

UNIT TWO QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is the BEST example of a conflictual political culture?
- X
- (A) A country that agrees on the basics of democracy, but that disagrees on the methods of achieving democracy
 - (B) A country that has frequent, violent disagreements with one or more other countries, sometimes resulting in war
 - (C) A country whose citizens do not agree upon basic beliefs and values; the wide range of opinions is often irreconcilable, sometimes resulting in armed conflict
 - (D) A country whose government officials frequently quarrel with one another, and *coup d' etats* often are threatened
 - (E) A country with no coherent political system; its citizens constantly face complete chaos
2. All of the following are values basic to the American political system EXCEPT:
- C
- (A) rule of law
 - (B) individualism
 - (C) rule of man
 - (D) equality of opportunity
 - (E) liberty
3. The most profound change in the American economic system during the late 1800s was the
- X
- (A) increase in the inequality in the distribution of wealth and income
 - (B) shift of industry from east to west
 - (C) increasing gap between the farmer's income and the city laborer's
 - (D) movement of population away from the midwest
 - (E) decreasing amount of wealth concentrated in the richest 10% of the population
4. With which of the following values did the new late 19th century emphasis on capitalism conflict most directly?
- E
- (A) liberty
 - (B) individualism
 - (C) democracy
 - (D) rule by man
 - (E) equality

- X
5. Bill Clinton's statement that "Health care is a basic right all should have" reflects most directly which earlier document?
- (A) The Bill of Rights
 - (B) The Declaration of Independence
 - (C) Article I of the Constitution
 - (D) *The Federalist Papers*
 - (E) The "Second Bill of Rights"
- E
6. Which of the following most accurately describes recent trends in American citizens' trust of the government?
- (A) Americans have always trusted their government, except for a brief period in the 1960s
 - (B) Trust levels were high in the 1950s and early 1960s, took a dip in the late 1960s and 1970s, but have again reached high levels
 - (C) Americans have almost always distrusted their government, a reflection of the basic value of individualism
 - (D) Trust levels were high until the early Clinton administration, and have dipped significantly since then.
 - (E) Trust levels were high in the 1950s and early 1960s, but since the mid-1960s trust in government has declined significantly.
- C
7. All of the following factors complicate the accuracy of public opinion polls EXCEPT:
- (A) If interview procedures are not carefully constructed, the poll results can be invalid.
 - (B) Even if carefully constructed, different wordings of the same question can produce totally different results.
 - (C) Interview samples are usually too small; a sample of 1500 to 2000 participants cannot accurately reflect the views of millions of people
 - (D) People are often not well informed about the issues, so their responses can skew results significantly
 - (E) Random samples usually must be divided into sub-groups of the population in order to insure accurate representation
- E
8. All of the following sponsor national opinion polls EXCEPT:
- (A) candidates for national public office
 - (B) private firms, such as Gallup Polls
 - (C) Major television stations and newspapers
 - (D) the national government
 - (E) the Supreme Court

9. Suppose that a researcher receives different results for the following two questions:

“Do you think the president is doing a good job?”

“Please rate the president in terms of his job performance: excellent, very good, good, average, poor, very poor.” In all likelihood the different results are caused by

A

- (A) the different wording and structure of the questions
- (B) a faulty random sample
- (C) the interviewees' lack of knowledge of the subject matter
- (D) poor interview procedures
- (E) a small sampling error allowance

10. Suppose a researcher is conducting a poll on public opinion about *Roe v. Wade* (a 1973 Supreme Court decision that is usually perceived as pro-abortion). The results show that 47% of those polled support overturning the decision, and 53% don't believe it should be overturned. The sampling error is ± 3 . How should the results be interpreted?

D

- (A) Provided that the research was conducted properly, the majority of the American public do not support overturning the amendment.
- (B) The research is questionable in value because few people really understand *Roe v. Wade*.
- (C) Because the issue is so emotionally charged, the results are probably not accurate.
- (D) Because of the sampling error, a definitive statement is impossible about which side the majority of the American public take on the issue of abortion.
- (E) The majority of the American people seem to support overturning the Court decision.

11. Which of the following factors is probably the most important determinant of an individual's political party affiliation?

A

- (A) family, particularly his or her mother and father's party affiliation
- (B) gender
- (C) ideological conviction
- (D) religion
- (E) social class

12. Women are more likely than men to

B

- (A) vote in general elections
- (B) affiliate with the Democratic party
- (C) support defense spending
- (D) consider politics irrelevant
- (E) support female candidates for office

13. The relationship between social class and political attitudes is
- (A) much stronger than it used to be
 - (B) nonexistent; social class does not appear to affect political attitudes
 - (C) complicated because the correlation between higher social class and conservatism has been blurred by the liberalizing effect of college education
 - (D) complicated because the traditional relationship between the working class and conservatism has blurred in recent years
 - (E) clear-cut; a strong correlation exists between higher social class and conservatism
14. ^{Evangelical} "Born-again Christians" are likely to hold conservative views on all of the following issues EXCEPT:
- (A) abortion
 - (B) job guarantees
 - (C) school vouchers
 - (D) minority rights
 - (E) gay rights
15. Which of the following is the best description of the relationship of black Americans to the Democratic party?
- (A) Blacks supported the Democratic party until the 1950s, but are now more likely to be Republicans
 - (B) Blacks supported the Democratic party from the 1950s through the 1970s, but are now more likely to be Republicans
 - (C) Blacks supported the Republicans until the 1970s, but are now much more likely to be Democrats.
 - (D) Black Americans are no more likely to support the Democratic party than are other major racial groups in the U.S.
 - (E) Although the relationship may be weakening, black Americans are the most consistently liberal group within the Democratic party.
16. A limited amount of research indicates that Asian Americans
- (A) are more liberal than Hispanics, but more conservative than blacks
 - (B) hold distinctive views by nationality, but are generally more conservative than are blacks and Hispanics
 - (C) are more liberal than Caucasians and Hispanics, but are more conservative than blacks
 - (D) do not identify strongly with either political party, but tend to consider themselves "independents"
 - (E) are inactive in politics, but tend to identify with the Democratic party

