Self-Evaluation Test. Roskin et alii Political Science. An Introduction.

**Chapter 8 Public Opinion and Polling**

What is the relationship between public opinion and knowledge?

What is “salience”?

Sometimes working class people tends to be more rightist (conservative) and middle upper class people. How is it possible?

What is the effect of education and religion on political preferences?

What is a centre-periphery tension? Can you make an example?

What does the theory of life cycle say?

What is a political generation?

What is the gender gap?

What is a unimodal curve? Why is it important for democracy?

How can you explain the presence of bimodal distribution on key political issues?

What is the difference between independent and dependent variable?

What is a Presidential rating?

What is intensity of preferences? How does it related to groups such as the NRA or the Jewish community in the US?

What are the main dangers related to the excessive reliance on opinion polls by a government?

Which statement explains why public opinion is an important consideration for both democratic and authoritarian governments?

a. Public opinion provides leaders with smart policy ideas.

b. Manipulating public opinion is necessary to maintain social control.

c. Every society needs to have uniformity of public opinion to remain strong.

d. Strong public dissent can lead to an electoral defeat or the collapse of the regime.

What does public opinion polling provide that election results cannot?

a. the popularity of specific candidates

b. insight into citizens’ views on specific issues

c. a clear indication which political party is dominant

d. information about candidates’ real views on the issues.

Which of the following lends support to the political generations theory of public opinion?

a. Young voters went strongly to Obama in the 2008 and 2012 elections.

b. Younger people are better educated about political issues than older people.

c. Older people are better informed about political issues than younger people.

d. Many people who lived through the Great Depression are life-long supporters of welfare programs.

Which type of distribution curve is the *most* dangerous for a democracy?

a. bell-shaped

b. bimodal

c. rightward-skewed

d. unimodal

In the United States, a liberal would likely support \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, while a conservative would likely support \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. increasing the minimum wage; banning same-sex marriage

b. increasing the minimum wage; banning prayer in schools

c. increasing military spending; banning lifetime limits on health insurance coverage

d. increasing military spending; banning unlimited campaign donations