

Name: _____
Period: _____ Date: _____

Political Science Midterm/Final Examination

Your instructions are simple:

This is a political science analysis. Your task is to predict the likely outcome of a political contest and support your assertions with statements which are viable/believable/authentic within the context of political realism.

Here's how you do it: **Carefully scrutinize the raw information I have provided and consider these statements both individually and in conjunction with one another. I am asking you to draw suppositions and conclusions based on the raw data, demographics and background notes you have available.**

There is no single one correct answer, but rather many possible conclusions you may derive. You will be expected to support what you believe within the context of political realism. It is possible to have incorrect answers if your conclusions are too far "out there" or unsupported.

Our in-class practice of this format, the analysis provided in films and lectures pertaining to my observations of the political theater and the evolution of politics serves as an example of what you will be doing.

In short, based on your observations of the information provided, say something sensible about what might influence the electorate on Election Day. You are expected to draw at least twenty-five viable conclusions. Legitimate observations will add to your point total while a substandard/ridiculous analysis will subtract from your points. Any viable conclusions reached beyond the minimum twenty-five required will be considered extra credit (to earn points to make for any substandard analysis earlier; the entire assignment may not earn more than its assigned value with the extra credit)

You want to be as comprehensive and thorough in your analysis as possible.

Looking ahead toward the 2008 Presidential election, the following are plausible candidates for the White House. (a star means these parties are grouped together in terminology as "Third Parties")

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|------------------------|---|
| Democratic Party – | Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton,
Vice Presidential Candidate Barack Obama |
| Republican Party – | Presidential Candidate John McCain,
Vice Presidential Candidate Rudy Giuliani |
| *Family Values Party – | Presidential Candidate Newt Gingrich
Vice Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney |
| *Reform Party – | Presidential Candidate Pat Buchanan
Vice Presidential Candidate Vince Foster |
| *Green Party – | Presidential Candidate Ralph Nader
Vice Presidential Candidate John Edwards |
| *Natural Law Party – | Presidential Candidate David Richardson
No Vice Presidential running mate |

Considering their parings and all the background you have in American Government, use the following information (listed below) and determine its affect on a Presidential race between these political figures.

1. Hillary Clinton was born in Chicago Illinois and raised in a Methodist family. Her father was stringently conservative, ideals she will hold throughout her youth. At age 16 she actively campaigned on behalf of the Republican candidate for president, and later led the college Republicans club at her university. This political ideology changed in 1968; she was affected by the murder of Martin Luther King Jr (who she saw in person in 1962) and the Civil Rights movement transformed her into a Democrat. She got her law degree at Yale and practiced law before her husband was elected to the White house. During her first two years in the White House, she strove to be an activist First Lady, pursuing a national agenda of reforming health care which often brought into conflict resources which were concurrently being sought by Vice President Al Gore's domestic agenda of environmentalism. Years later she stood by her husband during the infidelity accusations levied against him, and eventually chose not to leave him when the details of the Lewinski intern affair became public. In the final months of her time in the White House, she moved her permanent residence from Arkansas to New York, whereupon she won a seat to the Senate with 52% of the states vote. Having overcome skepticism, she was reelected in 2006 with 73%.
2. Barack Obama's wife is descended from enslaved Africans; he is the son of a Kenyan father and a mother from Iowa. Born in 1961 in Illinois, he authored a law requiring police to videotape interrogations for crimes punishable by the death penalty. He also pushed through legislation that would force insurance companies to cover routine mammograms. He was among the first politicians to criticize the conduct of the Iraq war, even questioning the now-proved-disconnect between Iraq and terrorism. One of his grandfathers was a World War II veteran who was a beneficiary of New Deal programs and the GI Bill.
3. Rudy Giuliani was born in 1944 in New York. His grandparents were Italian immigrants. He has been married three times (marriage two was annulled after he and his wife discovered they were second cousins). He was a politician and mayor. As mayor of New York City during the September 2001 terrorist attacks he excelled. His leadership during this time was widely regarded with honor, so much so that among the highest of his awards for his conduct will be his Knighthood by Queen Elizabeth of England. As mayor, he got world recognition for kicking terrorist leader Yassir Arafat out of a show in downtown New York. He aggressively removed homeless panhandlers from the streets, improving the city's image on crime and poverty. He also took on organized crime.
4. John McCain was born in 1936 in the Panama Canal Zone (a US territory); his father and grandfather are distinguished Navy Admirals. He is a lifelong Republican. He is the only of the candidates who was in a war zone. He fought in the Vietnam War. Shot down in 1967, he spent the next five years being tortured as a prisoner of war. Shortly after his return to the United States, he was elected to the first of several terms as Senator from Arizona. (If elected to the White House in 2008, at age 72, he would be the oldest president ever)
5. Mitt Romney is a former governor of Massachusetts. He was the Republican governor of a very Democrat-leaning state before being swept out of power in the 2006 Midterm elections. He is Mormon, and is greeted with suspicion by many evangelical Christians. He has long been an outspoken critic of Giuliani.
6. Newt Gingrich was born in 1943 in Pennsylvania. All three universities he attended are located in the south. He was a college professor and prolific author. He has been married three times (marriage two would dissolve after he was revealed he was having an affair with a Congressional intern, a woman who would become wife number three). Newt Gingrich is responsible for the Republicans sweeping into Congress in the 1994 Midterms, after which he led the Republican controlled congress for four years before leaving for the private sector. He was the public face of the Republican opposition against President Clinton. He is not connected to the corruption scandals nor to the Iraq policy which afflicts other current Congressional members. He is not in elected office at the time of his campaign.
7. John Edwards, a young former one-term Senator and attorney from North Carolina, was the Democratic Vice Presidential candidate in 2004.
8. John McCain and Barack Obama have a history of actively pursuing and encouraging bipartisanship in their legislative endeavors. McCain further has a reputation of independence from the mainstream Republican agenda.

