

POLITICAL BELIEFS TEST

(REQUIREMENT #6A – STANDARD B: POLITICAL BELIEFS, STANDARD E: CURRENT EVENTS)

PART I – Political Beliefs (45 points)

Directions: Fill in the chart below. (15 points)

	Liberals	Conservatives
Beliefs on social issues (list at least 3)	Government should ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect people’s basic rights. • promote individual freedom. • be willing to change • encourage non-violence 	Government should ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote traditional values. • maintain law and order. • preserve the status quo • be more forceful and aggressive
Beliefs on economic issues (list at least 3)	Government should ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be involved in the economy (regulate businesses) • provide a “safety-net” • pro-workers, working class • encourage economic equality 	Government should ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not be involved in the economy • give control to local gov’t (states and cities) • pro-business • economic freedom, laissez-faire
People (at least two politician names each)	John Kerry Ralph Nader	George Bush Dick Cheney

Short Answer

Directions: Answer each of the questions below in paragraph form.

2. Give a brief definition of the terms “laissez-faire” and “status quo”. Be able to explain whether liberals or conservatives would use and agree with these terms and why. (5 pts)

Laissez-faire means “free market”, government should not be involved in the economy. Status quo means things as they are, to not change. Economic conservatives would agree with the idea of laissez-faire because they trust businesses and do not trust government. Social conservatives would agree with the idea of maintaining the status quo because they prefer stability or a very slow rate of change.

“If you kill someone you should die. The death penalty should be used in almost all murder cases. Once a murderer is found guilty, he or she should be killed immediately.”

3. What type of person would say the above quote? Why? What political party would they probably belong to and what would they believe on other issues (name at least two)? 5 pts.

A social conservative would have made the statement above because they believe in maintaining law and order and are more strict and aggressive. This person is most likely a Republican and they would believe in banning abortion and not allowing gays to get married.

“I am sick and tired of my money being wasted on welfare. The government should not support these people. They are lazy and they should find jobs to support themselves. They have the freedom to find a job and they should do it.”

4. What type of person would say the above quote? Why? What political party would they probably belong to and what

would they believe on other issues (name at least two)? 5 pts.

An economic conservative would be responsible for the quote above because they believe in economic freedom and not economic equality. They would belong to the Republican Party and they would not want to increase the minimum wage and they would not increase funding for education.

Directions: Place the following politicians onto the political matrix (below):

5. Orrin Hatch – US Senator from Utah

	Social or Economic?	Liberal or Conserv?
Immigration: Hatch supported a law that denies public education to immigrants.	Social	Conserv
Military: Hatch supports increasing support for the military.	social	Conserv
Abortion: Hatch does not want abortions to be easily available.	Social	Conserv
Minimum Wage: Hatch opposes raising the minimum wage.	Economic	conserv

Social Issues? More Liberal or **More Conservative**

Economic Issues? More Liberal or **More Conservative**

Which Quadrant did you place him in? **I**

6. Arnold Schwarzenegger – Governor of California

	Social or Economic?	Liberal or Conserv?
Gay Rights: He supports gay rights and says gays should be allowed to marry	Social	Liberal
Business: He wants to create a better business environment that's more friendly to companies.	Economic	Conserv
Immigration: He thinks there should be more control of illegal immigrants	Social	Conserv
Abortion: He supports abortion rights and a woman's right to choose	Social	Liberal
Taxes: Supports a decrease in taxes and wants less government involvement on taxes.	Economic	Conserv

Social Issues? **More Liberal** or More Conservative

Economic Issues? More Liberal or **More Conservative**

Which Quadrant did you place him in? **II**

7. Diane Feinstein – US Senator from California

	Social or Economic?	Liberal or Conserv?
Immigration: Feinstein supported a bill that would limit legal immigration	Social	Conserv
Military: She supports sending more support to our military overseas	Social	Conserv
Abortion: She supports a woman's right to choose in many cases.	Social	Liberal
Minimum Wage: She says the minimum wage should be increased but not much.	Economic	liberal

Social Issues? **More Liberal** or More Conservative

Economic Issues? More Liberal or **More Conservative**

Which Quadrant did you place her in? **IV**

Quadrants:



