

Pre-Class Questionnaire

Please circle your response.

1. How worried are you about the size of the Federal debt?

Very worried Somewhat worried Not too worried Not at all worried

2. What effects do you think that growing Federal debt will have on America's economy? Very harmful Somewhat harmful A little harmful Not harmful at all Don't know

2. What effects do you think that growing Federal debt will have on your personal economic well-being in the coming decades?

Very harmful Somewhat harmful A little harmful Not harmful at all
Don't know

3. Approximately how large do you think the Federal debt is currently?

\$100 billion \$1 trillion \$10 trillion \$50 trillion

4. Approximately what percentage of the current Federal budget do you think goes to pay for Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security costs?

10% 24% 42% 80%

5. Approximately what percentage of the current Federal budget do you think goes to defense spending, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

60% 40% 20% 10%

5. Approximately what percent of the budget do you think that the U.S. government will pay in interest on the national debt in 2008?

2% 9% 12% 15%

6. Given your personal situation do you think that taxes are

Too high About right Too low Don't know

7. Given the nation's needs, do you think that taxes (or federal revenues) are

Too high About right Too low Don't know

Please tell us about yourself:

1. Are you: An undergraduate student A graduate student
2. Are you: Male Female
3. What is your major field of study:
 Political science Public Policy/Administration Economics History Other
- 5) Are you from the: -Northeast -South -Midwest -Plains/Mountain States -West
- 6) Are you: African-American Hispanic Caucasian Asian-American Bi-racial Other

Post-Questionnaire

Now that you have spent some time learning and talking about the fiscal situation:

1. How worried are you about the size of the Federal debt?

Very worried Somewhat worried Not too worried Not at all worried

2. Approximately how large do you think the Federal debt and other unfunded government obligations are currently?

\$100 billion \$1 trillion \$10 trillion \$50+ trillion

3. Approximately what percentage of the current Federal budget do you think goes to pay for Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security costs?

10% 24% 42% 80%

4. Approximately what percentage of the current Federal budget do you think goes to defense spending, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

60% 40% 20% 10%

5. Approximately what percent of the budget do you think that the U.S. government will pay in interest on the national debt in 2008?

2% 9% 12% 15%

6. What do you think is the biggest contributor to growing national debt?

-Rising Health Care Costs -Defense Spending -Government Waste -Tax Policy

7. Which comes closer to your view:

- A) We must raise taxes in order to bring the federal debt under control
- B) The federal debt can be brought under control by cutting government spending
- C) We must both raise taxes and cut government spending in order to bring the federal debt under control

8. If the government needs to raise more revenues, I would support (you may circle more than one):

Increased income taxes fees Increased Social Security and Medicare taxes and fees
A new consumption tax Increased corporate taxes
New carbon and environmental taxes I do not support additional taxes

9. Which of the following reforms in the federal budget process would you support (you may circle more than one):

Stricter rules that all spending increases and tax cuts need to be balance (PAYGO)
Longer-term budgeting Making all spending "discretionary"
Greater performance-based budgeting Greater Presidential veto or
rescission power Don't know

10. What are the most significant facts that you have learned that have influenced your thinking on this subject?