17. According to the classic study *The American Voter*, which of the following seems to be the most important factor in determining how Americans vote?

- B
- (A) ideology
 - (B) group benefits
 - (C) the condition of the economy
 - (D) no-issue based reasons
 - (E) the region in which the voter lives

18. All of the following are findings of Verba and Nie's study of political participation EXCEPT:

- E
- (A) Only a small percentage of Americans can be classified as complete political activists.
 - (B) More people reported voting regularly in presidential elections than the actual statistics support.
 - (C) Voting is the most commonly reported type of political participation.
 - (D) Between the citizens classified as complete activists and complete inactivists, are categories for campaigners, communalists, contacters, and voting specialists.
 - (E) A surprisingly large number of Americans have participated in organized political protests.

19. Which of the following suffrage movements was established FIRST in American history?

- A
- (A) universal manhood suffrage
 - (B) black suffrage
 - (C) women's suffrage
 - (D) suffrage for 18–21 year olds
 - (E) suffrage for the homeless

20. Which of the following countries has the lowest voter turnout as a percentage of voting-age population?

- E
- (A) Great Britain
 - (B) Canada
 - (C) Italy
 - (D) Australia
 - (E) the United States

21. Which of the following provides the BEST evidence that voter registration procedures are the most important block to voting in the United States?

- (A) A large number of eligible American voters do not register to vote.
- (B) Americans are too cynical about politics; they don't bother to register to vote.
- (C) The registration rate in rural areas is much lower than in urban areas; voters have to travel farther in rural areas to register to vote.
- (D) Voters in southern states are not as likely to vote; southern states do not provide easy access to voter registration centers.
- (E) Americans vote at much lower rates than do citizens of other modern democracies

A

22. What was the main purpose of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993?

- (A) to control abuses at the ballot box
- (B) to ease the process of voter registration
- (C) to encourage people to vote independently, not just in party primaries
- (D) to discourage members of minority groups from voting
- (E) to widen the gap between eligible voters and registered voters

B

23. All of the following are important reasons for low voter turnout in the U.S. EXCEPT:

- (A) Voter registration requirements by individual states make voting more difficult than it is in many other countries.
- (B) Numerous elections and candidates make it more difficult for the voter to keep up with campaigns and vote intelligently.
- (C) Political parties in the U.S. do not coordinate elections as carefully as they do in many other countries.
- (D) Too many elections are held because the winners must have a majority of the votes cast.
- (E) Elections in the U.S. are usually held during the work week when many adults are working.

D

(Questions 24 & 25 are based on the following chart):

The Big Picture:

How All Men and Women Differ Politically

Figures add vertically but may not equal 100 percent

Bold numbers are highest percentages by category

		Men	Women	Gap Size
Party Identification	Republican	36%	28%	8%
	Independent	31	25	6
	Democrat	30	43	13
Political Philosophy	Liberal	13%	17%	4%
	Moderate	45	50	5
	Conservative	38	30	8
Cutting taxes by 15% is . . .	Right for the country	37%	25%	12%
	Wrong for the country	52	55	3
Governmental	Government should do more to solve problems	24%	31%	7%
Responsibilities	Government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals.	67	57	10
Affirmative action programs should be	Continued	42%	47%	5
	Abolished	52	36	16

Based on telephone interviews with 978 registered voters Sept. 2–4. The question on affirmative action is from a poll conducted Aug. 3–5 with 900 registered voters.

(Modified from a *New York Times*/CBS News Poll, published in the *New York Times*, October 4, 1996)

24. Which of the following patterns in political opinion does the chart reflect?
- (A) Women are more liberal than men in regard to cutting taxes, but not in terms of governmental responsibilities and affirmative action programs.
- (B) Women are more liberal than men in regard to cutting taxes, governmental responsibilities, and affirmative action programs.
- (C) Men are more likely to be Republicans than are women, but reflect more liberal attitudes in regards to cutting taxes.
- (D) Although men are more likely to be Republicans than are women, women are more likely than men to be Independents.
- (E) Both men and women are more likely to describe their political philosophies as conservative, rather than moderate or liberal.

B

25. All of the following patterns are reflected in the above chart EXCEPT:

- (A) Only a relatively small percentage of men or women describe their political philosophies as liberal.
- (B) Most men and women believe that the government is doing too many things that businesses and individuals should handle
- (C) Most men and women support the continuation of affirmative action programs
- (D) A majority of men and women believe that cutting taxes by 15% would be wrong for the country.
- (E) Men are more likely to describe themselves as Republicans, rather than moderates or Democrats

C