

**AP US GOVERNMENT
AND POLITICS
FALL 2018**

Course Activities Packet

Unit 2:

Political Beliefs and Behaviors

AP Government Study Guide for Unit 2 Political Beliefs and Behaviors test on _____ (+/- a day)

When creating the test, we will write the questions with **these exact resources** in hand. **Anything** in them is fair game. Nevertheless, we have added some study questions in case that might also be helpful for you.

1. Notes – Political Ideology (This was a note packet that we did together in class).

Be able to fully recreate the political spectrum at the top. How do liberals / Democrats and Conservatives / Republicans and Libertarians differ in terms of the economic views and ethical views (personal and economic self-governor scores)? What sort of policies would each side favor and why (Note: I will not give you the same exact policies, so be sure you go for understanding here)?

2. Guided Reading - Political Parties

What is a political party as opposed to an interest group? Be able to list and fully explain the 4 most important functions of political parties. What is the constitutional basis of political parties? What is the relationship between the national and state political parties? Be able to list and fully explain the 4 parts of National Party Structure in America, including the specific functions of the national committee and its chairman.

3. Guided Reading - Critical / Realignment Elections

What are critical / realignment periods or elections and what are the two kinds? What is an example of each kind of critical election?

4. Guided Reading - Interest Groups

What is an interest group as opposed to a political party? What are linkage institutions and what are the 4 linkage institutions? Be able to list and fully explain the 4 different kinds of interest groups. Which kind tends to be the most effectively organized? What are earmarks? Why do people come together to form interest groups? What is the downside of interest groups? What is lobbying and what are examples of it? What is grassroots lobbying and what are some examples? Be able to list and fully explain the 4 kinds of election activities that interest groups engage in. What is the free rider problem and how do interest groups try to solve it (You need to know what a collective good is to understand the free rider problem)?

6. Powerpoint - Political Beliefs and Behaviors

What is American political culture? What are our shared American values? What are the culture wars (Be able to fully explain everything about them in the slides about the culture wars?) What is political socialization? What are the factors involved in political socialization? How do different kinds of people tend to vote (Republican or democrat)? What is the most common form of political participation? How are Americans less but more politically active than citizens of other democratic nations? What might explain why Americans vote in lower numbers than citizens of other democracies? What is happening regarding "split-ticket voting?" What has been the effect of the Motor Voter law? What predicts which candidate an individual will vote for more than anything else? What kind of Americans are more likely to vote?

WHERE DO YOU STAND POLITICALLY?

To find out, take the world-famous...

World's Smallest Political Quiz

For years, **politics** has been represented as a choice between left (or liberal) and right (or conservative). Growing numbers of thinkers agree this is far too narrow a view — and excludes millions of people. The political map on the Quiz gives a much

more accurate representation of the true, diverse political world. **The Quiz measures *tendencies*, not absolutes.** Your score shows who most agrees with you in politics, and where you agree and disagree with other political philosophies.

Directions: For each statement below, Circle A for agree, M for maybe, and D for disagree.

How do you stand on PERSONAL ISSUES?		How do you stand on ECONOMIC ISSUES?	
	20 10 0		20 10 0
1. The government should not censor speech, the press, the media, or the internet	A M D	1. End "Corporate Welfare." Stop giving special tax breaks and even grant money to certain favored industries.	A M D
2. Military service should be voluntary. There should be no draft.	A M D	2. End barriers to international trade (so we can buy and sell from and to any company in the world as easily as possible)	A M D
3. There should be no laws regarding sex between consenting adults (In some states, certain intimate behaviors are illegal regardless of whether both parties are willing participants)	A M D	3. Privatize Social Security. Transform this government retirement program into a privately run retirement program.	A M D
4. Get rid of all laws that forbid adults from possessing and using drugs.	A M D	4. Replace government welfare to the needy with private charity organizations.	A M D
5. There should be no National ID card.	A M D	5. Cut taxes and government spending by 50% or more.	A M D
Total your Personal Issues Score (Every A is 20, M is 10, and D is):		Total Economic Issues Score (Every A is 20, M is 10, and D is):	

World's Smallest Political Quiz

► NOW FIND YOUR PLACE ON THE CHART!

