Name: _____ Date: _____

To help you arrive at a better understanding of your own political views, political scientists have developed the following survey. The issues are real ones, although they have been simplified for the purposes of this exercise. **For each issue, circle the number of the statement that best describes your views.** Then check the scale at the end to see where you stand.

Q1: SCHOOL VOUCHERS – Some people propose giving parents a government voucher, or coupon, to use to help pay for tuitions at any school they choose, including private or religious schools. What do you think?

1. Schools should operate under a free-market system – survival of the fittest. Let the parents use their vouchers toward any school they wish.
2. Parents should be able to use vouchers, but religious schools should be excluded. Using government money for religious schools violates the separation of church and state.
3. Vouchers are a bad idea. They undermine public schools, promoting further inequality between rich and poor.

Q2: IMMIGRATION – In recent years, the US has made it harder for foreign nationals to live and work in this country. What do you think?

1. Keep immigration laws tough. Immigrants take jobs away from Americans.
2. Allow limited immigration, so long as immigrants don't burden the nation's resources.
3. Ease immigration controls. We are a nation of immigrants, and their contributions make us stronger.

Q3: SOCIAL WELFARE – What is the best way to help the nation's poor people?

1. Get rid of welfare programs. Give poor people no choice but to find jobs.
2. Invest in job training programs to get people off welfare and into paying jobs.
3. Provide health care, housing and food money for those people unable to work.

Q4: ABORTION – On the issue of abortion, there is little middle ground. Where do you stand?

1. Abortion is morally wrong and should not be allowed under any circumstances.
2. Abortion should be allowed only in the first trimester, and thereafter only in cases of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger.
3. The decision to have an abortion is up to a woman and her doctor, period.

Q5: GUN CONTROL – What do you think should be the nation's gun policy?

1. Guns don't kill people, people do. Anyone who wants to buy a gun should be able to do so immediately, without restriction.
2. Only those who pass a background check, apply for a license, get training, and undergo a waiting period should be allowed to own a gun.
3. Handguns and semiautomatic weapons have no purpose other than to kill people; they should be banned and the right to own other guns should be extremely restricted.

Q6: FEDERAL BUDGET – For the first time in decades, the US government is running a surplus, meaning the amount of taxes it collects is higher than what it spends. How should the extra money be used?

1. Drastically cut taxes, especially on capital gains – profits earned from selling stocks and other property.
2. Save the Social Security system. Any money leftover after that should go to cut taxes of the middle class.
3. Bolster social programs and education.

Q7: DEFENSE SPENDING – How much should government spend on national defense?

1. More. It's the only way to maintain our military superiority to protect our people.
2. The same. We are strong enough to handle any threat in the foreseeable future.
3. Less. With no serious rival to the US, our money is better spent on education and social programs.

Q8: ENVIRONMENT vs BUSINESS – This summer, two rare species of birds chose to nest along a New York beach heavily trafficked by restaurant diners. What should be done?

1. Keep business open and let conservationists relocate the birds to another spot.
2. Fence off some areas of the strip for birds and others for human traffic.
3. Block off the area to people and compensate the restaurants for their lost business.

Q9: TRADE vs HUMAN RIGHTS – The US trades heavily with China, despite that country's poor record on human rights. What do you think?

1. Human-rights violations are regrettable, but trade and economic growth are more important.
2. Use our trade relationship to try to convince China to improve its human rights record.
3. Force China to change by banning all trade with China until it ends its human rights abuses.

Q10: FOREIGN AID – Turmoil around the globe often prompts the US to dispatch money and/or military troops for assistance. What do you think?

1. Don't get involved. Use American money to solve America's problems.
2. Send money and troops overseas only to protect our business and security interests there.
3. As the world's most powerful nation, we have an obligation to help countries in need.

SCORING – Add up all the numbers you circled. Then check your score against the scale to be revealed on the presentation.

Your Score: _____ You lean: _____