

QUESTIONNAIRE – THE IDEA OF GOVERNMENT

1. In its simplest form the concept of “Government” suggests: (a) a means of control over the lives of citizens to ensure the welfare of the community, or (b) something that is agreed upon for the well-being of the community.
2. An “Autocratic” form of government is where: (a) government regulations are so clearly drawn that they can be applied “automatically,” or (b) the supreme power of government is concentrated into the hands of a single person.
3. A “Plutocracy” is where: (a) a society is ruled or controlled by people of great wealth or income, or (b) society adheres to “Plutonic” ideals as enunciated in Ancient Greece by the philosopher-king Plato.
4. In a Democracy the government is managed by: (a) elected representatives, an elected president, and an appointed judiciary, or (b) in any manner as determined by a majority of citizens.
5. Authoritarianism favors: (a) complete obedience or subjection to those in authority, or (b) the application of best-available, professional expertise to a specific concern.
6. Those who identify as Libertarians seek: (a) direct participation in government to better ensure that the principles of liberty are meticulously honored in all government action, or (b) to minimize government and thereby maximize political freedom and autonomy.
7. In the context of their personal religious beliefs the Founding Fathers were: (a) quite unified in their intent to create a republic founded on Christian principles and doctrines as reflected in the New Testament, or (b) inwardly influenced by Deism, the view that human experience and rationality - rather than religious doctrine and mystery – best explains the deference for reason and equality reflected in the founding documents.
8. In a democracy where government is a “secular” institution it should be expected that the teaching of “values” within or through a public institution is: (a) usually prohibited by law, or (b) is acceptable where the force of certain values serves the public interest.
9. Do you prefer to see political power: (a) centered in the hands of those who may be better positioned or have the greater stake in society, or (b) broadly dispersed across all factions of society?

10. In a Representative Democracy the supreme political power rests with: (a) elected representatives who are constitutionally charged to establish and enforce laws, or (b) voters.
11. In a Direct Democracy the voters: (a) decide on policy initiatives without any elected intermediary, or (b) determine how the policy initiatives adopted by their elected representatives will be implemented within their community.
12. Under a "Collectivist" approach to governing the outcome would: (a) favor cohesiveness among individuals and prioritization of the group over the self, (b) require government to impose an equal distribution of wealth.
13. The "Rule of Law" is an idea that: (a) no one in society is beyond the reach and application of a uniform legal standard, or (b) a natural law exists whereby everyone should be entitled to basic human rights.
14. Where constitutional government embodies "Separation of Powers": (a) the electorate has the power to remove those in office when they abuse their authorized power, or (b) the duties of government are divided into separate branches of responsibility, limiting one branch from exercising the core functions of the other.
15. The intent of "Checks and Balances" in government structure is to: (a) prevent the concentration of unchecked power and the over-reach by one branch over the other, or (b) ensure that the expenditures of all government agencies are "checked" against account "balances" authorized by Congress.
16. For the long term, Capitalism as an economic system works best in conditions where: (a) there is little or no government regulation, or (b) it is complimented with monetary policy action and/or fiscal policy stimulus as suggested under Keynesian economic theory.
17. Socialism is where: (a) the community owns and runs the means of economic production, or (b) the government grants tax incentives, expedited approvals, and non-competitive contracts to facilitate economic expansion.
18. Contemporary Democratic Socialism may be defined as: (a) a plan to replace our current healthcare and higher education systems with one that is owned and run by the government, or (b) a movement for freedom, social justice, and solidarity to achieve a peaceful world where everyone can live a meaningful life with the full development of his or her talents.

19. In a market environment where “Free Trade” is encouraged: (a) market participants are held to uniform standards that facilitate transparency and fairness in commerce, or (b) the exchange of goods and services between parties is free of government interference.
20. The economic policy of “Protectionism” (a) ensures that domestic producers will have the unrestricted right to trade goods and services in all domestic and foreign markets, or (b) applies tariffs, import quotas, and a variety of other government regulations.
21. In a “Monopoly” a specific person or enterprise retains control of a specific commodity or service while in an “Oligopoly”: (a) a specific competitor or group of competitors are favored with regulatory advantages and financial incentives to “equalize” the field of competition, or (b) a market or industry is dominated by a small number of sellers who have the power to fix prices.