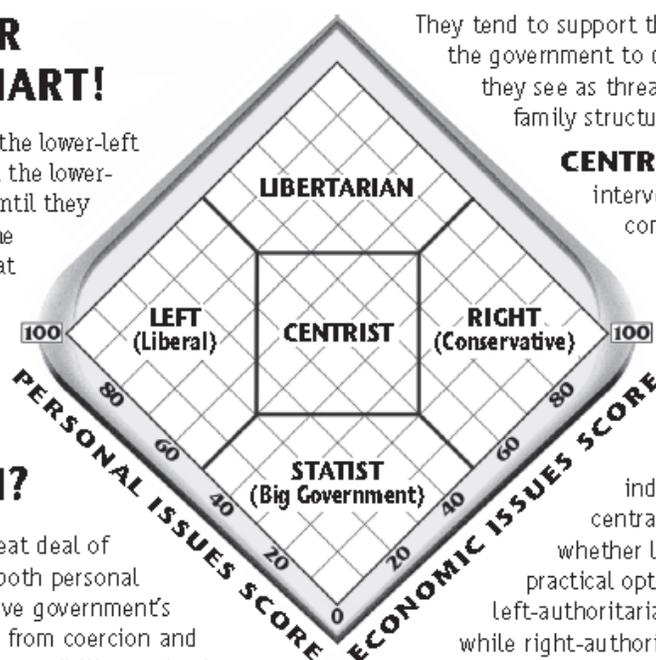
Mark your **PERSONAL** score on the lower-left scale; your **ECONOMIC** score on the lower-right. Then follow the grid lines until they meet at your political position. The Chart shows the political group that agrees with you most.

► WHAT DOES YOUR SCORE ON THE CHART MEAN?

LIBERTARIANS support a great deal of liberty and freedom of choice in both personal and economic matters. They believe government's only purpose is to protect people from coercion and violence. They value individual responsibility, and tolerate economic and social diversity.

LEFT-LIBERALS generally embrace freedom of choice in personal matters, but support central decision-making in economics. They want the government to help the disadvantaged in the name of fairness. Leftists tolerate social diversity, but work for what they might describe as "economic equality."

RIGHT-CONSERVATIVES favor freedom of choice on economic issues, but want official standards in personal matters.



They tend to support the free market, but frequently want the government to defend the community from what they see as threats to morality or to the traditional family structure.

CENTRISTS favor selective government intervention and emphasize what they commonly describe as "practical solutions" to current problems. They tend to keep an open mind on political issues. Many centrists feel that government serves as a check on excessive liberty.

STATISTS want government to have a great deal of control over individuals and society. They support centralized planning, and often doubt whether liberty and freedom of choice are practical options. At the very bottom of the chart, left-authoritarians are usually called socialists, while right-authoritarians are generally called fascists.

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Advocates for Self-Government



269 Market Place Blvd., #106 ♦ Cartersville, GA 30121-2235
800-932-1776 ♦ Email: Quiz@TheAdvocates.org
Fax: 770-386-8373 ♦ Web: www.TheAdvocates.org

Name _____ Hour _____

Power point Notes - Political Ideology

UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES ECONOMICALLY (Economic Self-Governor)

1.	Far Left = Pure _____:	Far Right = Pure _____:	2.
3.	Complete _____ ownership and operation of all businesses.	Complete _____ ownership and operation of all businesses with almost no government regulations.	4.
7.	6.	5.	6.
			9.

They favor...

1.	2.	3.	4.
----	----	----	----

...government regulation or control of the economy.

They believe...

5.	6.
----	----

...in pure capitalism (free market capitalism, the free market economy, the market economy).

