AM I A DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN?

Great question. But an even better question is what are you? To help you find out, I've copied the Political Quiz from an issue of USA Weekend appearing below. The quiz consists of thirty-three multiple-choice questions. Don't be surprised if you are unable to answer some of the questions. Still, give it your best shot. If nothing else, I hope this quiz begins to get you thinking about what individuals representing these two great American political parties might stand for. (The quiz was prepared by Vic Kamber and Brad O'Leary.)

The Political Quiz:

1. In general, do you believe we have enough laws relating to the control of handguns, or do we need more laws?
   a. Enough       b. More

2. Do you favor or oppose raising the minimum wage?
   a. Favor       b. Oppose

3. What should be the bigger priority for the federal government-stopping tobacco use or stopping illegal drugs?
   a. Tobacco       b. Illegal Drugs

4. Do you think health care plans that cover prescriptions should be required to pay for the cost of prescription birth control?
   a. Yes       b. No

5. Do you think health care plans should be required to pay any of the cost of an abortion?
   a. Yes       b. No

6. What should be the first priority for a budget surplus?
   a. Help fund Social Security       b. Cut personal taxes

7. The economy's current condition is due more to the policies of the:
   a. Clinton administration       b. Bush Administration

8. Should the law be changed so that if a defendant wins a civil lawsuit the plaintiff is required to pay the defendant's legal bills, or will that prevent lower-income plaintiffs from bringing legitimate suits out of fear that it may bankrupt them?
   a. Plaintiff should pay them       b. Law should pay some
9. Who do you believe has done more for America as president?
   a. Bill Clinton       b. George W. Bush

10. Who do you believe did more to contribute to the American quality of life today?
    a. Ronald Reagan     b. Franklin D. Roosevelt

11. Should bilingual education be banned from public schools with all classes taught only in English?
    a. Yes                b. No

12. What would you encourage your son or daughter to do?
    a. Run a business    b. Serve in public office

13. If movie stars Arnold Schwarzenegger and Martin Sheen were running against each other for U.S. Senate in your state, whom do you think you would vote for?
    a. Arnold Schwarzenegger   b. Martin Sheen

14. Do you believe that affirmative action is needed to address continuing discrimination against women and minorities, or do you believe that affirmative action discriminates against white males?
    a. Needed to address discrimination against women and minorities
    b. Discriminates against white males

15. Which do you think would do more to improve the quality of education in America?
    a. Provide education vouchers allowing parents to send their children to the school of their choice
    b. Provide federal funding to hire new teachers in order to guarantee the reduction of class size to 20 students per class

16. Among the following options, which do you think is the biggest cause of the recent crisis of violence in schools?
    a. Removal of prayer in schools    b. Too many guns are available

17. Should Congress allocate $20 billion over the next five years to the states to use in assisting low-income families with their child care expenses?
    a. Yes                b. No
18. Should Congress provide Food Stamp benefits to legal immigrants?
   a. Yes           b. No

19. Which do you think is the better solution of ensuring that there is enough money in the Social Security system to cover the retirement years of the baby boomer generation?
   a. Privatization, so that individuals can invest their Social Security in private plans in the hopes of higher returns
   b. Keep the system structured similar to the way it is today, raise the retirement age, and if necessary, reduce the cost-of-living increases or increase payroll taxes.

20. When the U.S. negotiates future trade agreements like NAFTA, should we insist that the agreements uphold American labor and environmental standards, or should we leave it to the free market?
   a. Include labor and environmental standards           b. Leave it to the free market

21. Do you believe that global warming has been proven and that the U.S. should require reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, or do you believe that Global Warming is unproven and such an action would cost jobs to solve a problem that doesn't really exist?
   a. Global warming is real           b. Global warming is unproven

22. Should the U.S. pay its debt to the United Nations, or should we hold back payment until reforms are put in place?
   a. Pay back U.N. debt           b. Hold back until reformed

23. If Congress votes to raise tobacco taxes, what should we do with the revenues?
   a. Cut personal taxes          b. Spend it on public health and education programs

24. Do you believe that a comprehensive tobacco bill raising cigarette taxes, restricting tobacco marketing, and settling law suits should be passed as essential to the public health, or would it be more unwarranted big government intervention on personal choice that would achieve minimal, if any, benefits?
   a. Essential to public health           b. Unwarranted big government intervention

25. Which of the following statements is closer to your view?
   a. The free market is a great engine of economic prosperity; government should meddle with it as little as possible
   b. Active government is needed to protect consumers and workers, and to ensure greater economic quality
26. Would you prefer to have a student in public school read?
   a. Creation vs. Evolutionism  
   b. Heather has Two Mommies

27. Should under-age youths who commit violent acts of crime be tried as adults and sent to adult jails if convicted?
   a. Yes  
   b. No

