

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Circle the letter of the response that best answers the question or completes the statement.

- Compared with people in other democracies, Americans are particularly preoccupied with
 - elections.
 - the assertion of rights.
 - social harmony.
 - institutions.
 - equality.
- Which of the following is *not* among the important elements in the American view of the political system?
 - Civic duty.
 - Individualism.
 - Equality of opportunity.
 - Democracy.
 - Equality of condition.
- Scholars infer the existence of political culture by observing
 - the kinds of books Americans read.
 - the political choices Americans make.
 - the slogans Americans respond to.
 - the speeches Americans hear.
 - all of the above.
- The Civil War provides an illustration of
 - political behavior inconsistent with personal values.
 - a radical rejection by the Confederacy of the constitutional order.
 - how governments cannot last long without internal conflict.
 - the conflict between existing constitutional values and institutional values.
 - the persistence of shared beliefs about how a democratic regime ought to be organized.
- One important piece of evidence that Americans have believed themselves bound by common values and common hopes has been
 - that free elections could indeed be conducted.
 - their hostile attitudes toward free speech.
 - their use of the word *Americanism*.
 - the importance of the frontier in American history.
 - their tendency toward idealism.
- Scholars such as Kinder and Sears worry that the widely shared commitment to economic individualism and personal responsibility might be a kind of camouflage for
 - symbolic racism.
 - class centered biases.
 - anti-Americanism.
 - ethnic socialization.
 - partisan groupthink.
- When a 1924 study in Muncie, Indiana, was repeated in 1977, it found that 1977 respondents
 - judged those who failed more harshly.
 - were more sympathetic with failure.
 - had about the same attitudes as 1924 respondents.
 - were more critical of those who had great wealth.
 - were much more desirous of material success.
- Which of the following statements regarding Swedish political culture is *incorrect*?
 - It is more deferential than participatory.
 - Voter turnout is low.
 - Swedes rarely challenge governmental decisions in court.
 - Swedes value harmony.
 - Swedes value equality as much as (or more than) liberty.
- Compared with Americans, the Japanese are more likely to
 - emphasize the virtues of individualism and competition in social relations.
 - reach decisions through discussion rather than the application of rules.
 - emphasize the virtue of treating others fairly but impersonally, with due regard for their rights.
 - see conflict as a means of getting to know and understand the psyche of other people.
 - rely on individual decision-making rather than decisions made by groups.

- 10 The less voters trust political institutions and leaders, the more likely they are to support candidates
- who are incumbents.
 - who are economically liberal.
 - from the non-incumbent major party or a third party.
 - who have the highest name recognition.
 - with little or no experience in politics.
- 11 Robert D. Putnam's "civic health index" includes measures for which of the following?
- Membership in civic groups.
 - Online "chat."
 - Trust in the government and other institutions.
 - Trust in other people.
 - All of the above.
- 12 Which of the following statements concerning recent trends in tolerance is most *accurate*?
- Female candidates are less tolerated than they once were.
 - Americans are increasingly less tolerant than they were in the 1950s.
 - The level of tolerance in America has not changed in the last twenty or thirty years.
 - Americans appear to be more tolerant than they were twenty or thirty years ago.
 - Americans are less tolerant of Communists than they once were.
- 13 Judgments about political tolerance should be made with caution because
- Americans rarely have a clear idea of what is meant by the word "tolerance."
 - there is actually very little reliable data on the topic.
 - there is so very little intolerance in the world.
 - no nation is completely tolerant of every kind of political activity.
 - one person's intolerance is another person's civic "concern."

QUESTIONS

Practice writing extended answers to the following questions. These test your ability to integrate and express the ideas that you have been studying in this chapter.

- Identify and briefly comment on the five elements of American political culture.
- What are some things that you have learned in this chapter about political culture in Sweden and Japan?
- Summarize the findings of the classic study of political culture in the United States and citizens in Great Britain, Germany, Italy and Mexico.
- Discuss some ways that religion has played an important role in American political culture and continued to do so to this day.
- Discuss 4-5 of the sources of American political culture.
- Identify the two sides in the culture war and contrast their beliefs. Also note opposing views that notable political scientists (Fiorina and Abramowitz) take on the culture war.
- What is political efficacy and what is the difference between internal and external political efficacy? What are recent trends in the United States regarding these aspects of public opinion?
- What are some explanations for why some highly unpopular groups continue to survive in our culture?