They are less laissez-faire (French for "allow to do")

Note - **Libertarians** have HIGH/LOW economic and personal self-governor scores because they believe in as little government involvement as possible across the board. Libertarians feel that the government's only appropriate roles are to _____ and to _____.

The Views of our two major parties, Republicans and Democrats (Very broadly speaking!)

<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans (and Libertarians)</u>
<p>Capitalism:</p> <p>1. Organizes a nation's economy well, but without government regulations, business interests can be _____ to the public interest.</p> <p>2. Creates tremendous wealth though too much of it goes to those _____</p> <p>3. Is often unfair. Many hard-working talented people through no fault of their own are underpaid, overworked, or unemployed altogether.</p>	<p>Capitalism:</p> <p>1. Efficiently organizes the economy to provide consumers with what they want. Government rules and regulations only make the process _____.</p> <p>2. Creates tremendous wealth for _____ of society. We all win.</p> <p>3. Is usually fair.</p> <p>A. Talented hard working people will earn more.</p> <p>B. Lazy people will earn less, as it should be.</p>
<p>Upton Sinclair's (a Socialist) The Jungle (United Streaming – World History: The Modern Era, Segment 3: Early Industrial America http://app.discoveryeducation.com/core/player/view/assetGuid/D3257257-307E-4576-AC2D-7C04F606F870)</p> <p>1. According to Sinclair, in a pure capitalist economy, business owners win, and the following groups lose. Explain how.</p> <p>a. Consumers (who buy products):</p> <p>b. Workers:</p> <p>2. What does the following Sinclair quote mean, "I aimed for the public's heart, and by accident I hit it in the stomach"?</p>	<p>John Stossel's (a libertarian) Greed http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGkEziYbcJo</p> <p>1. According to Stossel, in a capitalist economy, why is it false to say, "If I win, you lose"?</p> <p>2. According to Stossel, how did middle and lower class Americans win when the "robber barrons" of the industrial age became rich?</p>

UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL PARTIES ON SOCIAL ISSUES OR ETHICS (Personal Self-Governor)

<u>Democrats (and Libertarians)</u>	Republicans
2. They believe that morality is a private matter of personal choice that the government should not interfere in.	They believe in traditional American (Judeo-Christian) moral values and that the government should actively support them.

Where they stand on the issues

Democrats/Liberals

Republicans/Conservatives

are more likely to favor...

Economic Issues

--	--

Moral Issues

--	--

Name _____ Hour _____

Guided Reading 7 - Political Parties (SR 8 - 14)

1. What is a **political party**?

2. Complete the sentence: "True political parties select individuals to ...RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE THROUGH

3. How do interest groups differ from political parties?

4. According to most democratic theorists (philosophers of democracy), how central are political parties to democracy? Explain.

5. List the 4 most important functions of political parties.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

Candidates

6. Explain how political parties improve the quality of the candidates who run for office (There are a few different points that should be made here at minimum)

Structuring the Voting Choice

7. Explain how political parties structure the voting choice?

Proposing Alternate Government Programs

8. What does it mean to say that political parties propose alternative government programs?

Coordinating the Actions of Government Officials

9. Explain how the constitutional structure of our government makes the final function of parties, coordinating the actions of government officials, necessary.

10. What are the two ways that political parties coordinate the actions of government officials?
 - a.
 - b.
11. Where in the Constitution are political parties addressed?

National Party Organization

12. How does the organization of our American political parties reflect the idea of Federalism?

4 Parts of the National Party Organization

A. The National Convention

13. List the 4 functions of the thousands of delegates who gather every 4 years in the national party convention
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

B. The National Committee (The DNC and the RNC)

14. What is the national committee (Use the explanation in the text, not the one in the margin)?

C. The Congressional Party Conference (aka Congressional Party Caucus)

15. What is it that this meeting of House Republicans, House Democrats, Senate Republicans, and Senate Democrats does at the beginning of each session of Congress?