28. If you won $1 million in the lottery or earned $1 million in pay, how much should you pay in federal income taxes?
   a. $380,000  
   b. $280,000

29. Should we enact a federal law declaring the English language the official language of our government?
   a. Yes  
   b. No

30. Should gay couples be allowed to receive spousal benefit from states and the federal government?
   a. Yes  
   b. No

31. Should there be a Constitutional Amendment that would prohibit burning the United States flag?
   a. Yes  
   b. No

32. Why did the special prosecutor's investigation of the Clintons drag on?
   a. Bill Clinton refused to turn over evidence and allow his aides and the Secret Service to testify
   b. Ken Starr had no evidence and was waging a right-wing plot to discredit the president

33. Which side of the political spectrum has views closest to yours?
   a. The Right  
   b. The Left
Scoring:

Points are added for the Democratic answer to each question. The republican option scores a zero. Tally your score for each question, then add up your total to see where you fall on the political spectrum.

1. a=0 b=1
2. a=1 b=0
3. a=1 b=0
4. a=1 b=0
5. a=2 b=0

You'll notice that we scored questions about health care paying for birth control and abortion differently. The reason we did this is because nearly all Democrats believe that health care should cover birth control, but so do many moderate and moderately conservative Republicans. However, on the issue of abortion almost no Republicans endorse the idea of requiring health care companies to cover abortions.

6. a=2 b=0

While the issue of bought surpluses is a new one, so far, Republicans have tended to view the surplus as overpayment of taxes that should be returned directly to the taxpayers. Democrats tend to view excess revenue as a means of restoring funding for programs such as Social Security that need shoring up or were underfunded when deficit-reduction was priority.

7. a=0 b=2
8. a=0 b=1
9. a=2 b=0
10. a=0 b=2

Republicans hold Reagan in high regard for defeating Communism, growing the economy, and giving Americans their sense of pride back after the malaise of the Carter years. Democrats praise FDR for saving the country during the Depression, repressing Communism, creating Social Security, building a safety net that exists to this day and laying the groundwork for an activist federal government.

11. a=0 b=1
12. a=0 b=1
13. a=0 b=1
14. a=1 b=0
15. a=0 b=2
16. a=0 b=2
17. a=2 b=0
Democrats strongly support the idea of assisting lower-income families with child care expenses which in some states can exceed the cost of in-state tuition at a public college. Republicans would rather see the money given back to parents via tax breaks so that they can decide how their child is cared for.
18. a=1 b=0
19. a=0 b=1
20. a=1 b=0
21. a=1 b=0
22. a=2 b=0
23. a=0 b=2
24. a=2 b=0
25. a=0 b=2
This question goes to the heart of how Republicans and Democrats view the economy. Republicans contend that government intervention in the economy results in increased costs, lower wages, and slower job growth. Democrats assert that a free-market fails to create economic equity and leaves too many Americans behind.
26. a=0 b=2
Besides economic theory, Republicans and Democrats differ greatly on many social and moral issues, especially education. Republicans seek a more traditional educational experience that acknowledges and respects America's strong Judeo-Christian roots. Democrats prefer a more liberal experience that exposes children to many different beliefs, cultures, and experiences.
27. a=0 b=1
28. a=1 b=0
Democrats tend to believe that the rich are under-taxed relative to middle-income and lower-income families. Republicans contend that raising taxes on the rich punishes success and hurts economic growth since the extra money they pay in taxes cannot be used to invest in businesses that create jobs. Under President Reagan the million dollar-taxpayer would have paid $280,000 in taxes. Under President Clinton this taxpayer pays $380,000.
29. a=0 b=1
30. a=2 b=0
31. a=0 b=2
32. a=0 b=2
33. a=0 b=2

Match your score against our estimates of where these prominent political figures would stand.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Political Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Hard-core Democrat (Jesse Jackson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Liberal Democrat (Dick Gephardt, John Kerry)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Centrist Democrat (Al Gore)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Moderate Democrat (Bill Bradley, Hillary Clinton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Conservative Democrat (Bill Clinton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Liberal Republican (Colin Powell, Rudolph Giuliani)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Moderate Republican (Jack Kemp, George Pataki)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Centrist Republican (Elizabeth Dole, Lamar Alexander, John McCain, Orrin Hatch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Conservative Republican (Fred Thompson, Dan Quayle, George W. Bush, Newt Gingrich, Steve Forbes, Trent Lott)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Hard-core Republican (John Ashcroft, Gary Bauer, Pat Buchanan)</td>
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NOTE: While Pat Buchanan is hard-core on many Republican beliefs he has a strong libertarian streak and opposes the Republican Party's position on free trade. Additionally, both Pete Wilson and Lamar Alexander would have scored more liberal two years ago, but have since taken public stands consistent with the core beliefs of the Republican Party.