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- Which of the following goals is *not* listed in the Preamble to the Constitution?
 - Justice.
 - Domestic tranquility.
 - The common defense.
 - Equality.
 - The general welfare.
- Which of the following was intended to serve as a check on public opinion?
 - Representative government.
 - Federalism.
 - Separation of powers.
 - An independent judiciary.
 - All of the above.
- The Framers of the Constitution understood that _____ would be the chief source of opinion on most matters.
 - the general public.
 - elected representatives
 - factions and interest groups
 - political theorists and educators
 - intellectuals
- The classic research on the Monetary Control Bill suggests we should be cautious in how we think about polling results because, in some instances, respondents will
 - support measures that are only beneficial to them.
 - express opinions about things that do not even exist.
 - favor state over federal legislation.
 - not answer questions that they feel are "threatening."
 - share their opinions, but only if they are positive.
- A properly conducted poll of 250 million people can capture "public opinion" with as few as _____ of them.
 - 1,500
 - 2,000
 - 3,000
 - 4,500
 - 5,000
- Research indicates over half of children identify with the partisan preferences of at least one of their parents by the time they are
 - in the first grade.
 - in the fifth grade.
 - juniors in high school.
 - seniors in high school.
 - high school graduates.
- In adulthood, people whose party identification differs from their parents' usually call themselves
 - radicals.
 - independents.
 - neo-institutionalists.
 - conservatives.
 - Democrats.
- In recent years the influence of the family on party identification has
 - decreased.
 - increased.
 - remained the same.
 - disappeared.
 - become too complex to study.
- Younger Americans are more likely than older Americans to support
 - gay marriage.
 - vouchers for private or religious schools.
 - women's rights.
 - letting citizens invest some of their Social Security contributions in the stock market.
 - all of the above.
- The transfer of political beliefs from generation to generation does not appear in large national studies of political attitudes because
 - most Americans are quite conservative.
 - few Americans are either far left or far right of the political spectrum.
 - polling techniques change radically from one generation to the next.
 - most Americans are quite liberal.
 - some generations participate in polls more than others.

11. The "gender gap" refers to the tendency of female voters to _____ in recent elections.
- support Democratic candidates
 - vote Republican
 - support Independent candidates
 - refrain from voting
 - contribute more money
12. The authors suggest the most plausible explanation for the "gender gap" is
- the alignment of the policy views of the Democratic party with female voters.
 - recent efforts by Republicans to attract female voters.
 - a series of Supreme Court nominations which have alienated female voters.
 - the lack of support for equal rights in Congress.
 - the fact that men have "deserted" the Democratic party.
13. Which of the following statements regarding the voting behavior of males and females since 1980 is *correct*?
- They have voted at about the same rate.
 - Females have voted at a somewhat higher rate.
 - Males have voted at a somewhat higher rate.
 - Males have voted much at much higher rates than females.
 - None of the above.
14. There is much research which indicates attending college tends to make people more _____ than the general population.
- moderate
 - conservative
 - Democratic
 - Republican
 - liberal
15. Students attending more prestigious or selective colleges are more _____ than the general population.
- liberal
 - conservative
 - Democratic
 - Republican
 - moderate
16. The political liberalizing effects of college among older Americans were probably attributable to the fact that yesteryear's college graduates
- had lower rates of political participation.
 - watched television.
 - read newspapers and news magazines.
 - were influenced by Vietnam and Watergate.
 - listened to talk radio.
17. In a classic study by V.O. Key in the 1950s, differences in political opinion were closely associated with
- occupation.
 - race.
 - gender.
 - ethnicity.
 - education levels.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Circle the letter of the response that best answers the question or completes the statement.

