

1 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

		0	1	2
1.	I feel that most things run better if they are planned by a group of people rather than by one person.			
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.

