

## POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY INDEX

Circle the response with which you are most in agreement. I know this quiz is imperfect and cannot encompass your exact beliefs, but just go with it 😊

### 1. Size of the federal government

- A. We need to violently shake up the government in order to make it serve the people.
- B. The government must grow to solve problems because no one else can.
- C. The government is big but it is needed because of all the problems facing the U.S.
- D. The national government should be reduced with more responsibility for problem solving placed on the individual, business & local governments.
- E. The size of the U.S. government is overwhelming. It takes away our money and our freedom to act. Eliminate most government regulations. Cut the government in half.

### 2. Crime

- A. Crime is a response to racism and capitalist exploitation.
- B. The first step to ending crime is the elimination of slums and poverty.
- C. Stricter judges and law enforcement are the best means of ending crime.
- D. The courts and politicians have stopped the police from doing their jobs; let the police use any method to catch crooks and try them and lock them up in prisons.

### 3. Capital Punishment

- A. Never.
- B. Rarely or never
- C. Seldom: only for the most heinous murders or the murder of police or prison guards.
- D. For most murderers.
- E. For most violent crimes.

### 4. Progress

- A. Things have gone well in America for two hundred years; but we have gone backwards recently. Let's return to the good old days of the 1980's.
- B. America has developed many fine customs and laws and has become the best society in the world. We should continue in our progress slowly, keeping the best from the past and changing only when we are sure that change will be an improvement.
- C. America is good, but it needs improvement. We need to make our government honest, and to help the underprivileged.
- D. America has been great for the wealthy, but it has always been bad for the poor. This America needs drastic reform.

### 5. Defense

- A. We need to expand military spending to protect us from terrorism. We need to develop a missile defense system in case a rogue country launches a terrorist attack.
- B. Defense spending is needed to protect us from attack but it should keep up with inflation.
- C. Military spending should be held constant or slightly reduced because we are overstretched as an army around the world.
- D. The US should slowly withdraw its troops from foreign countries as soon as possible and cut its defense budget down somewhat.
- E. The U.S. has spent more on weapons than on people. The U.S. sent troops into all the world acting like a world policeman. We should slash defense spending and mind our own business.

## **6. Poverty**

- A. Poverty results from the government and business discriminating against the poor and minorities; all wealth should be shared.
- B. Training programs and jobs should be provided the poor who can work, and most want to work. Welfare must be given until they can get the jobs they want.
- C. The government should give tax breaks to businesses that train the poor. Business can do a better job of training than government. If we continue to give welfare, no one will want to work.
- D. Welfare should be ended, then you will see people go to work even though they are lazy.

## **7. Civil Rights**

- A. We are all equal under the law, but until minorities get equality in a racist America, minorities should be given help.
- B. Minorities have been discriminated against for many years. Discrimination can be ended only through government help.
- C. Minorities have been discriminated against, but so have many other minorities and they have all helped themselves gain equality.
- D. The government has done too much to help minorities and women. Reverse discrimination hurts everyone. The government should mind its own business.

## **8. Labor Unions**

- A. Labor unions have caused sky-rocketing prices because union workers want more and more pay for less and less work. They must be stopped.
- B. Labor power has grown too strong and ought to be restricted.
- C. Labor has won many victories for the laborer, and its power is necessary to combat the power of big business.
- D. Labor unions once helped the poor, but unions are now just as corporate and rich as big business.

## **9. Business**

- A. Business has produced the greatest nation on earth; leave it alone and we will continue to expand and progress.
- B. Business has made us what we are, and it should normally be helped. Controls should be placed on business only when absolutely necessary.
- C. American business has become too powerful and must be regulated. Business cannot be permitted to continue to control government and to pollute the environment.
- D. American business has made us what we are: capitalist, money-hungry pigs, polluters, builders of uninhabitable cities, and warmongers.

## **10. Income Tax**

- A. Increase the tax on the wealthy. They should have to pay for most of the government because they seem to be the only ones benefiting from it.
- B. Raise the tax some on the wealthy; reduce it some for the poor.
- C. Keep the income tax as it is.
- D. Reduce the income tax on the rich and middle class because the high tax takes money away from the rich which discourages them from working harder or investing.
- E. Slash the taxes on the rich because they know what to do with their money and the poor will only waste it.

### **11. Abortion**

- A. Abortion is none of the government's business, leave women alone
- B. A woman has a constitutional right to an abortion
- C. Abortion may be legal but should be discouraged by government rules such as requiring parental permission or prohibiting during the third trimester.
- D. Abortion is murder and should be prohibited unless the life of the mother is at stake.
- E. Abortion is murder and should never be allowed.

### **12. Sexual Orientation**

- A. Homosexuality is immoral and the government must enforce laws against it.
- B. Homosexuality is immoral, it should be discouraged, and society should not have to associate with gays.
- C. I do not care what others do, but do not involve me or the government on this issue.
- D. Society should not discriminate against homosexuals.
- E. Homosexuals have rights similar to those of other minorities and need the same government protection as other minorities.

### **13. Health care**

- A. In our capitalist system, individuals must provide for their own health care either through their own money or insurance.
- B. Health insurance is a private matter although the government should provide insurance for senior citizens
- C. While health care is a private matter, the government ought to make insurance available for senior citizens and the poor.
- D. The government should guarantee insurance to all either by requiring all employers to provide insurance & giving insurance to seniors and the poor, or by establishing a national health program for all.

### **14. Guns**

- A. All private gun ownership should be prohibited.
- B. Private handgun ownership should be nearly prohibited; all guns should be registered.
- C. Handguns should be registered and sold only to people after backgrounds checks for criminal records or mental problems.
- D. The Second Amendment protects everyone's right to own nearly any gun for any reason.
- E. The Second Amendment protects everyone's right to own any gun for any reason and crime rates would fall if more people carried concealed weapons to deter criminals.

### **15. Education**

- A. To improve public education, we need to restrict teacher unions, encourage private competition for schools, and establish vouchers so student can select their own schools
- B. Schools do not need more money, they need more discipline. Charter schools and a voucher system will improve public schools
- C. Public schools in most places do a good job with limited resources. Students are our future, we should fund them adequately.
- D. Schools are vital to our democracy and economic mobility. School spending must be increased at the local and federal level.

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	radical	liberal	moderate	conservative	reactionary
1. SIZE	A	B	C	D	E
2. CRIME	A	B		C	D
3. CAPITAL	A	B	C	D	E
4. PROGRESS	D	C		B	A
5. DEFENSE	E	D	C	B	A
6. POVERTY	A	B		C	D
7. CIVIL RIGHTS	A	B		C	D
8. LABOR	D	C		B	A
9. BUSINESS	D	C		B	A
10. INCOME TAX	A	B	C	D	E
11. ABORTION	A	B	C	D	E
12. SEXUAL ORIENT	E	D	C	B	A
13. HEALTH CARE	D	C		B	A
14. GUNS	A	B	C	D	E
15. EDUCATION	D	C		B	A
<b>add</b> the columns	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>multiply</b> by	x1	x2	x3	x4	x5
<b>totals</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Add across for total \_\_\_\_\_ (yours) \_\_\_\_\_ (parents)