**Chapter 6-Voters and Voter Behavior**

**Section One: The Right to Vote** **(pg. 152-155)**

***Main Idea:***Successful democratic government depends on the participation of its citizens through voting. The history of the United States has been marked by a steady expansion of the electorate through the elimination of restrictions on voting qualifications.

**The History of Voting Rights**

To whom did the Framers of the Constitution leave the power to set suffrage?

Which group of people made up the electorate when the Constitution went into effect in 1789?

Today, how many Americans make up the electorate?

Identify and summarize the five stages of extending suffrage to most Americans.

**The Power to Set Voting Qualifications**

Describe the five restrictions placed on States when setting voting qualifications.

**Chapter 6–Voters and Voter Behavior**

**Section Two: Voter Qualifications** **(pg. 156-163)**

***Main Idea:***All states have citizenship, residence, and age requirements for voting. Other voting qualifications differ from State to State. Some requirements – especially those that were used to disenfranchise certain groups – have been eliminated.

**Universal Requirements**

What are the three factors used to determine voter eligibility?

Explain why establishing residency requirement are important.

**Other Requirements**

Why is registration required for voting in most states?

What role did the literacy test play in elections before 1970?

What was the grandfather clause of the literacy test?

What role did the poll tax play in elections before 1966?

**Chapter 6 – Voters and Voter Behavior**

**Section Three: Suffrage and Civil Rights** (pg. 164-168)

***Main Idea:***The 15th amendment declared that the right to vote cannot be denied on account of race. Nevertheless, a variety of tactics were used in southern States to disenfranchise African Americans. The Supreme Court struck down a number of efforts, and, beginning in the 1950s, Congress passed laws to protect minority voting rights.

**The Fifteenth Amendment**

***Describe*** the purpose of the 15th Amendment?

***Identify*** and describe several of the ways, Southerners tried to prevent African Americans from voting following the 15th Amendment?

***Define*** the term ***gerrymandering*** and ***identify*** the Supreme Court case that ended the practice?

***Define*** the term ***white primary*** and ***identify*** the Supreme Court case that ended the practice?

**Early Civil Rights Legislation**

***Describe*** the goal of the Civil Rights Act of 1957?

***Describe*** the goal of the Civil Rights Act of 1960?

**The Civil Rights Act of 1964**

***Describe*** the goal of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

**The Voting Rights Act of 1965**

What did the Voting Rights Act of 1965 do?

**Chapter 6 – Voters and Voter Behavior**

**Section 4-Voter Behavior**

**Section 4: Voter Behavior**

***Main Idea:***Low voter turnout is a serious problem in this country. Among those who do vote, sociological and psychological factors work together to influence voter behavior over time and in particular elections.

**The Size of the Problem**

How many Americans were eligible to vote in the 2000 elections?

How many actually voted for president? What percentage is that?

How many voters cast ballots for U.S. Representatives in the 2000 election? What percentage is that?

How many voters cast ballots for U.S. Representatives in the 1998 off-year election? What percentage is that?

**Why People do not Vote**

Who are the “cannot-vote” nonvoters?

Who are the actual nonvoters?

What is political efficacy?

What are some other factors affecting voter turnout?

Who are the people most likely to vote?

Which characteristics make a person unlikely to vote?

**Sociological Factors**

What are the sociological factors that influence voting behavior?

**Psychological Factors**

How does party identification affect the likelihood someone will vote?

What is the difference between straight-ticket and split-ticket voting?

Identify and describe the two most important short-term factors that determine voter behavior.