

淡江大學九十四學年度碩士班招生考試試題¹⁸¹

系別：美國研究所

科目：英文寫作

* 不准帶字典、計算機

准帶項目請打「V」

簡單型計算機

本試題共 2 頁

本試題雙面印

The Irony of American Democracy

by Thomas R. Dye and Harmon Zeigler

Elites in the United States share a consensus about the fundamental values of private property, limited government, individual liberty, and due process of law. Moreover, since the Roosevelt era, American elites have generally supported liberal, public-regarding social-welfare programs, including social security, fair labor standards, unemployment compensation, a progressive income tax, a federally aided welfare system, governmental regulation of public utilities, and countercyclical fiscal and monetary policies. Today elite consensus also includes a commitment to equality of opportunity for black Americans and desire to remove direct discrimination from the law.

The prevailing philosophy of the American elite is liberal and public-regarding, with a willingness to take the welfare of others into account as part of one's own well-being and a willingness to use governmental power to correct perceived wrongs done to others. It is a philosophy of noblesse oblige—elite responsibility for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden, particularly blacks. Traditionally the liberal elite has believed that it could change people's lives—end discrimination, abolish poverty, eliminate slums, ensure employment, uplift the poor, eliminate sickness, educate the masses, and instill dominant cultural values in everyone. America's masses do not widely share this philosophy.

Leadership for liberal reform has always come from the upper social classes—usually from established old family segments of the elite, rather than the newly rich, self-made segments. Before the Civil War, abolitionist leaders were "descended from old and socially dominant Northeastern families" and were clearly distinguished from the new industrial leaders of that era. Later, when the children and grandchildren of the rugged individualists of the Industrial Revolution inherited positions of power, they turned away from the social-Darwinist philosophy of their parents and moved toward the public-regarding ideas of the New Deal. Liberalism was championed not by the working class but by men like Franklin D. Roosevelt, Adlai Stevenson, Averell Harriman, and John F. Kennedy.

The liberal, public-regarding character of the U.S. elite defies simplistic Marxian interpretations of American politics; wealth, education, sophistication, and upper-class cultural values foster attitudes of public service and do-goodism. Liberal elites are frequently paternalistic toward segments of the masses they define as "underprivileged," "culturally deprived," and "disadvantaged," but they are seldom hostile toward them. Indeed, hostility toward blacks is more characteristic of white masses than of white elites.

The liberal philosophy of noblesse oblige leads inevitably to a sense of national responsibility for the welfare of the world. The missionary spirit of liberalism strives to bring freedom—self-determination, civil liberty, limited government, and private enterprise—to all peoples of the world. America's major wars of the twentieth century occurred during the administrations of liberal Democratic presidents: Wilson (World War I), Roosevelt (World War II), Truman (Korea), and Kennedy and Johnson (Vietnam). The United States fought both world wars to "make the world safe for democracy." Following World War II, the nation embarked upon a policy of worldwide involvement in the internal and external affairs of nations in an effort to halt the expansion of communism. The "good" that liberal U.S. leadership seeks to do throughout the world is neither appreciated nor understood by the elites and masses of many nations. The result has been a great deal of bloodshed and violence committed by well-meaning liberal administrations for the finest of motives.

But the public regardingness of America's liberal elite is not confidence in the wisdom or judgment of the people. On the contrary, despite popular Democratic rhetoric about the "common sense" of the American people, few elites have much confidence in the ability of the masses to know what is good for them.

Congress members, perhaps because they are elected by the people, appear to have somewhat more confidence in mass judgment than other elites in Washington. (At least, Congress members believe the people made the right choice on election day.) Yet fewer than one-third of Congress members believe the American people know enough to form wise opinions on public issues. Non-elected elites have far less confidence in the wisdom of the people (or they are more honest in their responses because they are not subject to popular election). Over three-quarters of top executive and bureaucratic elites in Washington do not believe that the American public can form wise opinions on public issues.

◀ 注意背面尚有試題 ▶

淡江大學九十四學年度碩士班招生考試試題¹³³²

系別：美國研究所

科目：英文寫作

准帶項目請打「V」

簡單型計算機

本試題共 頁

Part A: Reading Comprehension Skills (50 pts total)

Instructions: CAREFULLY READ THE ARTICLE, "THE IRONY OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY," BY THOMAS R. DYE AND HARMON ZEIGLER. BELOW ARE FIVE QUESTIONS BASED ON THAT ARTICLE. IN YOUR OWN WORDS AND USING GOOD ENGLISH, ANSWER ALL FIVE QUESTIONS FULLY AND COMPLETELY. ALTHOUGH THIS PART EXAMINES YOUR COMPREHENSION ABILITY, BE SURE TO WRITE INTELLIGIBLY ALONG WITH PROPER SPELLING.

1. Explain how simplistic Marxian interpretations of American politics can be misleading. (10 pts)
2. How would you describe liberal reforms in America? What change took place after the Civil War? (10 pts)
3. How does this article explain the differences between American elites and the American masses? (10 pts)
4. What is the dominant philosophy of the American elite? What term do Dye and Zeigler (the authors) use to describe it? What are its implications, domestically and globally? (10 pts)
5. What do you think Dye and Zeigler meant by the irony of American democracy? (10 pts)

Part B: Composition and Writing Skills (50 pts total)

Instructions: THIS PART EXAMINES YOUR ABILITY TO WRITE AND DEVELOP SENTENCES AND PARAGRAPHS IN ENGLISH. IT IS AN EVALUATION OF YOUR ABILITY TO WRITE WITH MEANING AND PURPOSE AS WELL AS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE RULES AND STRUCTURE OF THE LANGUAGE. IN THIS PART, THE FOLLOWING FIVE AREAS WILL DETERMINE YOUR SCORE: 1) VOCABULARY AND THE USAGE OF WORDS; 2) SPELLING; 3) GRAMMAR; 4) LOGIC AND THE SEQUENCING OF YOUR IDEAS; AND 5) CONTENT AND SUBSTANCE.

1. In your own words write a one-paragraph summary of the article, "The Irony of American Democracy." (25 pts)
2. Based on the article you just read explain in one paragraph why you think American democracy is liberal, conservative, or elitist. (25 pts)