

*American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course*

Guided Reading

Section 10.1: Core Political Values

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

 **Before you read**

Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.

**Learning Target:** Describe Americans' core political values.

**AP® Key Concepts**

political culture  
individualism

laissez-faire or free enterprise  
rule of law

 **While you read**

Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.

Political values	Impact on U.S. politics

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 **After you read**

**Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.**

1. Political culture is the dominant set of beliefs, customs, traditions, and values that:
  - A. make America what it is and how it is perceived.
  - B. define American culture to the rest of the world.
  - C. define the relationship between the American people and the government.
  - D. define how America will act on the world stage.
  
2. Individualism is a core value of American political culture, and it is the belief that:
  - A. everyone is responsible for themselves and the decisions they make.
  - B. no one cares what is done in society as long as it does not affect them.
  - C. every citizen has a right to be free.
  - D. society is better served when everyone worries about themselves first.
  
3. Individualism, according to Alexis de Tocqueville, is fostered by:
  - A. selfishness.
  - B. political equality.
  - C. democratic equality.
  - D. self-interest.
  
4. Individualism was also a driving force for settlement because immigrants who founded the United States brought with them the:
  - A. knowledge that they could do what they wanted.
  - B. belief that they could make a better life for themselves.
  - C. inherited rights to get what they wanted.
  - D. belief that democracy was the only way to be free.

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5. A founding belief in the United States is the concept that social status is:
  - A. required to succeed.
  - B. not inherited but earned.
  - C. based on teamwork.
  - D. inherited and not earned.
  
6. The concept of laissez-faire is the idea that government must:
  - A. regulate the interactions between citizens and businesses.
  - B. control how much money is circulated.
  - C. play a small role in the economy.
  - D. determine which countries to trade with.
  
7. The culture of individualism is reflected even in the American economy because many Americans tend to favor a:
  - A. singular economy.
  - B. supply-and-demand economy.
  - C. command-and-control economy.
  - D. free-market economy.
  
8. The taxes paid by Americans are lower than their European counterparts, which means the:
  - A. citizens do not need social services.
  - B. social services are not as helpful.
  - C. budget for social services is lower.
  - D. United States cannot help its citizens.
  
9. James Madison was concerned with the concept of the rule of law, which means:
  - A. the government must rule wisely.
  - B. citizens must follow the law.
  - C. no one is above the law, even public officials.
  - D. the law is supreme for all citizens.
  
10. Writing in *Federalist No. 78*, Hamilton stated that citizens should have confidence that the judicial process would be based on \_\_\_\_\_ and its results would be predictable.
  - A. precedent
  - B. equality
  - C. legality
  - D. principle

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11. Thomas Jefferson supported the concept of limited government, even stating in the Declaration of Independence that citizens have the:

- A. right to rule over the government.
- B. right to rebel when a government goes beyond its limits.
- C. means to protect themselves against all government.
- D. responsibility to vote for the right people to keep the government honest.

12. Entitlement programs are paid for through payroll while need-based assistance programs are paid through:

- A. goodwill donations.
- B. federal or state tax revenues.
- C. government stipends.
- D. poverty grants.

13. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 was passed to give states more authority over social welfare programs and placed:

- A. spending limits on state programs.
- B. limits on who could obtain welfare.
- C. requirements on states to report all income to the federal government.
- D. time limits on the receipt of welfare.