D. Congressional Campaign Committees (The DCCC and the RCCC)

16. House and Senate Republicans and Democrats also establish congressional campaign committees for the purpose of what?

17. Functions of the National Committee and its Chairman (Write T or F for true or false)

- a. _____ Issuing orders to the various state political parties below it (note, this one is particularly important).
- b. _____ Running their party's presidential election campaign
- c. _____ Raising money to support their party's presidential election campaign.
- d. _____ Make arrangements for the next national convention

Name _____ Hour _____

Guided Reading 8 - Critical / Realignment Elections (TB page 205 - Party Realignment)

1. Before you begin on page 205, look up and copy the definition of **coalition** in the glossary.

2. What are **critical or realignment periods** (also called critical or realignment elections)?

3. **Complete the sentence**, "The issues that separate the two parties change, and so..."

4. Can you think of any particular groups or interests that would be a part of the coalition of Democratic or Republican voters today? Think of some groups of people (social, economic, religious, gender, age, anything), that you think would make up each sides' coalition and write them below:

a. Democratic Coalition	b. Republican Coalition

5. What are the two kinds of realignments that can occur?

a.

b.

6. Prior to 1860, the two major political parties in the United States were the Whigs and the Democrats who differed over who should be more powerful, Congress or the President. List the stated position of each political party in 1860 regarding slavery.

a. The newly formed Republican Party:

b. Northern Democrats:

c. Southern Democrats:

d. The Whigs:

7. Which party (or parts of a party) came in first and second in the election of 1860?

a. First:

b. Second:

8. So, as of this election, the major issue that dominated American politics was no longer the balance of power between the President and Congress. The two parties or parts of parties that won that election were the ones with clearly stated positions on what new dominant issue?

9. Look at figure 9.3 on page 209 which shows a quick history of American Political Parties. What do you notice about the Whig Party after this election (the election of 1860)?

10. So, of the two kinds of realignment that can occur in question number 5, which kind occurred in the election of 1860 (Just write a or b from number 5)?

11. Back to page 206. When the next realignment occurred in 1896, which kind of issue replaced slavery as the new dominant issue in American politics (a one word answer is fine)?

12. **Skim through this history of this next realignment and complete the sentence,** "The old split between North and South that resulted from the Civil War was now replaced..."

13. Go back to figure 9.3. What do you see about the Republican and Democratic Parties before and after the election of 1896 that is different from what you see about the Whig Party before and after the election of 1860?

14. So, what kind of realignment from number 5 was this election and all realignments that came after (a or b)?

15. To better understand this second realignment, put yourselves in the shoes of a Northern farmer prior to the election of 1860. Being a northerner, in the election of 1860, which party would you likely have supported?

16. However, by the election of 1896, slavery is now a dead issue. What matters now is economics, and even though you are in the North, you are a farmer. So in the election of 1896, which party would you have likely supported?

17. **Return to page 206 and Complete the Sentence,** "In short, an electoral realignment occurs when a new issue of utmost importance to the voters (slavery, the economy) ...

Name _____ Hour _____

Guided Reading 9 - Interest Groups Part 1 (SR 15 - 28)

1. What is an **Interest Group**?

2. Interest groups are an example of a **linkage institution**, an institution that connects the government and the citizens and allows them to interact with each other. Besides interest groups, linkage institutions include political parties, elections, and the media. No question here.

3. What is it that political parties do that interest groups do not?

4. Looking over pages 570 and 571, what are the **4 different kinds of Interest groups**? Write them on the line next to the capital letters A, B, C, and D throughout the next few questions.
 - A. **PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS** (These ones often work to achieve more broad or general goals).
 5. What are Public Interest Groups?

 6. List a few examples of Public Interest Groups?

 - B. **ECONOMIC INTEREST GROUPS** (These ones work to achieve more focused or narrow goals).
 7. What are Economic Interest Groups?
 - 1.) **Categories of Economic Interest Groups**
 8. What are the three largest categories of Economic Interest Groups? Put a negative sign next to the ones that are on the decline.
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.
 9. **Complete the sentence**, "Groups that mobilize to protect particular economic interests generally are..."