9. The 'War on Terror' continues, with American troops stationed in none hostile countries throughout the world. The number of American casualties in the Iraqi theater of operations average 80 a month. The overall war has lasted years longer than World War II.

10. Most members of the Supreme Court are elderly. The judges put on the bench by a conservative president are: Clarence Thomas (born 1948; Bush Sr appointee; a consistently conservative vote), Antonin Scalia (born 1936; Reagan appointee; a consistently conservative vote), Samuel Alito (born 1950; Bush Jr appointee; a consistently conservative vote), John Roberts (born 1955; Bush Jr appointee as Chief Justice; a moderate vote), John Paul Stevens (born 1920; Ford appointee; a liberal vote), Anthony Kennedy (born 1936; Reagan appointee; a moderate-swing vote), David Souter (born 1939; Bush Sr. appointee; a liberal vote). The judges put on the bench by a liberal president are: Ruth Bader Ginsburg (born 1933; Clinton appointee, a consistently liberal vote) and Stephen Breyer (born 1938; Clinton appointee; a liberal vote)

11. Separate legal cases in South Dakota and Tennessee raise the possibility that a direct challenge to Roe v.Wade will be brought to the Supreme Court within two years.

12. McCain has regularly been in favor of the American military engagement in Iraq. He has been President Bush's most steady supporter in Congress on this topic.

13. In support of Republican Congressional candidates in the 2006 Midterm election, McCain raised \$10.5 million dollars and appeared at 346 events for Republican candidates.

14. Senator McCain has long been hesitant to ban same-gender marriages, ban abortion completely or fight gun control. His tolerance to other religious ideologies has encouraged him to tangle with leaders of the Christian Conservative movement. He believes in letting individual states regulate marriage, believing it is not in the purview of the federal government.

15. Over fifty major terrorist plots have been disrupted since September 2001, most notably a plot foiled by Britain's MI6 (with intelligence support from America's CIA and Israel's Mossad) which entailed the destruction of a dozen flights simultaneously over the Atlantic Ocean. While several American targets and those of American allies have been hit overseas resulting in destruction and civilian death, there has not been an attack on American soil.

16. Giuliani had aggressively taken on public art exhibits which were deemed by him to be indecent or profane. This included religious structures covered in excrement and others of a unmarked white canvas.

17. For the past seven years, the Secretary of State has been someone of African heritage.

18. Ralph Nader has run in every Presidential election since 1972. He a consumer advocate. He is blamed by many liberals for siphoning enough votes away from the Democrat Al Gore that George Bush Jr won the presidency.

19. The Secretary of State has been occupied by a woman for eight of the past twelve years. Similarly, the Attorney General has also been occupied by a female for four years in the late 1990s. The Speaker of the House of Representatives has been female for the past two years, the first time in the nations history a woman has headed this chamber of Congress.

20. Democratic leaders have offered to make Hillary Clinton the first female leader of the Senate if she were to drop her presidential bid.

