

American Political Culture Test Chapter 4

Name: _____

1. Compared with people in other democracies, Americans are particularly preoccupied with

- a. elections.
- b. the assertion of personal rights.
- c. social harmony.
- d. legal institutions.
- e. demands for equality.

2. Scholars infer the existence of political culture by observing

- a. the kinds of books Americans read.
- b. the political choices Americans make.
- c. the slogans Americans respond to.
- d. the speeches Americans hear.
- e. all of the above.

3. A classic study of political culture in five nations concluded Americans

- a. were much like the citizens in four other nations.
- b. exhibited nothing that could be described as "culture."
- c. had a stronger sense of civic duty than citizens in other nations.
- d. had a stronger sense of civic competence than citizens in other nations.

4. Polls suggest Americans trust government less, but its important to note that:

- a. trust tends to increase when the economy is struggling.
- b. we actually have very little data on the topic.
- c. polls can rarely accurately measure such attitudes and opinions.
- d. levels of trust were never very high to begin with.
- e. confidence in political institutions remains higher than in most places abroad.

5. Which statement is incorrect?

- a. In the 1830s, de Tocqueville was amazed at how religious Americans were.
- b. The average American is more likely to believe in God than the average European.
- c. Religious revival movements of the 1700s transformed political life in the colonies.
- d. Today, America is less religious than most European countries.
- e. Candidates for national office in most contemporary democracies rarely mention religion.

6. Research has found that religious persons are

- a. more likely to donate money to charity.
- b. more likely to volunteer time.
- c. more likely to donate their time to nonreligious organizations.
- d. more likely to give money to nonreligious organizations.
- e. all of the above.

7. While there has been no established religion in the United States, there has certainly been a dominant religious tradition. That tradition can be best described as

- a. Catholicism.
- b. Protestantism.
- c. Athiesm.
- d. Puritanism.
- e. none of the above.

8. Which of the following statements about class-consciousness in America is accurate?

- a. It has been relatively unimportant as a political factor.
- b. It has had a powerful effect upon personal attitudes.
- c. It is particularly important among the unemployed.
- d. It implies an ideology of class struggle.
- e. It steers the campaigns of most presidential candidates.

9. The culture war is basically a conflict over

- a. economic issues.
- b. foreign affairs.
- c. international norms.
- d. differing religious ideologies.
- e. private and public morality.

10. American's increase in cynicism toward our government has been specifically directed at

- a. government officials.
- b. our basic system of government itself.
- c. the flaws of the Constitution.
- d. the Declaration of Independence.
- e. capitalism in America.

11. When people feel that they have a say in what the government does, that public officials pay attention to them, and they feel that they understand politics, then they are said to have a sense of political

- a. trust.
- b. tolerance.
- c. efficacy.
- d. legitimacy.
- e. reciprocity.

12. The less voters trust political institutions & leaders, the more likely they are to support

- a. incumbents.
- b. liberals.
- c. the non-incumbent major party or a third party.
- d. candidates with name recognition.
- e. candidates with little or no experience in politics.

13. Which of the following statements concerning recent trends in tolerance is most accurate?

- a. Female candidates are less tolerated now than they once were.
- b. Americans are increasingly less tolerant than they were in the 1950s.
- c. The level of tolerance in America has not changed in the last twenty or thirty years.
- d. Americans appear to be more tolerant than they were twenty or thirty years ago.
- e. Americans are less tolerant of Communists than they once were.

14. Judgments about political tolerance should be made with caution because

- a. Americans rarely have a clear idea of what is meant by the word "tolerance."
- b. there is actually very little reliable data on the topic.
- c. people from Gastonia are rarely tolerated, even today.
- d. no nation is completely tolerant of every kind of political activity.
- e. one person's intolerance is another person's civic "concern."

15. The process by which citizens acquire their political beliefs is known as:

- a. public opinion
- b. patriotism.
- c. political culture.
- d. political socialization.
- e. demographic transition

16. Which of the following would be a true statement regarding political opinion?

- a. Public Opinion teaches patriotism
- b. Public Opinion allows Americans to learn about facts, political values and polling.
- c. A change in public opinion is always a slow process, requiring a generation or more.
- d. Public opinion is shaped by an individual's political culture and socialization.
- e. Women's opinions are less likely to result in political change than those held by men

17. Measuring public opinion by asking the same question of a large number of people is called:

- a. a straw poll
- b. a sampling poll.
- c. a controlling poll.
- d. a literary poll.
- e. a scientific poll

18. There are many different ideologies in American politics. An ideology promoting limited government, less help to individuals, resistance to change and support for traditional values is:

- a. Liberal
- b. Libertarian
- c. Conservative.
- d. Reactionary.
- e. Radical

19. Which of the following would be examples of traditional liberal stances:

- a. Pro-Life and pro-social security
- b. Pro-choice and anti-death penalty
- c. Puppies and flowers.
- d. Gun control and Second Amendment rights.
- e. Same-sex marriage and tax cuts on wealthy to spur growth

20. Which of the following has the greatest impact on how young people vote:

- a. Parental political beliefs
- b. education level attained
- c. income level.
- d. Job type
- Religion

Short Essay Questions:

Name: _____

1. Identify and briefly comment on the five elements of American political culture.
2. Discuss at least 3 ways that religion plays an important role in American political culture.
3. List and prioritize 5 sources from which Americans derive their political culture.
4. What is political efficacy and what is the difference between internal and external political efficacy?
5. Identify and explain a polling technique used to identify public opinion.