- C. **GOVERNMENTAL UNITS**
 10. Surprisingly, who are these interest groups and what are they lobbying for?

 11. Name and define the specific kinds of funds that local governments may spend a significant proportion of their revenues trying to win.

D. POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES

12. What are Political Action Committees (PACs)

13. So, PACs are committees that raise *what* for interest groups to contribute to their ' favored political party?

What Do Interest Groups Do?

14. What is it about interest groups that make them more likely to influence elected officials?

15. What is the downside to interest groups? Include an example

16. What is **Lobbying** (Use the definition in the margin)?

17. Skim through the first two paragraphs. What two kinds of lobbying do almost all interest groups engage in?

a.

b.

18. **Fill in the blank and complete the sentence.** "Other groups also provide _____ that decision makers (law-makers) might not have the time, opportunity, or interest..."

19. What is true of the kind of information that interest groups provide to lawmakers (**and voters too**)?

Lobbying Congress

20. What illegal form of lobbying members of Congress has been numerously documented?

21. Look at the list of "legal" forms of lobbying in table 16.2. Perhaps they are all fine, but which 3 do you feel are the most objectionable (Lobbyists shouldn't be allowed to do them)?

a.

b.

c.

Grassroots Lobbying (Often referred to as **Mobilizing Their Members**)

22. **Complete the Sentence,** "As the term implies, grassroots lobbying is a form of interest group activity that prompts ...

23. List 2 forms of grassroots lobbying:

a.

b.

Election Activities

24. Looking over this section of the reading, what are the 4 kinds of election activities that interest groups engage in? Write them on the line next to the letters A, B, C, and D throughout the next few questions.

A. CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT AND ENDORSEMENT

25. **Complete the sentence**, "Many interest groups claim to be nonpolitical. But some interest groups..."

26. For example, what kind of candidates was EMILY's list created to support?

B. GETTING OUT THE VOTE

27. Getting out the vote efforts include what two things?

a.

b.

C. RATING THE CANDIDATES OR OFFICE HOLDERS

28. **Complete the sentence**, "Many liberal and conservative ideological groups rate candidates to help their members (and the general public)..."

D. POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES (i.e. Contributing money to political campaigns)

29. PACs generally contribute to candidates who what (2 parts)?

a.

b.

Members

30. According to economist Mancour Olson Jr., all interest groups provide some collective good. What is a **collective good** (use the definition in the margin)?

31. Because of this, when an interest group wins a benefit, what happens to many individuals who were not members of the interest group?

32. This leads to the free-rider problem. What is the **free-rider problem**?

33. Therefore, to try to overcome the free-rider problem, what kind of benefits that can be withheld must interest groups offer exclusively to members? List a few examples.

Name _____ Hour _____

Political Beliefs and Behaviors Powerpoint

I. _____ - Americans' shared beliefs about politics and economics
(Our core democratic values)

A. Shared American Values:

1. _____ – Government exists to protect our rights, freedoms, or liberties (synonyms)
2. Republicanism – The best form of government is a republic (a representative democracy)
3. _____ – Citizens ought to participate in their communities
4. Individual Responsibility – That your success or failure in life is up to you.
5. Equality
 - a. _____ Equality – All citizens should have equal opportunity to participate
 - b. Equality of Economic _____ – All citizens should have an equal chance to succeed financially.
 - c. NOT Economic Equality simply – That all citizens should have equal income or wealth

B. _____ - Disagreements between liberals and conservatives about the meaning of these values but not about the values themselves.

