

Vice President Bush Cheney? History, current events quiz brings variety of responses

BY PAULINE CAMPBELL

2001 marks the beginning of a new era--an era in which Miss America contestants are judged not only on talent and beauty, but also U.S. history and current events. Not all of these young ladies did so well, so I became curious. How would RCHS students perform on a test that covered basic US history and current events?

Read on for the results, and ask yourself, "How would I do?"

The test, consisting of ten questions, was given to four English classes, one from each grade level. In total 107 students took the test.

The results were shocking. No one achieved a perfect score. The highest score, made by only one student, was nine.

Question 1: Who's the Vice President?

67% of the students knew that Dick Cheney was our Vice President. However, 7% thought that Al Gore had remained V.P. The most interesting answer I received was Bush Cheney, which is how they arrange campaign posters and

stickers.

Question 2: Name our two state senators.

An amazing 19% deemed Representative Hal Rodgers as one of our state senators. Only 5% identified both Mitch McConnell and Jim Bunning. The other 76% either didn't answer or answered incorrectly.

Question 3: What are the three branches of government?

Sixty-three percent of students knew all three: legislative, judicial, and executive. Excluding the 63% that knew all three, 10% answered legislative, 6% answered executive, and 12% answered judicial. 19% didn't answer the question.

Question 4: What Kentucky native was also named Miss America, two years ago?

The majority of students, 84% didn't bother to answer. Only 12% knew that Heather Renee French was Kentucky native. The remainder of students identified someone else.

Question 5: Recently, protesting Protestants harassed Catholic school children in what country?

The United States was a popular incorrect answer--at least 5% thought so. Most students, in fact 78%, didn't answer. Other countries such as Afghanistan and Israel, were given, 14% came up with these answers. Only 3% correctly responded with Ireland.

Question 6: Who has the power to declare war?

By far the largest percentage, 54%, answered the question with the president. Although the 24% that wrote Congress were correct, the remaining students left the question blank.

Question 7: Who is the prime suspect in the WTC attack?

4% knew that the suspect was hiding in Afghanistan. Osama bin Laden is the main suspect in the attack and 47% knew that. The other 49% left it blank.

Question 8: How many stripes are on the America flag?

12% gave an answer ranging from 3-50. 72% answered correctly when they wrote 13. 16% didn't answer.

Question 9: What do they stand for?

The most common answer, besides the 28% left blank, was the 36% that answered with the first 13 colonies. Freedom and other

answers like, blood shed and courage were given 25% of the time.

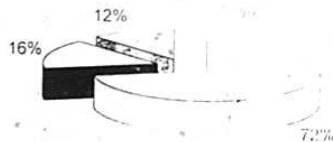
Question 10: Who was the Union general who also served as President?

Ulysses S. Grant was the Union general that served as President, but only 10% knew that. George Washington was a popular answer. Thirteen gave him credit. The unique answer I got was our present president, George Bush. The majority of people, 64%, left the question blank.

Although 29% of the students passed the test, 14 of them only scored a 60.

Question 8: How many stripes are on the United States flag?

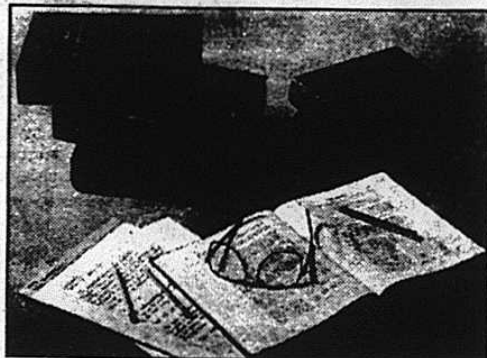
72% Correct 16% Didn't Respond 12% Incorrect



How would you do on such a test? Read on. The answers are located on the back page.

1. How many stars are on the flag?
2. What do they represent?
3. What event is remembered December 7?
4. What is Osama bin Laden's religion?
5. What is our nation's capital?

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"Education is a social process,
Education is growth.
Education is not a preparation for life,
It is life itself."
~John Dewey

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