

Appendix C

Student handout: The big political questions

Consider these big political questions. Think about how you respond to them. This can help you develop an understanding of how you think and help you start to develop your political beliefs.

Student note: *It is very likely that you will change your views many times as you figure out your political identity.*

Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you think freedom is more important than authority?• Do you believe that tradition is important in a society?• Is society organized by a certain hierarchy (some groups are at the top and some are at the bottom)?
Social Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should social change happen quickly or slowly?• Should society change in response to changing attitudes and values or should things generally stay the same?• Is the status quo important?• What does social progress mean to you?
Economic Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are your views on taxation?• Is government responsible for ensuring a certain quality of life for its citizens?• Should businesses be regulated by government? To what degree?• Should governments balance budgets?• Should the government intervene in the economy or adopt more of a hands-off approach?
Environmental Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is environmental harm acceptable if it produces an economic benefit?• Should solutions for environmental issues come from government or the private sector?• Is it more important to have a strong economy or strict environmental protections? Can both exist at the same time?• Should businesses be punished for harming the environment?• Are jobs more important than the environment?
Rights of Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should citizens play an important role in improving society or is it government's responsibility?• What is more important - individual rights or the rights of the collective?• Should the government be allowed to limit your rights?
Role of Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should government play a big role in your life?• Should government provide a lot of services for people?• Can private industry play a role in improving the lives of people?