

1. As the text suggests, “power” is the ability to carry out your will in spite of resistance. More simply, it is the ability to get others to do what you want them to do. The most extreme test of this ability is the situation where the other doesn’t want to comply. Your control over others (or vice versa) is typically the result of your access to one or more of the “power bases” listed below. For each of the following major categories, identify someone who has this type of power over you (or you over them), and elaborate more specifically the nature of the resources that give them this power (e.g., what kinds of rewards, etc.). Also suggest how you might reduce the amount of power they have in each instance.
 - (a) reward
 - (b) coercive
 - (c) referent
 - (d) expert
 - (e) legitimate

2. Identify the main idea(s) of the following terms: (Provide examples where possible)
 - (a) micropolitics versus macropolitics
 - (b) authority versus coercion
 - (c) revolution
 - (d) monarchy versus democracy
 - (e) direct democracy versus representative democracy
 - (f) universal citizenship
 - (g) dictatorship versus oligarchy
 - (h) proportional representation
 - (i) centrist versus noncentrist parties
 - (j) special interest group versus political action committees
 - (k) checks and balances system

3. Max Weber suggested that there are 3 major types of authority. For each of the three types, identify its main characteristics, where it is most likely to occur, and major advantages and/or disadvantages that may be associated with it.
 - (a) traditional authority
 - (b) rational-legal authority
 - (c) charismatic authorityUsing Weber's categories, how would you characterize political authority in the United States? Elaborate.

4. In what major ways are the political systems of the United States and European countries similar and different?

5. Compare the functionalist theory and conflict theory perspectives on political power in America. Include major concepts and theories that are used to understand these perspectives. Which position do you think more accurately represents the way American system works today? Elaborate.

6. Which categories of Americans are more likely to vote, and which less likely? What explanation(s) would account for these patterns? How can general voter apathy (i.e., about 58% voted in 2004, see Table 15.1) be explained? What, if anything, could increase the proportion of Americans who vote?

7. Recent advances in communications technology (e.g., the Internet) could make “televoting” technically possible. That is, individuals could vote electronically from their homes, and elect candidates by a form of direct instead of our current representative democratic process. Briefly identify the major advantages and disadvantages of such a system, and decide whether this would be a better approach to voting.