

Mr. Baumann's Study Guide  
Chap. 4 – American Political Culture

Group No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Group Director \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary \_\_\_\_\_  
Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Member \_\_\_\_\_

**DUE DATE: MONDAY, SEPT. 19**

OBJECTIVE: IN THIS CHAPTER WE STUDY THE FEATURES OF OUR NATION THAT HAVE ENABLED OUR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO SURVIVE FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS (222 YEARS TO BE EXACT!).

KEY QUESTIONS TO ANSWERS:

1. WHAT ARE THE DOMINANT CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR POLITICAL CULTURE?
2. HOW DO AMERICAN CITIZENS COMPARE WITH THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES?
3. WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE BY OUR RELIGIOUS HERITAGE?
4. WHY DOES THERE APPEAR TO BE THE APPARENT ABSENCE OF CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE US?
5. WHAT DOES INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLITICAL EFFICACY?
6. HAS THE LEVEL CHANGED OVER THE YEARS? EXPLAIN WHY?

**HAS OUR CONSTITUTION BEEN COPIED SUCCESSFULLY BY OTHER COUNTRIES?**

ANSWER:

**WHY NOT?**

ANSWER:

**WHO IS ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE? (80)**

ANSWER:

**POLITICAL CULTURE**

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

**POLITICS:**

**POLITICAL CULTURE:**

**POLITICAL SUBCULTURE:**

**POLITICAL IDEOLOGY:**

**WHAT MAKES OUR POLITICAL CULTURE UNIQUE? (80)**

ANSWER:

**WHAT ARE THE FIVE (5) ELEMENTS OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM? (81)**

ANSWER:

DEFINE:

**INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**AMERICANISM**

**THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM**

**DOES OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM SHARE THE SAME ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS AS OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM? (83)**

ANSWER:

DEFINE:

**WELFARE**

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

## **COMPARING AMERICA WITH OTHER NATIONS**

**IS OUR POLITICAL CULTURE DISTINCTIVE FROM OTHER NATIONS?**

ANSWER:

**IS OUR ECONOMIC CULTURE DISTINCTIVE FROM OTHER NATIONS? (86)**

ANSWER:

**DOES RELIGION PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN OUR POLITICAL CULTURE? (87)**

ANSWER:

## **THE SOURCES OF POLITICAL CULTURE**

**WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF AMERICA'S DISTINCTIVE POLITICAL CULTURE?  
(88)**

ANSWER:

DEFINE:

**WORK ETHIC**

**CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS**

**WHERE IS THE CONFLICT IN AMERICAN POLITICS IF AMERICANS GENERALLY AGREE ON THE ELEMENTS OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM? (91)**

ANSWER:

**WHAT ARE THE MAIN POSITIONS IN THIS CULTURAL WAR?**

ANSWER:

DEFINE:

**ORTHODOX**

**PROGRESSIVE**

**MISTRUST OF GOVERNMENT**

**HAS THERE BEEN A LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN OUR GOVERNMENT? (92)**

ANSWER:

**POLITICAL EFFICACY**

**HAS THERE BEEN A DECLINE IN WHETHER AMERICANS FEEL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL RESPOND TO THEIR NEEDS AND BELIEFS?**

ANSWER:

DEFINE

**POLITICAL EFFICACY:**

**INTERNAL EFFICACY:**

**EXTERNAL EFFICACY:**

**ARE AMERICANS "ALIENATED" (NO LONGER INTERESTED) FROM POLITICS?**

ANSWER:

**WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF THE ALIENATION?**

ANSWER:

**POLITICAL TOLERANCE**

**ARE AMERICANS POLITICALLY TOLERANT? (95)**

ANSWER:

**SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH OUR POLITICAL CULTURE FOSTERS A SENSE OF CIVIC DUTY, SUPPORTS CIVIL LIBERTIES AND RESPECTS THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT, OUR SYSTEM IS UNIQUE BECAUSE OUR PREOCCUPATION WITH MORALITY AND RIGHTS HAS CREATED AN ADVERSARIAL (CONFLICT) SYSTEM THAT MAKES IT CONFUSING AND COMPLICATED.**