Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AP US Government**

**Unit 2: Political Behaviors and Beliefs**

**Period 1 and 2**

**Objective** -- Students will understand the development of the political culture, integrating how beliefs and behaviors are established by the social demographics of society. Political participation is expanded beyond simple voting patters and scientists need to understand why citizens participate, and in what context, to determine their political differences while establishing a legitimate polity. This unit will include:

1. Beliefs that citizens hold about their government + its leaders.

2. Processes by which citizens learn about politics.

3. The nature, sources, and consequences of public opinion.

4. The ways in which citizens vote and otherwise participate politically.

5. Factors that influence citizens to differ from one another in terms of political beliefs/behaviors.

6. Interest group development outlining the range of interests, activities, their effects on the political process, and the unique role of PACS.

**Read:** Edwards: Chapter 6, 9-10

**Chapter 6 – Public Opinion and Public Action**

**Vocabulary:** On index cards, define the following terms.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Public opinion 2. Demography 3. Census 4. Melting pot 5. Minority majority 6. Political culture | 1. Reapportionment 2. Political socialization 3. Sample 4. Random sampling 5. Sampling error 6. Random-digit dialing | 1. Exit poll 2. Political ideology 3. Gender gap 4. Political participation 5. Protest 6. Civil disobedience |

**Questions:** Complete the following as you read chapter 6 in your textbook.

1. What were the three great waves of immigration to the United States?
2. What was the goal of the Simpson-Mazzoli Act?
3. How have the following demographic changes affected political changes?
   1. Immigration
   2. Regional shifts
   3. Aging population
4. Explain the significance of each of the following as sources for political learning/socialization:
   1. Family
   2. Mass media
   3. Schools
5. Name two ways in which aging affects political behavior.
6. What is the key to accuracy of opinion polls?
7. List three criticisms of public opinion polling.
8. What is the largest impact of declining trust in government since the 1960s?
9. Fill in the following table concerning political ideology.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ideology | General beliefs | Typical demographic characteristics |
| Liberals |  |  |
| Conservatives |  |  |

1. Explain how the role of religion influences political ideology in the United States.
2. Fill in the following table on the classification of the ideological sophistication of American voters according to the study *The American Voter*.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ideological classification | Definition | Percent |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

1. List five activities of conventional political participation, placing a star next to the most common activity.
2. Give an example of civil disobedience.
3. How does minority group status affect political participation?
4. What is the public’s general attitude about the scope of government?
5. Comment on how Americans’ lack of political knowledge and low participation rate affects democracy.

**Chapter 9 – Nominations and Campaigns**

**Vocabulary:** On index cards, define the following terms.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Nomination 2. Campaign strategy 3. National party convention 4. McGovern-Fraser Commission 5. Super delegates 6. Caucus 7. Presidential primaries | 1. Frontloading 2. Party platform 3. Direct mail 4. Federal Election Campaign Act 5. \*\*\*McCain-Feingold Act 6. *\*\*\*Buckley v. Valeo* 7. Federal Election Commission | 1. Political Action Committees 2. Soft Money 3. 527 groups 4. *\*\*\*Citizens United v. FEC* 5. \*\*\*Super PACs 6. Selective perception |

**Questions:** Complete the following as you read chapter 9 in your textbook.

1. List the three elements needed for success in the nomination game.
2. What reforms did the McGovern-Fraser Commission bring to the Democratic Party?
3. List five criticisms of the primary and caucus systems.
4. What are the primary functions of the national party conventions?
5. What are the two factors that determine media coverage of a campaign?
6. Using a rating system of strong, medium, and weak, rate campaign advertisements and campaign news coverage in terms of their attention to candidate image, issues, and the campaign itself.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Campaign Advertisements | Campaign News Coverage |
| Image |  |  |
| Issues |  |  |
| Campaign |  |  |

1. List ten things candidates must do to effectively organize their campaigns.
2. What were the main features of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1974?
3. What were the main provisions of the McCain-Feingold Act (2002)?
4. Present an argument that political action committees are essential to a successful campaign.
5. What are the three effects campaigns have on voters?
6. What three factors tend to weaken campaigns’ impacts on voters?
7. What is meant by the “permanent campaign”?
8. How might campaigns affect the scope of government?

**Chapter 10–Voting Behavior**

**(pg. 287-300)**

**Vocabulary:** On index cards, define the following terms.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Suffrage 2. Political efficacy 3. Civil Duty 4. Voter Registration | 1. Motor Voter Act 2. Mandate Theory of Elections 3. Policy Voting 4. Electoral College 5. \*\*\*Battleground states |  |

**Questions:** Complete the following as you read chapter 10 in your textbook.

1. List and explain three major reasons why people might vote.
2. What is the major provision of the 1993 Motor Voter Act?
3. List and explain six demographic factors that are related to voter turnout.
4. How has the influence of party identification on voting changed since the 1950s?
5. What are the three most important dimensions of candidate image?
6. What are the four conditions necessary for true policy voting to take place?
7. Briefly explain how the electoral college works.
8. What are the two reasons why the electoral college is important to presidential elections?
9. What are the two tasks that elections accomplish, according to democratic theory?
10. According to the text, what is the clearest way in which elections broadly affect public policy?