YALE UNIVERSITY SURVEY OF
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

SURVEY B
We are interested in high school students’ interest in politics and government. This is not a quiz and we do not expect you to know all of the answers. Your responses are confidential; no one at your school – not even your teacher – will see what you write. You do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to.

Thank you for your help.

Name ________________________________
Teacher _______________________________
School _______________________________
Period/Time ___________________________
Date _________________________________
Yale University Survey of High School Students

Your interest in politics

1. Here are some ways that people get their news and information. Please check which of these things you have done over the past week:

   _____ Read a newspaper
   _____ Watched news on television
   _____ Listened to the news on the radio
   _____ Read news on the Internet
   _____ None of the these

2. Suppose someone were to ask you to volunteer a few weekends to work for a local candidate who is running for election. How likely is it that you would do that?

   _____ No way
   _____ Maybe
   _____ Probably
   _____ Definitely

3. How often do you discuss politics with friends?

   _____ Never
   _____ Maybe once or twice in the past year
   _____ Pretty often
   _____ A lot

4. In general when it comes to politics, do you think of yourself as a

   _____ Republican
   _____ Democrat
   _____ Independent
   _____ None of these
   _____ Don’t know
5. Some people are not interested in politics at all. Other people love politics and follow it all the time. How about you? Mark the statement that you agree with the most.

- _____ I don’t like politics.
- _____ I like politics but don’t follow it.
- _____ I like politics and follow it sometimes.
- _____ I really like politics and follow it a lot.

6. Do you think you will vote when you turn 18?

- _____ No way
- _____ Probably not
- _____ Probably will
- _____ Absolutely

7. During the past year have you run for student government, voted in a student election, or helped a candidate for student office?

- _____ Yes
- _____ No

8. Are you currently participating in organized groups or clubs in school such as

- _____ Sports teams
- _____ Band or chorus
- _____ Language clubs
- _____ Another group (please name) ___________________________

How the government works

9. Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court are appointed for life. True / False

10. The official religion of the United States is Christianity. True / False

11. How long is the term of a U.S. Senator? _____ years

12. Suppose a person is found not guilty of a crime in a trial. Later, he or she is linked to the same crime by strong DNA evidence. Can he or she be tried again for this same crime? Yes / No
13. Name the governor of [STATE]. Is the governor a Democrat or a Republican?

________________________________________________________________________

The Constitution

Please read the following scenario and write a brief response.

14. After several car crashes caused by drunk driving, police in a [STATE] town set up roadblocks around the high school at the end of a big nighttime football game. In order to leave the immediate vicinity of the stadium, cars had to pass through a police checkpoint where some drivers were told to pull over and take a breathalyzer test. One driver refused to submit to the test, claiming it was a clear violation of his rights. As a result, he was arrested and brought to the police station.

A civil rights group agreed with the young man – that his rights had been violated – and tried to fight the local law. The town defended its actions as a good policy designed to keep drunk drivers off the streets.

Given what you know about the Bill of Rights, what do you think about this conflict? What (and whose) rights are at stake? Are the town's actions constitutional? Why or why not?

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15. What rights are protected in the Bill of Rights? Name as many as you can.
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Multiple Choice: Please circle the correct answer

16. What are the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution called?
   A. The Rights of Man and the Citizen
   B. The Bill of Rights
   C. The Declaration of Independence
   D. The Preamble

17. Which of these practices has the Supreme Court judged to be constitutional?
   A. Religious clubs holding meetings on school grounds after school
   B. School-sponsored prayer
   C. Ten Commandments posted in public school classrooms
   D. Students voting on whether to read a prayer at sporting events

18. The Supreme Court has ruled that speech includes the following forms of expression:
   A. Non-verbal acts
   B. Symbolic acts
   C. Spoken words
   D. All of the above
19. When they wrote the First Amendment, what kind of speech were the Founders most concerned with protecting?

A. Religious speech  
B. Court testimony  
C. Private speech  
D. Speech about politics

20. Which of these is an example of censorship?

A. An entertainer is not invited to perform at a concert because she expressed her political views.  
B. A parent limits the amount of time her son can spend instant-messaging with friends.  
C. An army sergeant reviews newspaper articles written by American soldiers in Iraq to be certain that no information that might be helpful to the enemy is included.  
D. A storeowner won't allow people who swear into his shop.

21. What is eminent domain?

A. The United States owns all of the land in the United States.  
B. People may claim unused government land.  
C. The states own the land within their state boundaries.  
D. The government can take land from private individuals for public use.

22. According to the Fifth Amendment, when can an accused criminal be forced to testify against him or herself?

A. When he or she is arrested  
B. When the state believes that other witnesses are lying  
C. During sentencing  
D. Accused persons can never be forced to testify at their own trials.

23. What rights does the Sixth Amendment guarantee accused criminals during their trials?

A. The right to an attorney.  
B. The right to call and confront witnesses.  
C. The right to know the specific crime of which they are accused.  
D. All of the above
24. Which two branches of government have to agree that probable cause exists before a search warrant can be issued?
   A. The legislative and the executive
   B. The legislative and the judicial
   C. The judicial and the executive
   D. The state and the federal

25. What does a grand jury do?
   A. They re-try a case.
   B. They decide guilt or innocence.
   C. They set the penalty for a crime.
   D. They decide if there is enough evidence to go to trial.

26. Due process means all of the following EXCEPT:
   A. The government must act fairly.
   B. Laws themselves must be constitutional.
   C. Legislation must respect individual rights and be enforced fairly.
   D. The government cannot interfere in any way in individuals' lives.

27. Powers given to the central or federal government by the Constitution include all of the following EXCEPT:
   A. To direct commerce between the states
   B. To coin money and collect taxes
   C. To raise armies
   D. To issue driver's licenses

28. The significance of Brown v. Board of Education (1954) includes all of the following EXCEPT:
   A. The Supreme Court found segregation in schools unconstitutional.
   B. The Supreme Court determined that states could provide "separate but equal" facilities for people of different races.
   C. State governments would eventually have to follow the directions of the federal government and integrate their schools.
   D. The case marked the end of the Jim Crow period and the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement.
Political opinions and beliefs

Here are a few statements that some people agree with and other people disagree with. For each one, indicate whether you agree or disagree.

29. It’s a waste of resources to pay for trials for people who are obviously guilty.

    _____ Agree          _____ Disagree

30. If the U.S. Supreme Court rules that a law is unconstitutional, the government can no longer enforce that law.

    _____ Agree          _____ Disagree

31. Suppose somebody is against all churches and religion. If that person wanted to make a speech in your community against churches and religion, do you think he or she should be allowed to speak?

    _____ Agree          _____ Disagree

32. What about a person who opposes the war in Iraq? Suppose that person wanted to organize a protest rally outside a government building. Should he or she be allowed to do it?

    _____ Agree          _____ Disagree
Benchmarks of U.S. Citizenship and Civic Participation

33. How old are you now? ________

34. When is your birthday?
   Month ________ Day ________ Year ________

35. How old do you need to be to:
   .... get a driver’s license ________
   .... work as a cashier in a retail store ________
   .... vote in state elections ________
   .... work in a factory ________
   .... serve as a poll worker in an election ________
   .... serve on a jury ________
   .... enlist in the military ________
   .... become President of the U.S. ________
   .... become a U.S. Senator ________
   .... become a U.S. Representative ________
   .... become Governor of [STATE] ________

Thank you for participating in this survey. We want to assure you, again, that the information that you have provided will remain confidential. It will be used by researchers to help design courses and lessons for high school students about politics and government.