

**THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT IN U.S. POLITICS**  
***Midterm Exam Review Questions, Wilcox Chapters 1-5***

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**DIRECTIONS**

- *Two* of these five review questions will appear on your exam. Your essay may address *either one*.
- To receive full credit, your exam essay should be written in well-organized paragraphs composed of complete sentences expressed in standard English.
  - **BEGIN YOUR ESSAY WITH AN INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH (SIMPLY REWRITE THE ESSAY QUESTION IN YOUR OWN WORDS). THIS PARAGRAPH SHOULD LIST ALL THE MAJOR POINTS THAT YOUR ESSAY WILL ADDRESS.**
  - **CONTINUE WITH A BODY OF PARAGRAPHS (ANSWERING EACH OF THE MAJOR POINTS RAISED IN THE ESSAY QUESTION).**
  - **END WITH A CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH (SUMMARIZING THE MAJOR POINTS COVERED). THIS PARAGRAPH SHOULD LIST ALL THE MAJOR POINTS THAT YOUR ESSAY ADDRESSED.**
- You may *not* use any notes or dictionaries to assist you in your essay writing. However, I *will* be happy to answer during the exam any questions you may have about spelling, punctuation, grammar, and syntax.
- You will *not* need to bring a "blue book" -- a test booklet will be provided. I prefer that you write your essay in *pencil* so that you can more neatly make changes while writing or correct any errors that you discover with proof reading.

**STUDY HINTS**

- **INSTEAD OF TRYING TO MEMORIZE A COMPLETE ESSAY FOR ANY OF THE FIVE TOPICS, MEMORIZE AN OUTLINE.** Locate the section of the chapter outline that addresses each of the five topics and construct an outline for each. Review your textbook readings and class notes to expand the detail in each essay's outline.
- Make sure that each outline addresses each point raised in its respective essay question. Each of the five essay questions raises four to six major points.
- The first thing to do during the exam is to choose one of the two essay topics. The second thing to do is to write down as complete an outline as possible -- making sure that it addresses every major point raised. **IT IS A BIG MISTAKE TO BEGIN TO WRITE YOUR ESSAY WITHOUT FIRST WRITING A GOOD OUTLINE.**

**GRADING**

- The essay portion of the exam is worth a total of 100 points. A maximum of 80 points will be awarded for *content*. **IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS EVERY POINT RAISED IN THE ESSAY TOPIC YOU SELECT THAN IT IS TO COVER FEWER POINTS IN GREATER DETAIL.**
- A maximum of 20 points will be awarded for *presentation*. **MAKE SURE TO BUDGET ADEQUATE TIME TO THOROUGHLY PROOF READ YOUR ESSAY BEFORE TURNING IT IN.** Significant points will be subtracted for obvious errors such as subject-verb disagreement, confusion of plurals and possessives, and misspelling of commonly used words.

1. **(Chapter 1)** Discuss *positive and negative views of the Religious Right in U.S. politics* by addressing the following points –
  - On what grounds do defenders of the Christian Right conclude that it is a *needed and defensive* movement?
  - On what grounds do critics of the Christian Right conclude that it is a *dangerous and offensive* movement?
  - What *legitimate goals* are claimed by the Christian Right.
  - Critics of the Christian Right claim that it pursues what *alternate and illegitimate goals*?
  - Define *pluralist democracy*. In such a pluralist democracy, what *Constitutional norms* must its leaders and members respect?
  - Critics charge the Christian Right with violating these *Constitutional norms* in what fashion?
2. **(Chapter 2)** Discuss *theological divisions within the Christian Right* by addressing the following points –
  - Identify *Fundamentalist* beliefs concerning:
    - Separatism
    - Premillennialism
    - Dispensationalism
    - Literal interpretation of the Bible
    - Name a major contemporary Fundamentalist religious leader.
  - Identify *Pentecostal* beliefs concerning:
    - Religious gifts of the Holy Spirit
    - Dispensationalism
    - Style of worship
    - Charismatic outreach
    - Name a major contemporary Pentecostal religious leader.
  - Identify *Neoevangelical* beliefs concerning:
    - On what theological points do Neoevangelicals *agree* with Fundamentalists?
    - On what theological points do Neoevangelicals *disagree* with Fundamentalists?
    - How do these *theological* similarities and differences effect the *political* beliefs of Neoevangelicals compared to Fundamentalists?
    - Name a major contemporary Neoevangelical religious leader.
3. **(Chapter 3)** Discuss *the major organizations of the Christian Right in the 1990s* by addressing the following points –
  - For each of the four Christian Right organizations that have a widespread grassroots presence, describe its:
    - Leadership
    - Organization
    - Political focus
  - For each of the four Christian Right organizations that lack a widespread grassroots presence, describe its:
    - Leadership
    - Organization
    - Political focus
  - Give the names of three of the four contemporary organizations that Wilcox characterized as *fellow travelers* of the Christian Right in the 1990s.
  - Give the names of three of the four contemporary organizations that are commonly opposed to Christian Right initiatives in the political arena.
4. **(Chapter 4)** Assess *the political agenda of the Christian Right in the 1990s* by addressing the following points –
  - Identify eight of the ten goals listed in the Christian Coalition's *Contract With the American Family*.
  - What two major goals of Christian Right ideologues were omitted from this *Contract*? Why?
  - Describe the positions of Christian Right ideologues and pragmatists on the follow issues:
    - Abortion
    - Sex education in the public schools
    - Prayer in the public schools
    - Home-school and private-school voucher options to public schools
    - Gay & lesbian rights
    - Public welfare
    - Pornography
  - According to Wilcox, what dilemma facing the Christian Right will have the greatest impact on its future in U.S. politics?
5. **(Chapter 5)** Evaluate *the prospects that the Christian Right will significantly expand its political power* by addressing the following points –
  - Discuss why, according to Wilcox, is it unlikely that the Christian Right will seize power by capturing control of the Republican party.
  - Describe the three major barriers that Wilcox argues impede the expansion of the Christian Right.
  - Evaluate the two arguments that Wilcox offers to support his prediction that the successes of the Christian Right will be only marginal to their core agenda.
  - Identify two of the three examples that Wilcox offers of "marginal successes" that the Christian Right either has already achieved or can realistically expect to achieve.