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Political Science 101 (Section 2)

Examination #3

December 15, 2004

I. Non-Cumulative Portion (100 points) - worth 23% of your final course grade

A. **Multiple Choice** (15 points, 3 each) - Circle the one response that best answers each question. If you think no answer is correct, or more than one answer is correct, explain your uncertainty in the margin – but circle one.

1. Elected officials overwhelmingly support social security and Medicare. Why is it so easy politically to defend these programs for the elderly?

- a. The programs form a small portion of domestic spending; their low cost makes them easy to endorse
- b. They cost nothing to businesses and other employers, so they enjoy strong corporate support
- c. The elderly paid into the programs before they retired, so they are only getting their own cash back
- d. Benefits paid out by the programs are seldom if ever used for activities that people consider immoral
- e. Young voters in large numbers endorse spending more on the elderly and thus less on themselves

2. John Marshall, a strongly partisan Federalist, served as Supreme Court chief justice at the time of the case *Marbury v. Madison*. His opinion for the court was carefully framed to produce what sort of precedent?

- a. One to ensure that the federal judiciary would be stocked with Federalists for years to come
- b. One interpreting the commerce clause to protect agencies of the federal government from state taxes
- c. One expanding the interpretation of the necessary and proper clause so that it could be very elastic
- d. One converting the vague words of the supremacy clause into the specific power of judicial review
- e. One to ensure that the Judiciary Act would not cause the Supreme Court to be flooded with appeals

3. Funicello, in her article on the “Tyranny of Kindness,” criticizes social welfare programs for failing to help the poor adequately. What is her main critique of how these programs have been organized?

- a. Conservatives lack kindness toward the poor, so they skimp on budgets for social programs
- b. Much of the money is diverted from the poor to the people who administer the programs
- c. The programs have been set up to hold together traditional families, helping men rather than women
- d. Too much of the money goes to programs for the elderly rather than to those set up for kids
- e. Welfare programs do not appear in democratic countries, only in those with tyrannical governments

4. Complete the sentence. The magazine *Literary Digest* incorrectly forecast the 1936 election results, eventually leading to the demise of the periodical, because they used...

- a. ...telephone directories and automobile registration lists when mailing out their survey questionnaires
- b. ...an excessively simple election question in a year when the issues before voters were very complex
- c. ...a confusing question that contained passive voice, leading respondents to give the wrong answer
- d. ...an unrepresentative sample of precincts that inflated the estimated vote for the Republicans
- e. ... pictures of donkeys, elephants & roosters to represent parties on their ballots, not candidate names

5. Complete the sentence. The Roper Organization incorrectly reported that a large percentage of Americans doubted whether the Holocaust really took place during World War II, because they used...

- a. ...conservative mailing lists filled with right-wing militia members when mailing out their surveys
- b. ...an excessively simple opinion question for a complex historical debate that few people understood
- c. ...a confusing question that contained a double negative, leading respondents to give the wrong answer
- d. ...an unrepresentative sample of cities containing few Holocaust survivors but many German Americans
- e. ... two versions of the question, including one provided by Gallup, rather than just their own version

B. Identification (20 points, 4 points each) - Identify each of the following terms, and briefly indicate its importance to the course (i.e., explain how it was used in lecture and/or readings). The bulk of the points for each item will come from your ability to explain the significance.

1. The White House Advance Office

2. William Brennan

3. Quota Sampling

4. Right Against Self-Incrimination

5. The Bush Doctrine

C. Short Answer (65 points) - Answer as briefly, but clearly, as possible.

1. The nation has changed its approach to civil liberties over time. Briefly describe the pattern of change experienced in the areas of... [8 pts]

(a) free expression -

(b) religious freedom -

(c) privacy rights -

(d) criminal justice -

2. Supreme Court justices can take varied approaches when interpreting the provisions of the U.S. Constitution. List three approaches available to them, define each one, and provide an example of how it has been applied by a particular justice or in a particular type of case. [9 pts]

3. At least five governments contributed to a process that almost led Ohio autoworker John Demjanjuk to be executed for the crimes of Ivan the Terrible. List four of the governments and, for each one, either (a) identify one of the country's contributions to the conspiracy or (b) explain what it had to gain from his problems. [8 pts]

4. Facts pass through five news filters before they are converted into our personal impressions of the political world. Each filter strips out some facts and amplifies others, resulting in a biased perspective. List each filter, and provide an example of the sort of bias that this filter can impose. [10 pts]

5. Polls can produce incorrect estimates of public opinion for various reasons. Explain each of the following, either by defining it or by providing an example [8 pts]:

(a) Sampling error

(b) Selection bias or selection effects

(c) Response bias

(d) Measurement error

6. When the United States ratified its Constitution, it was not the first nation to have one. The British, for example, talked of their “constitution.” How did the U.S. Constitution differ from others existing at the time? [6 pts]

7. Numerous forces came together in the middle of the 20th century to spur a civil rights movement that united both black and white Americans in an effort to bring about racial change. List at least five specific developments that encouraged the growth of a vibrant movement at that time. [10 pts]

8. Although the public has enjoyed increasing influence over American government, thanks to the direct and indirect power of elections, external forces increasingly limit the government’s range of choice. Describe three ways in which foreign affairs indirectly prevent the U.S. government from giving us what we want. [6 pts]

II. Cumulative Portion (100 points) - worth 7% of your final course grade

On *separate sheets of paper*, write a fact-based essay answering ONE of the following questions. Your essay should be written clearly and carefully. It should be organized well. And it should draw widely from the course material, both lecture and readings, as presented in each third of the course. Write your name at the top of each page and make sure you take this part seriously because it’s worth a lot!!!

1) Newsweek’s “Memory Drugs” issue (6 December 2004) includes a feature story on political consultant Karl Rove's attempts to create a “permanent” Republican majority in the United States. Combine your knowledge of the American political system – including both the shape of our institutions and the political behavior of our citizens – with your knowledge of current events to evaluate the likelihood that the Republican Party will be able to solidify a party system that they dominate?

2) Both the textbook in PS 101 and the course itself has stressed the political system’s responsiveness to elections and public opinion. In both cases, these two sources of influence – elections/voting and public opinion – have been treated as roughly the same thing. But of course they are not. Voting is carried out and recorded differently from how we learn about public opinion. Forced to choose, which source of information about public wishes is better? Specifically, which is more accurate, which is less biased, and which is a wiser guide for the future of the nation?