## American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course Guided Reading

Section 11.1: What Is Public Opinion?

	Name Date	_Class
Before you read		
Before reading this section, take a moment to read tencounter.	he Learning Target and vo	cabulary terms you will
Learning Target: Define public opinion.		
AP® Key Concepts public opinion		

#### While you read

Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.

Characteristics of public opinion	Effect on government	Examples

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#### After you read

Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.

- 1. Public opinion can be defined as:
  - A. how average Americans view the president.
  - B. the sum of individual attitudes about government, policies, and issues.
  - C. the feelings of individuals about what issues are important to them.
  - D. the views of Americans on how well they feel they are represented.
- 2. Travis is looking to get involved with a social movement that aligns with his values. Travis firmly believes that racism is an issue in America, especially when it comes to police-community interactions. Which social movement should Travis get involved with?
  - A. Me Too
  - B. Black Lives Matter
  - C. Equality for Women
  - D. Open Borders for All
- 3. Following the fatal shooting of Michael Brown by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, the Pew Research Center conducted a survey asking what the perception was of issues regarding race. Which is a result of the survey?
  - A. Most of the African American respondents stated that the shooting brought up important issues about race.
  - B. Most of the white respondents stated that the shooting highlighted important race issues in the country.
  - C. Most of the African American respondents stated that the shooting was being publicized more than necessary.
  - D. Most of the white respondents did not feel that the shooting and the issue of race were being publicized enough.
- 4. What was the main idea behind football players in the National Football League kneeling for the national anthem?
  - A. a tribute to fallen heroes.
  - B. a protest against income inequality.
  - C. a protest against racism, especially in police-community relations.
  - D. a protest against President Donald Trump.

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- 5. Which statement BEST summarizes the findings in a Pew Center survey on the perception of whether racism is a big problem?
  - A. More Republicans than Democrats view racism as a big problem.
  - B. More whites than blacks view racism as a big problem.
  - C. More high-income respondents than low-income respondents view racism as a big problem.
  - D. More Democrat-leaning respondents than Republican-leaning respondents view racism as a big problem.
- 6. Public opinion involves two components, one of which is:
  - A. the beliefs and attitudes of one specific demographic.
  - B. the beliefs and attitudes of only those who have well-informed views.
  - C. the beliefs and attitudes of an individual.
  - D. the beliefs and attitudes of a handful of American citizens.
- 7. Why is public opinion crucial to the functioning of a representative democracy?
  - A. It allows candidates and elected officials to know what platforms to run on.
  - B. It gives elected officials a better idea of what their constituents want.
  - C. It provides insight for a candidate into the likelihood of being voted into a position.
  - D. It gives elected officials an idea of who their constituents are.
- 8. Which statement BEST describes an argument regarding the significance of public opinion on American political life?
  - A. Average citizens do not have the ability to express meaningful opinions on all of the issues facing the country.
  - B. Not everyone cares about all the issues facing the country today, and they have no interest in learning.
  - C. Average citizens do not need to have an opinion on all of the issues facing the country today.
  - D. Public opinion generally does not have an impact on American politics due to the lack of knowledge of most of the Americans surveyed.
- 9. Which group is MOST likely to have a gap in factual knowledge about the American government?
  - A. older white Americans
  - B. high-income Americans
  - C. highly-educated African Americans
  - D. young, low-income African Americans
- 10. What percentage of Americans knew who the Speaker of the House was, according to a Pew Research Center survey?
  - A. 37 percent
  - B. 44 percent
  - C. 47 percent
  - D. 62 percent

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- 11. How can Benjamin Page and Robert Shapiro's hypothesis be summarized?
  - A. Americans can develop a better opinion on issues by talking to others.
  - B. Americans can form opinions on every issue with basic research.
  - C. The news media is the best way for Americans to develop well-informed opinions.
  - D. Americans can be collectively rational even if there are inconsistent opinions at the individual level.

12. Heather is a Republican and is voting in the upcoming election. Heather has not had a chance to do much		
research on the policies supported by each candidate on the ballot, so Heather will likely vote for the		
candidates.		