

Identifying Your Beliefs

Individuals who are more likely to vote for the Democratic party are known as liberals while members of the Republican Party are often considered conservatives. Political opinions are based on many different psychological and sociological factors. Included among the sociological factors that affect somebody's belief patterns are a voter's age, race, income, occupation, education, and religion. Psychological factors such as how a voter sees the parties, issues, and candidates can also affect a person's voting behavior.

The following survey is definitely not perfect, however, it will give you a general gage on your current political convictions. For the following questions, answer according to the scale below. Please keep this sheet handy in the front of your binder.

- 0 = disagree very strongly**
- 2 = disagree strongly**
- 3 = disagree with some considerations**
- 4 = disagree without enthusiasm**
- 5 = undecided/no strong opinion either way**
- 6 = agree without enthusiasm**
- 7 = agree with some reservations**
- 8 = agree strongly**
- 10= agree very strongly**

Economic Views

- 1.) America should raise taxes in order to balance the budget. _____
- 2.) America should cut defense spending to balance the budget. _____
- 3.) America should not cut the domestic budget to balance the budget. _____
- 4.) America should increase tax rates for the upper class. _____
- 5.) America should increase tax rates for corporations. _____
- 6.) The Federal government should have more control of the economy. _____
- 7.) America should raise tariffs and trade restrictions. _____
- 8.) Congress should raise the minimum wage. _____
- 9.) America should continue full Social Security benefits at gov't expense. _____
- 10.) A flat tax would be unfair for less fortunate Americans. _____

TOTAL SCORE: WAIT FOR TEACHER DIRECTIONS _____

Rating: _____

Foreign Policy Views

- 1.) America's foreign policy towards foreign nations should not be based on potential economic benefits gained from that country. _____
- 2.) America should increase aid to third world nations. _____
- 3.) America should not consider the use of force to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. _____
- 4.) America shouldn't support repressive dictators just because they're anti-terrorist. _____
- 5.) Human rights within a country should determine US policy. _____
- 6.) America should guarantee world peace by diplomacy before war . _____

- 7.) America shouldn't spend resources to develop the most technologically advanced nuclear weapons. _____
- 8.) America should continue to fund 70% of the U.N.'s budget. _____
- 9.) Government does not have the right to secretly listen to citizen's cell phone calls _____
- 10.) The decision to use the atomic bombs on Japan was immoral. _____

TOTAL SCORE: WAIT FOR TEACHER DIRECTIONS _____

Rating:_____

Social Priorities

- 1.) The government should include funds to make abortions services part of healthcare reform _____
- 2.) You don't need to balance the teaching of Darwinism with creationism _____
- 3.) I support consumer protection issues over business rights. _____
- 4.) Racial minorities should be given some recognition in college admissions. _____
- 5.) An assault rifle ban is needed to reduce violent crimes. _____
- 6.) Congress should pass a law that requires all new cars to get at least 40 miles per gallon _____
- 7.) Overt religious symbols in government offices and court rooms are not okay even if they are just symbolic. _____
- 8.) The death penalty is immoral even in cases of treason and murder. _____
- 9.) Homosexuals have the right to complete marriage equality. _____
- 10.) Illegal immigrants of children born legally in America should be granted amnesty _____

TOTAL SCORE: WAIT FOR TEACHER DIRECTIONS _____

Rating:_____

MY Overall score is a (average the 3 total scores) _____

I am characterized as(wait for teacher instruction) _____

Definitions:

Liberal: A person whose political beliefs tend to favor experimentation and change, reform of inequities, and an active role for the federal government.

Conservative: The political outlook of favoring the cautious, traditional approach and a limited role for the federal government.