

**To:** POSC 108: Race and Ethnic Politics

**From:** Loren Collingwood

**Subject:** Potential Midterm Questions

**Date:** February 1, 2019

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Three of the questions will be on the exam. Best of luck!

1. Stacey Abrams, a black woman, and Democrat, recently ran for and narrowly lost Georgia's governorship. She is the first Democrat to come this close to winning the governorship in quite some time. Taking a demographic change and racial coalitions perspective, explain why she nearly won and what some things she would have needed to accomplish in order to have won? You might consider examining exit polls in your response.
2. Republican George W. Bush supported comprehensive immigration reform, meaning that he supported the eventual pathway to citizenship for large portions of undocumented immigrants presently living in the United States. Fast forward 10 years and the GOP seems to be moving in a very different direction on immigration politics? Explain why we may have seen this shift across the two GOP presidents and also the two parties?
3. Political scientists routinely rely on party identification (PID) as the main explanation for why people vote the way they do. PID is conceptualized as something akin to a religion. However, many race scholars argue, suggesting that ethnic/racial attachment is just as more if not more relevant in explaining public opinion and voting outcomes. Take a stand and defend your position.
4. Why does the United States continue to see variation in turnout across the four major racial/ethnic populations: Latino, Black, Anglo, Asian/Pacific-Islander? What are the broad structural reasons to explain this?
5. In the latter years of his tenure as president, George W. Bush pushed for comprehensive immigration reform, which included a pathway to citizenship for those living in the country without papers. In response, most of the GOP base in Congress revolted pushing for a tightening/hardening of immigration legislation. In response to this, huge pro-immigrant protests erupted around the country in 2006. What does the text tell us about minority political participation beyond the voting booth? Is it effective? What role does group-threat play in activating the Latino vote?
6. Group consciousness and linked-fate have been shown to play a strong role in African-American voting behavior. First, describe these concepts and why they are so important in explaining black political behavior. Second, does group consciousness exude such an effect on Latino and Asian-American political behavior as it does amongst African-Americans? Why or why not?
7. The Democratic Party greatly relies upon the minority vote in order to win elections, and many analysts say that minority growth will doom the Republican Party. Still, the GOP remains strong, as they control the presidency, the Senate, the House, and the majority of state legislatures around the country. If minorities tend towards Democrats and are continuing to grow in size, why do Republicans continue to be so dominant in many areas of politics?