
- a. what the U.S. Constitution called for.
 - b. what the Bill of Rights mandated.
 - c. rare in a unitary system.
 - d. what characterizes all free nations.
 - e. the minimum requirement of a democracy.

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26. The text argues that a lack of consensus regarding which groups ought to be repressed has led to
- a. a breakdown of consensual social values.
 - b. the survival of unpopular political causes.
 - c. a large increase in the number of free-speech court cases.
 - d. an erosion of First Amendment freedoms.
 - e. reinterpretation of the Protestant work ethic.

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