

Political Spectrum Survey

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Are you more conservative or more liberal. This questionnaire is designed to help you understand what you may be. We have also been investigating the use of the scientific method as a means of understanding why people behave in ways they do. One research method available to sociologists is the survey. In this instance we are using a survey not to figure the behavior of others but to analyze ourselves. Once that's done we can use the data to see what kind of a "group" we might be politically speaking. Follow the instructions below.

Answer the following questions only if you feel that you understand the meanings of the words used:

1. Identify yourself as either a liberal or conservative if you can. If you don't know just leave it blank. _____
2. Identify the political party that you feel represents your ideas and interests most closely. Or if you have no preference just leave it blank. _____

This next section is going to ask you to make a decision regarding some ideas and some specific problems. For each select the number which best represents where you stand for each one. Circle the number you have chosen and enter it in the space provided on the right margin. Be careful and note that the agree / disagree sides change occasionally.

1. I don't like change. There is too great a chance for things to go wrong when things change. I prefer it when the same people continue doing what they have always done instead of having things change

Strongly agree

Strongly disagree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. The environment must be protected for the benefit of mankind and its future even if it means that people may have to give up some things or pay more for some things like gasoline or automobiles.

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

3. We should be a nation of many different types of people in order to have the benefit of many different points of view even if it means that we have to put up with some people and ideas that we don't like.

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

4. The main focus of our lives should be getting a good job so that we can have the money we need to get the things we want. After we've done that we can worry about what others need.

Strongly agree

Strongly disagree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

5. There is so much information in newspapers and on the TV that it is hard to know what is true. The government should have the authority to approve or disapprove what kind of information is put before the public.

Strongly agree

Strongly disagree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

6. Sometimes a person gets himself into trouble or makes a bad decision that hurts himself or even others. The society should do all it can to assist that person so that he can have the opportunity to change and better himself.

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

7. I believe that it is a woman's right to decide for herself whether or not she should have an abortion. The government should not be able to tell a woman or anyone, how to behave in their private lives.

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

8. General Electric is going to have to pay billions of dollars to clean up the pollution it caused in the Hudson River 60 years ago. It will mean that its products will become more expensive as the costs are passed along to the consumer, you and me.

The government should not force them to do the clean up.

Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly disagree

9. I support the motor voter law because it will make it easier for more people to vote and the more people who have a say the more likely it will be that good decisions will be made because all sides of an issue will be examined.

Strongly disagree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly agree

10. The state of Louisiana has passed a law making a divorce harder to get. The purpose is to keep families together so that children will have 2 parents. I think this law should go nationwide.

Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly disagree

11. Studies have shown that government programs like Head Start, a program that applies to low income people, have been very successful in preparing children for school and preparing them for success in later years. This program is taxpayer funded. Even though I don't have children of my own I believe it should be expanded and I'm willing to pay more in taxes to support it.

Strongly disagree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly agree

12. The President is suggesting that the government provide funds for religious organizations that provide services to people in need. Some feel that this violates the idea of the separation of church and state based on the First Amendment but I believe that if they are effective in helping people they should get the money even if they use religion to change people's bad behavior.

Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly disagree

13. Given the fact of 9/11 we have to realize that our security is more important than protecting the rights of accused people. The police and government should have more power to detain and question people in order to better protect the rest of us.

Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly disagree

14. It's obvious that men make up a huge part of the athletic community of the United States. Because of the nature of masculinity, the generally greater strength of males and the fact that people want to see male professional athletic teams more than female ones, it make sense that a greater amount of money should be spent on male sports activities in high school land college than women/s sports.

Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

strongly disagree

15. Immigrants to the U. S. bring to our nation a variety of cultural ideas that eventually become part of the larger culture and make for a more diverse and interesting society. We should continue the practice of years past and as the Statue of Liberty says welcome the poor, downtrodden and oppressed from other nations.

Strongly disagree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly agree

16. In the case of most of the recent school shootings the young men who did the killing were able to acquire their weapons from the family home. There should be greater controls on the distribution of weapons so that violent people do not have such easy access to them.

Strongly disagree

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly agree

17. The minimum wage law sets a false value on labor. This is especially true for teen workers. Employers should be able to pay a wage based on the skill of the worker or their need for an employee not based on what the government says is "fair".

Strongly agree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Strongly disagree

18. High college tuition denies many students the opportunity to go to the schools they wish to attend. The government should raise taxes and provide nearly free tuition for qualified students since a better educated population will create a better economy for the entire nation.

Strongly disagree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Strongly agree

19. Some psychologists believe that violent video games and sexually oriented rap music encourages risky behavior among younger teens. Such material should be made illegal as a means of protecting not only the children but the greater society as well.

Strongly agree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Strongly disagree

20. In our war against terrorism we need to use every weapon at our disposal as a means of protecting our nation and the democratic ideals for which it stands. If the authorities believe that torturing a suspected terrorist will yield the information needed to save our way of life then the torture should be allowed.

Strongly agree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Strongly disagree

Add up the points you chose. What is your score? _____

The closer you are to a score of 200 the more _____ you are

Generally Democrats are seen as being more liberal and Republicans as being more conservative

Are you what you thought you were before you took the survey?