1. The right to life (Declaration of Independence)
 - a. To a conservative, it means (among other things) that the government cannot arbitrarily put you to death without due process of law.
 - b. To a liberal, it means (among other things) that the government must make certain that you have access to healthcare so that you don't die from a treatable medical condition.
2. Equality of Economic Opportunity
 - a. To a conservative, it means that there should be no preferential treatment for particular individuals or groups when hiring.
 - b. To a liberal, it means that there should be preferential treatment for particular individuals and groups when hiring because of past and lingering discrimination (ex. Affirmative Action)
3. So our culture wars are over the meaning of our shared values ...
4. Also, Americans (left or right) tend to agree with our common values in the abstract, but not always in particular circumstances.
 - a. Example: Abstract - Do you agree with the rights to peaceably assemble and to free speech?
Yes
Specific - Who should we allow to hold a rally in front of our town hall?
a. PETA? •Pro-lifers? •Pro-choicers? •Atheists? •Neo-Nazis? •The KKK? Sometimes Yes
•Sometimes No

II. _____ - The process by which political values and their meaning are passed on, or how we come to hold or own political beliefs

A. Factors Involved in Political Socialization

1. _____ – perhaps the single most important factor
 - a. The majority of young people support the same political party as their parents
2. Gender
 - a. Men and women tend to vote in similar numbers.
 - b. Women tend to vote _____ a bit more often than men.
 - c. Men tend to vote _____ a bit more often than women.
3. Education
 - a. The longer one stays in a college or university, the more _____ one tends to become.
4. Social Class
 - a. White-collar workers and those with higher incomes are likely to be _____
 - b. Blue-collar workers (especially those who belong to a labor union) and those with lower incomes are likely to be _____.
5. Race and Ethnicity
 - a. Latinos and especially African Americans are likely to be _____.
 - 1.) African Americans are the most reliable democratic demographic.
 - b. Whites are more likely to be _____.
6. Population Density
 - a. Residents of large highly populated cities tend to be Democrats
 - b. Residents of smaller cities and towns tend to be Republicans
7. Marriage
 - a. Married couples are more likely to be _____ than singles
8. Religion
 - a. Protestants and Catholics tend to be _____
 - b. Jews and those unaffiliated with a religion tend to be _____.
9. Age
 - a. Younger Americans tend to be _____
 - b. Older Americans tend to be _____.
10. _____ - Historical events that tend to influence the political leanings of an entire generation.
 - a. Getting through the great depression under the leadership of FDR or living through the Watergate scandal caused many in that generation to lean Democratic.
 - b. Witnessing the end of the Cold War under the leadership of Ronald Reagan caused many in that generation to lean conservative.
11. _____ - Personal circumstances that are age dependent tend to effect political leanings.
 - a. A young college student with student loans piling up may be drawn to the left by candidates promising to help reduce the cost college or make it tax-payer funded.
 - b. An older American with a 'real job' might look at the amount of money that he is paying in taxes from each paycheck and be drawn to the right by candidates proposing lower taxes.

III. Political Participation

- A. _____ –The most common form of political participation in America
1. A smaller percentage of Americans vote than in most other democracies
 2. Usually < 50%
 3. Turnout is lower in mid-term elections (non-presidential elections)
 4. Possible Explanations:
 - a. In some nations, voting is mandatory.
 - b. Some other nations do not require voters to _____ in advance like some U.S states do (some states do allow same-day registration)
 - c. While our elections are on a workday (Tuesday), many nations have them on weekends, holidays, or over more than one day.
 - d. Many nations have elections less often than we do (every 2 years in the U.S.) , so each election is “your only chance to vote for the next 5 years!”
 5. However, Americans engage in other forms of political participation (campaigning, contacting their legislators, protesting) more than citizens of most other democracies.
 6. People vote for a candidate more because of the candidate’s political party than for any other reason.
 7. Still, _____ voting (voting for a Republican President but for a Democratic Congress-person) is on the rise.
 8. The _____ Law of 1993 - A federal law that requires states to allow people to register to vote when applying for driver's licenses.
 - a. Results:
 - 1.) Voter registration increased
 - 2.) Actual voter participation did not increase very much.

B. Who Votes?

1. _____ Americans (young people don’t vote)
2. Highly educated individuals
3. People with high...
4. People who have voted before
5. _____ vote more often than African Americans.
6. _____ vote more often than high income whites.