- In this country about _____ of the voting age population is registered to vote.
 - one-eighth
 - one-quarter
 - one-half
 - two-thirds
 - ninety-five percent
- Which of the following statements about the motor-voter law is *accurate*?
 - It encouraged about 80 million more people to vote.
 - It requires states to allow people to register to vote when applying for driver's licenses.
 - It took effect in 1993.
 - It has changed the balance of registrants in favor of the Democrats.
 - It allows illegal aliens and convicted felons to register to vote.
- A 2001 study found that motor-voter registrants were less likely than other new registrants to
 - vote.
 - vote Republican.
 - vote Democrat.
 - support Independent candidates.
 - support incumbents.
- At the time the Constitution was ratified, voting was limited to
 - most white males.
 - most males.
 - property owners or taxpayers.
 - the commercial class.
 - farmers.
- The most important changes in elections have included all of the following *except*.
 - extension of suffrage to women.
 - extension of suffrage to African Americans.
 - extension of suffrage to eighteen-year-olds.
 - direct popular election of Senators.
 - direct popular election of Representatives in the House.
- Which of the following was employed to discriminate against African Americans who wanted to vote?
 - Literacy tests.
 - Poll taxes.
 - Grandfather clauses.
 - White primaries.
 - All of the above.
- Initially, following passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, women
 - voted as often as men, but generally in the same manner.
 - voted less often than men, but generally in the same manner.
 - voted more often than men, but generally in the same manner.
 - voted more often than men, but quite independently.
 - voted as often as men, but quite independently.
- The Voting Rights Act of 1970, which gave eighteen-year-olds the right to vote in state and federal elections
 - was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.
 - was vetoed by the president.
 - was opposed by a large majority of Americans.
 - was upheld by the Supreme Court but revoked by Congress.
 - was never considered on the floor of either the House or the Senate.
- Individuals between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one could vote in a presidential election for the first time in
 - 1964.
 - 1968.
 - 1972.
 - 1976.
 - 1980.
- In the first presidential election where those between eighteen and twenty-one could vote, the turnout rate for the new voters was about
 - 20 percent.
 - 30 percent.
 - 40 percent.
 - 50 percent.
 - 60 percent.
- One explanation for the apparent decline in voter turnout suggests the political parties are no longer attempting to mobilize the mass of voters and are too
 - conservative.
 - liberal.
 - moderate.
 - disorganized.
 - ideological.

12. Political demonstrations have been used by
- antiwar activists.
 - farmers.
 - truckers.
 - civil rights activists.
 - all of the above.
13. The number of elective offices in the United States, compared with European nations, is
- much lower.
 - slightly lower.
 - about the same.
 - slightly higher.
 - much higher.
14. Compared with Europeans, American voters are offered the opportunity to vote
- much less frequently.
 - slightly less frequently.
 - more frequently.
 - just as often.
 - much less frequently, but their vote counts more.
15. Compared with European turnout, American turnout is more skewed toward _____ persons:
- informed
 - ideological
 - higher-status
 - secular
 - alienated

QUESTIONS

Practice writing extended answers to the following questions. These test your ability to integrate and express the ideas that you have been studying in this chapter.

- Explain what the motor-voter law is. Describe its impact on registration, turnout and election outcomes.
- What are the four most important changes that have occurred in elections since the founding?
- Identify some of the ways that African Americans were kept from voting even after ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment.
- Describe trends in the voting behavior of 18–21 year olds from 1972 to today.
- Summarize the two major views with respect to the apparent long-term decline in voter turnout in the United States.
- Explain how Congress addressed the complaints that followed the 2000 presidential election.
- What is the difference between the VAP and VEP? Explain how these measures may (or may not) affect our thinking about the apparent decline in voter turnout.
- Summarize the results of the classic study of political participation in the United States by Verba and Nie.
- How are the kinds of people who typically vote in the United States differ from the types of people who typically vote in Europe?

QUESTIONS

Practice writing extended answers to the following questions. These test your ability to integrate and express the ideas that you have been studying in this chapter.

1. What are some explanations for why the American public clearly wants some things, but government policy is very much directed in the opposite direction?
2. What evidence do we have that political socialization takes place in families? What do we know about recent trends in the ability of the family to socialize its members?
3. Explain what the "gender gap" refers to and observe what the authors see as the causes of what we see with respect to men and women in voting and public opinion polls.
4. How have education and political viewpoint been related to each other historically? What might explain current trends with respect to this relationship?
5. Summarize what we know about the role of social class in American politics and recent trends in class voting in America and in Europe.
6. Explain the two ways that political scientists measure political ideology.
7. Why are political scientists increasingly skeptical of polls which ask Americans to identify themselves as liberal or conservative?