21. At present, there are 28 Democratic governors and 22 Republican governors. The Senate is equally balanced with 49 Democrats and Republicans, and the two Independents who align with the Democrats give them control of this chamber of congress. Democrats hold a 30-seat advantage over Republicans in the House of Representatives.
22. Pat Buchanan is an ordained reverend, and has long been a member of the religious right. In 1983 he insisted that "AIDS was God's wrath upon those who did not live by His rules."
23. Leaders of the terrorist group al Qaeda have released an audio or video of propaganda on average twice a year. While the specifics of the content vary, and nothing concrete with Osama bin Laden has emerged since 2004.
24. As the mayor of New York, and earlier as a high ranking official in the cities police department, Giuliani would develop a reputation for being tough on crime.
25. Giuliani is socially liberal in leaning. He is in favor of same-gender civil unions which carry the same status as marriage. He is pro-choice on abortion and supports limited gun control.
26. Romney has regularly supported the inclusion of 'intelligent design' in school classrooms. McCain has only once, in 2005, made such a statement, to a "far right" (conservative) audience. All other candidates have steadfastly supported keeping this concept out of the scientific realm.
27. Newt Gingrich has long advocated in favor of minimal government influence in daily lives of people. He is in favor for a strong national defense and maintains a tough-minded realism in foreign policy matters.
28. One month before the election, Senator Clinton arrives in California half a day before Senator McCain changes his schedule to campaign in a different part of the state.
29. Many people, most often infrequently-voting liberals, tire of the regular dominance of the Republican and Democratic parties in American politics.
30. Pat Buchanan preaches fear in every campaign stop and in every political advertisement. He tells people who to be afraid of and how he will deal with those whom they fear. Three elections ago it was fear of the Communists and Socialists. In 2000 it was the "un-churched", and in 2007 it was fear of immigrants and xenophobia (fear of strangers)
31. Clinton, Obama, McCain and Giuliani are all against the use of Earmarks/Pork-barrel projects. Romney verbally supported President Bush Jr's signing into law a June 2005 bill which contained 6,126 earmarks. While in Congress Gingrich approved of limited earmarks, but he has been removed from Congress long enough that there is not a recent record of his support or disapproval of the practice.
32. Clinton and Giuliani are very popular in New York state; Clinton, Obama and McCain are very popular in California; Buchanan and Giuliani are popular in Texas.
33. In the Presidential debates, there was no clear winner between Clinton and McCain. The third party candidates were not invited to participate in the debates.
34. To receive "federal matching funds" (that is, the federal government will pay to the political party an equal amount to what the party spends in an election), the political party must receive at least 5% of the nationwide vote from the previous presidential election. Of the third parties, the Green Party received 3.87% in 2000 and 2.98% in 2004. None of the other third parties received even one full percent.
35. McCain and Romney are in favor of drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Clinton, Obama, Giuliani, and Gingrich have consistently been against it.
36. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the popular governor of California, campaigns actively in his state on behalf of McCain and Giuliani.

37. Senator Clinton worked with Republican Senator Lindsey Graham to expand government health insurance to members of the National Guard and reserves, which the Pentagon had opposed.
38. Clinton, a longtime liberal, has in 2006 cosponsored a flag burning ban, a ban she would later vote against. She has also not renounced her pro-Iraq war vote.
39. Clinton, Obama, McCain and Giuliani have all written nationally bestselling books. Clinton has also been the recipient of numerous books denouncing her as well as books in her support.
40. Should bilingual education be eliminated from the public schools? Democrats say 'No', Republicans 'Yes', although both McCain and Giuliani side with the Democrats, and Buchanan is siding with the mainstream Republican position.
41. McCain is viewed as a "hawk" or "neocon" regarding his approach to foreign policy.
42. Pat Buchanan is endorsed by the Minutemen...vigilantes who patrol the northern and southern United States borders searching for illegal entrants into the country.
43. Republicans have continued their hard line stand against Cuba, which has been controlled by the Castro brothers (and at odds with the United States) since 1959. Clinton has a cautious approach, wanting to remove the sanctions levied against the island, but hesitant to do so for fear of a political response.
44. In the 2000 Presidential election, 52% of the voters were women. It was 48% in the 2004 election. In the 2002 Midterm elections, single women supported Republicans 32% of the time; married women voted Republican 58% of the time.
45. Vince Foster is a retired Navy Admiral from the Vietnam conflict (he never saw military action, although he claims to have done so).
46. David Richardson does not believe in campaigning with technology; his campaign will rely upon signs, door-to-door introductions and word-of-mouth get out the vote efforts.
47. The Democratic National Convention (essentially a week-long Democratic feel-good festival where they formally announce their candidates) will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with a theme recalling the Founding Fathers. The Republican Convention will be held in Orange County, California, revolving around the theme of Americana.
48. Clinton and McCain have long been in tension with the base (majority beliefs within their party) of their respective political parties.
49. President Bush's efforts to get tax cuts fail in the Democrat-controlled Congress. McCain, Giuliani and Buchanan are all in favor of tax cuts.
50. The Congress passes federal minimum wage increases in spite of the Presidents reluctance to support such a measure. All party candidates who are presently in Congress vote in favor of it. Their vote is consistent with their historical voting pattern on this topic. Gingrich voted 'No' on a similar minimum wage increase in 1997, but does not have a vote on the record since.
51. Consider the electoral college map in order to derive campaign strategy:



ELECTORAL COLLEGE MAP

