

AP United States Government
Chapter 6 Study Guide – Public Opinion and Public Action

Name: _____

Vocabulary: On index cards, define the following terms.

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Public opinion | 7. Reapportionment | 13. Exit poll |
| 2. Demography | 8. Political socialization | 14. Political ideology |
| 3. Census | 9. Sample | 15. Gender gap |
| 4. Melting pot | 10. Random sampling | 16. Political participation |
| 5. Minority majority | 11. Sampling error | 17. Protest |
| 6. Political culture | 12. Random-digit dialing | 18. Civil disobedience |

Questions: Complete the following as you read chapter 6 in your textbook.

1. What were the three great waves of immigration to the United States?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. What was the goal of the Simpson-Mazzoli Act?
3. How have the following demographic changes affected political changes?
 - a. Immigration
 - b. Regional shifts
 - c. Aging population
4. Explain the significance of each of the following as sources for political learning:
 - a. Family
 - b. Mass media
 - c. Schools
5. Name two ways in which aging affects political behavior.
 - a.
 - b.
6. What is the key to accuracy of opinion polls?
7. List three criticisms of public opinion polling.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
8. What is the “paradox of mass politics,” according to Russell Neuman?

9. What is the largest impact of declining trust in government since the 1960s?

10. Fill in the following table concerning political ideology.

Ideology	General beliefs	Typical demographic characteristics
Liberals		
Conservatives		

11. Explain how the role of religion influences political ideology in the United States.

12. Fill in the following table on the classification of the ideological sophistication of American voters according to the study *The American Voter*.

Ideological classification	Definition	Percent

13. List five activities of conventional political participation, placing a star next to the most common activity.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
14. Give an example of civil disobedience.
15. How does minority group status affect political participation?
16. What is the public's general attitude about the scope of government?
17. Comment on how Americans' lack of political knowledge and low participation rate affects democracy.