

# POS 4204 - Political Behavior Final Examination

## Directions

(Supplied to students before completing their answers through the online interface)

You have 180 minutes to complete three separate essay prompts. You must be connected to a webcam for the duration of the examination. For each prompt that is posed, you enter in your answer in the text box below that prompt. The best responses will incorporate accurate information using details learned from the course materials. Talking about some of the specific authors with important ideas relevant to each specific prompt will help to demonstrate mastery of the course materials.

Once you complete a prompt, you click to continue to another prompt. After completing the three prompts assigned to you, you can submit your answers for grading.

**Each answer should be in the form of an essay with a clear beginning, middle, and end. The final exam is closed note, closed book, closed lecture, and closed external online resource.**

You are about to take a video-monitored assessment. You must take this assessment on a desktop or laptop computer (tablets or other mobile devices are not permitted). Before you click the "Take the proctored quiz" button, you must to do the following:

- Have your current UCF ID card or other government issued photo ID card ready.
- Test that your computer and webcam are working properly.
- Ensure you have a reliable Internet connection.
- Turn on your webcam and keep it on for the duration of the quiz.
- At all times, sit straight in front of the webcam and ensure the camera is pointed to capture your face and the surrounding area of the room behind you.
- As soon as you begin your proctored session, hold up your government issued ID so that both the card and your face are clearly visible on screen. Hold the card for a minimum of five full seconds before beginning the quiz.
- For questions or assistance, please contact Online@UCF Support (407) 823-0407 or onlinesupport@ucf.edu.

## Prompt One - Ten Points

*(Every student in the course received this specific prompt)*

What is meant when scholars suggest the electorate is polarized? What compelling evidence is there that the public has become more polarized politically across time? What compelling evidence is there that the public has **not** become more polarized politically across time?

## Prompt Two - Fifteen Points

*(Students were assigned one of these two potential prompts at random)*

A: What are heuristics, and why do many individuals use them when making political decisions or taking political actions? Describe the potential role the mass media can play in the usage of heuristics by individual citizens.

B: Assess whether individual personality traits can influence the political behavior of citizens. What evidence is there that personality traits are an important variable in predicting individual political behavior?

## **Prompt Three - Fifteen Points**

*(Students were assigned one of these two potential prompts at random)*

A: What are the various ways in which economic factors shape the political behavior of citizens in the United States? Analyze the perspective that economic factors are the primary determinant of the political choices made by individuals. Is there overwhelming evidence in support of this perspective?

B: What are the general overall trends regarding political participation levels of the mass public in the United States? Which groups in the country are more likely to participate than others? Which factors discussed in the course help to lower political participation levels?