**Unit 2 – Guided Questions**

***Directions:*** Using your notes, textbook, and maybe a Google search here and there, please answer the following questions. This assignment is due on the day of the test.

1. Discuss the importance of the five elements of American political culture:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Element** | **Explanation/Analysis/American View** |
| Liberty |  |
| Democracy |  |
| Civic Duty |  |
| Equality |  |
| Individual Responsibility |  |

1. Identify and define the two sides of the “culture war.”
2. Explain how political tolerance works in America.
3. Explain the concept of “mistrust of government.”
4. Describe the following aspects of polling.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Aspect** | **Description/Analysis** |
| Sampling Error |  |
| Random Sample |  |
| Margin of Error |  |
| Question Bias |  |
| Push Poll |  |

1. Why is polling an important part of the US political system?
2. List the pros and cons of exit polling:
3. Define political socialization.
4. Describe the different aspects of political socialization:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Factor** | **Description/Analysis/Importance/Influence** |
| Family |  |
| Race |  |
| Socio-Economic Status |  |
| School |  |
| Peers |  |
| Media |  |
| Religion |  |
| Region |  |
| Age |  |
| Gender |  |

1. What is the gender gap?
2. How does political efficacy affect voter intensity?
3. What is the difference between internal efficacy and external efficacy?
4. Define partisanship. What do most Americans consider themselves to be?
5. What is political ideology? Draw the spectrum and explain each part.
6. Explain why activists are more likely to exhibit clear ideological consistency than the average member of the public.
7. Using the most recent data, put a mark identifying how each group tends to vote:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Demographics** | **Trends towards Democrats?** | **Trends towards Republicans?** | **Inconclusive?** |
| Gender: Men |  |  |  |
| Gender: Women |  |  |  |
| Race: White |  |  |  |
| Race: Non-white |  |  |  |
| Education: College |  |  |  |
| Education: High School |  |  |  |
| Occupation: Professional/Business |  |  |  |
| Occupation: Union Members |  |  |  |
| Age: Under 30 |  |  |  |
| Age: 30-49 |  |  |  |
| Age: 50+ |  |  |  |
| Religion: Protestant |  |  |  |
| Religion: Catholic |  |  |  |
| Region: East |  |  |  |
| Region: Midwest |  |  |  |
| Region: South |  |  |  |
| Region: West |  |  |  |

1. Define political participation. List the major ways in which you can participate in politics.
2. Based on what you have learned so far, what is the most important factor that determines if a person votes?
3. What demographic groups tend to vote less often?
4. What are some reforms proposed to increase voter turnout?
5. Throughout history, African Americans have been discouraged from participating in elections. Describe four specific ways.
6. Explain the role that each of the following played in the expansion of suffrage in the US.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Amendment/Law** | **Role in expansion of suffrage** |
| 15th Amendment |  |
| 19th Amendment |  |
| 23rd Amendment |  |
| 24th Amendment |  |
| Voting Rights Act of 1965 |  |
| 26th Amendment |  |
| Motor Voter Law |  |

1. Explain voter identification laws and describe why people are for and against them.

24. Explain voter turnout in the U.S. compared to other countries.

25. What are the current requirements to vote in today’s electoral system? Who sets the requirements to vote?