

Wilson 16 Chapter 7 Assignment

1. What is public opinion?
2. How is the government both an instrument of the people's wishes and insulated from public opinion?
3. Explain the idea that there are many publics and many opinions in America when it comes to public opinion.
4. How does the idea of pluralism reinforce the idea expressed in question 3?
5. What is a poll?
6. Why is random sampling a requirement for a valid poll?
7. Why should sampling error be considered?
8. How many electoral votes does it take to become president?
9. What is an exit poll and why are they used?
10. Why does question wording affect the results of a poll?
11. Define political socialization.
12. How do the events of a person's youth influence their political values?
13. What is meant by the idea of a gender gap existing in American politics?
14. What is more the party of men? What is more the party of women?
15. What is the cause of the gender gap?
16. Which group most strongly identifies with Democrats?
17. What policies sees big differences between Blacks and Whites?
18. How does differing racial beliefs about racism being prevalent in America suggest differences in policy preferences between Blacks and Whites?
19. What group is the largest minority group in America?
20. What values indicate Democratic preferences for Hispanics?
21. How can Catholic influence be seen in Hispanic support for some Republican policies?
22. Categorize religious affiliation with their placement on the liberal-conservative spectrum.
23. Compare and contrast blue collar and white collar demographics.
24. If social class voting was never strong and has even weakened over the last several decades, what then has been responsible for our increasing political polarization?
25. Define partisanship.
26. Americans are not extreme in their partisanship. Explain.
27. What prevents mass polarization among the public?
28. Compare and contrast the views of political elites and the general public as it relates to partisanship.
29. How is partisanship different from political ideology?
30. Define political ideology.
31. Where are most Americans on the political spectrum?
32. What synonym do average people use for political elites in America?
33. Define what it means to be a political elite.
34. Why are activists more likely to be ideologically pure?
35. What fraction of the vote in the Senate AND the House of Representatives does it take to override a veto?
36. What are heuristics?
37. What allows the NRA to achieve consistent legislative and regulatory success despite having such small membership numbers?
38. Why are the economic elites more likely to get their policy preferences even though they are greatly outnumbered by the general masses?
39. Why is public opinion not enough to drive our elected leaders to action?