

**SOCIAL ISSUES**  
**WHERE DO YOU STAND?**

Directions: For each topic, choose the letter that is **closest** to your own belief. Are you liberal or conservative?

**1. Death Penalty:**

- a. If you kill someone, you deserve to 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.
- b. The death penalty should be used for most murder cases. However, before they are killed, convicted murderers should have the right to appeal their case and try to show that they are innocent.
- c. In most cases, the death penalty should not be used. However, in extreme cases – like when a terrorist kills hundreds of people – the death penalty would be OK.
- d. The death penalty should never be used. It is always wrong to kill another human being, no matter what the situation.

**2. Drugs and Drug Use:**

- a. All drugs (except those approved by the government) should be illegal. There should be strict penalties and prison for users and there should be automatic jail time for all drug dealers.
- b. All drugs should be illegal and there should be strong rules against drug dealers. There should be rehabilitation centers and health clinics available for those who are addicted to drugs and they should not always be put in jail.
- c. Only some drugs should be illegal and others should be permitted if you need them for medical purposes (like marijuana).
- d. Using drugs should be allowed for anyone at anytime. If someone wants to use drugs (marijuana, cocaine, heroine), they should have the freedom to do so. All drugs should be legal.

**3. Gay Rights:**

- a. Homosexuality is abnormal, and it undermines the traditional family values that make America great. There should be laws that make it difficult for gays and lesbians to participate equally in society.
- b. Homosexuality is not for me, but we should not tell people what they can or cannot do behind closed doors. Laws should not mention homosexuality one way or another.
- c. No matter what we think of homosexuality, it's wrong to discriminate against anyone for any reason. We should have laws that protect lesbians and gays from discrimination.
- d. Homosexuality is as normal and acceptable as heterosexuality. Gay and lesbian couples should have the same rights as straight couples, including the right to get married and adopt children.

**4. Abortion:**

- a. Since abortion is really murder, the government should make all abortions illegal and declare serious penalties for doctor's who perform abortions, as well as for women who receive them.
- b. Abortion should be permitted only in cases of rape or incest, or when the life of the mother is in danger.

- c. Abortion should be a personal choice for women to make, but the government should be able to limit abortions in certain cases (e.g., by requiring parental notification when teenagers want an abortion.)
- d. Abortion should be a personal choice, and it should be freely available to all women. The government should pay for abortions for women who cannot afford to pay.

#### **5. Defense and/or Military Spending:**

- a. The most important priority for our government is having a strong military. We should increase military spending by a lot and build up our forces. Even if this means spending a lot less in other areas.
- b. We should not have large increases in military spending, but we should keep the military as strong as it today, even if that means spending less in other areas.
- c. We should try to keep the military about as strong as it is today, but if there is not enough money to pay for other important things, it would be Ok to cut back on military spending a little bit,
- d. We spend money too much money on the military. We have no need for such a large and strong army and navy. We should cut back on military spending and use the money for other things instead.

#### **6. Immigration:**

- a. There are too many new immigrants coming to the United States. They create social divisions and water down European-American culture, which is the foundation of American society. We should allow fewer legal immigrants to enter the country.
- b. Legal immigration is OK. But illegal immigration is out of control. Illegal immigrants are breaking the law, taking jobs that should go to American citizens, and benefiting from social services that are paid for by taxpayers.
- c. We should try to stop illegal immigration, but legal immigration is a good thing. Immigrants contribute a great deal to the economy by working and by paying taxes.
- d. The United States is nation of immigrants and our diversity is our strength. Laws that keep out immigrants are unfair and should be eliminated. We should have open borders.