Civics **Name_____**
Unit 3, Lesson 17 **Date_____ Per._____**

POLITICAL SPECTRUM SURVEY

Are you more liberal (left) or conservative (right)? This questionnaire is designed to help you understand what you may be. Answer the following questions only if you feel that you understand the meanings of the words used.

(A) Identify yourself as either a liberal or conservative if you can. If you don't know just leave it blank. _____

(B) Identify the political party that you feel represents your ideas and interests most closely. Or if you have no preference just leave it blank. _____

This next section is going to ask you to make a decision regarding some ideas and some specific problems. For each select the number which best represents where you stand for each one. Circle the number you have chosen and then add us your score at the end. ***Be careful and note that the "agree/disagree" sides change occasionally.***

1. I don't like change. There is too great a chance for things to go wrong when things change. I prefer it when the same people continue doing what they have always done instead of having things change.

   Strongly agree — Strongly disagree
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. The environment must be protected for the benefit of mankind and its future even if it means that people may have to give up some things or pay more for some things like gasoline or automobiles.

   Strongly disagree — Strongly agree
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

3. We should be a nation of many different types of people in order to have the benefit of many different points of view even if it means that we have to put up with some people and ideas that we don't like.

   Strongly disagree — Strongly agree
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

4. The main focus of our lives should be getting a good job so that we can have the money we need to get the things we want. After we've done that we can worry about what others need.

   Strongly agree — Strongly disagree
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

5. There is so much information in newspapers and on the TV that it is hard to know what is true. The government should have the authority to approve or disapprove what kind of information is put before the public.

   Strongly agree — Strongly disagree
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

6. Sometimes a person gets himself into trouble or makes a bad decision that hurts him or even others. The society should do all it can to assist that person so that he can have the opportunity to change and better himself.

   Strongly disagree — Strongly agree
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

7. I believe that it is a woman's right to decide for herself whether or not she should have an abortion. The government should not be able to tell a woman, or anyone, how to behave in their private lives.

   Strongly disagree — Strongly agree
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

8. General Electric is going to have to pay billions of dollars to clean up the pollution it caused in the Hudson River 60 years ago. It will mean that its products will become more expensive as the costs are passed along to the consumer, you and me. The government should not force them to do the clean up.

   Strongly agree — Strongly disagree
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

9. I support making the voter registration process easier because it will make it easier for more people to vote and the more people who have a say the more likely it will be that good decisions will be made because all sides of an issue will be examined.

   Strongly disagree — Strongly agree
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

10. The state of Louisiana has passed a law making a divorce harder to get. The purpose is to keep families together so that children will have two parents. I think this law should go nationwide.

    Strongly agree — Strongly disagree
    1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11. Studies have shown that government programs like Head Start, a program that applies to low-income people, have been very successful in preparing children for school and preparing them for success in later years. This program is taxpayer funded. Even though I don't have children of my own I believe it should be expanded and I'm willing to pay more in taxes to support it.

Strongly disagree — Strongly agree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

12. The President is suggesting that the government provide funds for religious organizations that provide services to people in need. Some feel that this violates the idea of the separation of church and state based on the First Amendment, but I believe that if they are effective in helping people they should get the money even if they use religion to change people's bad behavior.

Strongly agree — Strongly disagree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

13. Given the fact of 9/11, we have to realize that our security is more important than protecting the rights of accused people. The police and government should have more power to detain and question people in order to better protect the rest of us.

Strongly agree — Strongly disagree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

14. It's obvious that men make up a huge part of the athletic community of the United States. Because of the nature of masculinity, the generally greater strength of males, and the fact that people want to see male professional athletic teams more than female ones, it makes sense that a greater amount of money should be spent on male sports activities in high school and college than on female sports.

Strongly agree — Strongly disagree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

15. Immigrants in the U.S. bring to our nation a variety of cultural ideas that eventually become part of the larger culture and make for a more diverse and interesting society. We should continue the practice of years past and, as the Statue of Liberty says, welcome the poor, downtrodden, and oppressed from other nations.

Strongly disagree — Strongly agree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

16. In the case of most of the recent school shootings, the young men who did the killing were able to acquire their weapons from the family home. There should be greater controls on the distribution of weapons so that violent people do not have such easy access to them.

Strongly disagree — Strongly agree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

17. The minimum wage law sets a false value on labor. This is especially true for teen workers. Employers should be able to pay a wage based on the skill of the worker or their need for an employee not based on what the government says is "fair".

Strongly agree — Strongly disagree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

18. High college tuition denies many students the opportunity to go to the schools they wish to attend. The government should raise taxes and provide nearly free tuition for qualified students since a better-educated population will create a better economy for the entire nation.

Strongly disagree — Strongly agree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

19. Some psychologists believe that violent video games and sexually oriented rap music encourages risky behavior among younger teens. Such material should be made illegal as a means of protecting not only the children but the greater society as well.

Strongly agree — Strongly disagree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

20. In our war against terrorism, we need to use every weapon at our disposal as a means of protecting our nation and the democratic ideals for which it stands. If the authorities believe that torturing a suspected terrorist will yield the information needed to save our way of life, then the torture should be allowed.

Strongly agree — Strongly disagree
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(C) Add up your points. What is your score? _____ The closer you are to a score of 200 the more _____ you are.

(D) Generally, Democrats are seen as being more liberal (left) and Republicans as being more conservative (right). Are you what you thought you were before you took the survey?