

Collectivism vs. Individualism

- A **value** is a deeply held conviction or **belief** (a conviction that something is true). Values help explain the differing political and economic systems that are found throughout the world.
- Generally speaking, political and economic values centre on the degree to which the state should be involved in controlling people's lives.
- **Collectivism** places the needs of the collective or group before the needs of the individual.
- **Individualism** values the individual above the group.
- An **ideology** (See Pgs 5 & 448 of **Understandings of Ideologies**) is a set of beliefs and values that includes ideas about how the world works.

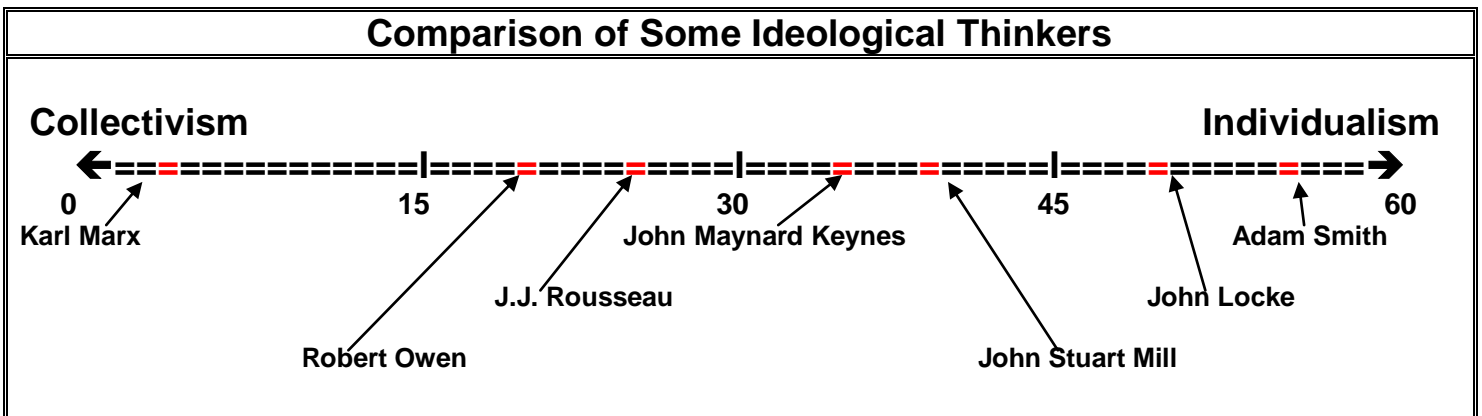
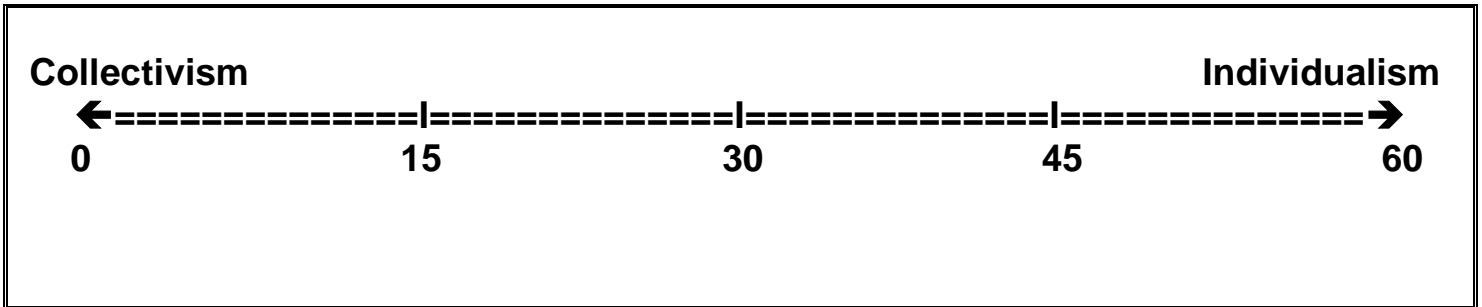
Collectivism or Individualism: Where Do You Fit?

Respond by recording a number that **best describes** how you feel **most of the time**.

0 – Often 1 – Sometimes 2 – Rarely

1.	I feel that most things run better if they are planned by a group of people rather than by one person.	0	1	2
2.	I feel that if people are not in it to win, they are not in it.			
3.	I feel that competition causes people to mistrust and fear one another and that co-operation is a much better way to achieve a goal.			
4.	I feel that people should take care of one another and be their "brother's keeper".			
5.	I feel that a person is the product of all the people he or she has met.			
6.	I feel that teamwork is ineffective because I believe that one team member always slacks off, leaving me to make up for someone else's laziness.			
7.	I feel that the buck stops with me and that I am responsible for my actions at all times.			
8.	I feel that, as a society, we would not be anywhere if people just did what they wanted.			
9.	I feel that my life is primarily directed by what I want to achieve for myself.			
10.	I feel that the most important thing in the world is for people to be themselves, even if other people disapprove of their actions.			
11.	I feel that people can accomplish anything when they agree on something			
12.	I feel that the money I earn belongs to me, and no one else, because I work hard for what I earn.			
13.	I feel that it is important that rules (at home, in school, and in life) should be obeyed for the good of everyone.			
14.	I feel that I should be speak up about unfair laws and rules and explain to others why they should be changed.			
15.	I feel that the wealthy minority in society should share its wealth with those who are less fortunate in order to solve some of society's problems.			
16.	I feel that life is about working hard and being "successful".			
17.	I feel that society is only as strong as its weakest link.			
18.	I feel that I should decide things for myself since nobody has the right to make decisions for me.			
19.	I feel that a person's sense of fulfillment comes mainly from personal accomplishments.			
20.	I feel that true personal happiness is found in doing things for others.			
TOTALS				

Add up your scores. Use the total to mark your place on the spectrum on page 2.



The Desire for Change

	Radical	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Reactionary
Radical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unhappy with the status quo (the way things are) • favour major change in society using violence if necessary 				
Liberal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • want some change • are interested in progress 				
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are generally satisfied with the status quo • are open to change if necessary and support compromise 				
Conservative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • want to keep the status quo • no change 				
Reactionary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • would like to change back to the way things used to be • may support the use of violence 				