**Could You Survive?**

**TEST YOURSELF! How well would you survive in wealth, poverty or middle class? Circle the** **number of each item YOU know how to do.**

1. **I know which rummage sales have “bag sales” and when.**
2. **I know the best name brands in clothing.**
3. **I have several favorite restaurants in different countries of the world.**
4. **I know how to get a library card.**
5. **I know where the free medical clinics are.**
6. **I know how to use the different tools in my parents’ garage/basement.**
7. **I have at least two residences that are staffed and maintained.**
8. **I talk to my parents about going to college.**
9. **I know how to live without electricity and a phone.**
10. **I have at least two or three “screens” that keep people whom I do not wish to see, away from me.**
11. **I know which grocery stores have food samples and when they’re available.**
12. **I know how to get help with my homework when I need it.**
13. **I have friends who attend private schools.**
14. **I know how to use a knife as scissors.**
15. **I understand the difference among the net, gross and FICA amounts on my paycheck.**
16. **I can get by without a car.**
17. **I have worked on at least two community service projects.**
18. **I have been involved in at least one of these activities: Little League, piano lessons *(or some other type of music/art lessons),* soccer *(or some other sport or dance instruction).***
19. **I know how to order in a nice restaurant.**

**20. I know how to move in half a day.**

**Key:**

**2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 15, 18, 19 = Middle Class**

**3, 7, 10, 13, 17 = Wealth**

**1, 5, 9, 11, 14, 16, 20 = Poverty**

HIDDEN RULES AMONG CLASSES

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|  | **POVERTY** | **MIDDLE CLASS** | **WEALTH** |
| POSSESSIONS | People | Things | One-of-a-kind objects,  Legacies, pedigrees. |
| MONEY | To be used, spent. | To be managed. | To be conserved, invested. |
| PERSONALITY | Is for entertainment. Sense of humor is highly valued. | Is for acquisition and stability. Achievement is highly valued. | Is for connections. Financial, political, social connections are highly valued. |
| **SOCIAL EMPHASIS** | Social inclusion of people they like. | Emphasis is on self-governance and self-sufficiency. | Emphasis is on social exclusion. |
| FOOD | Key question: Did you have enough? Quantity important. | Key question: Did you like it? Quality important. | Key question: Was it presented well? Presentation important. |
| CLOTHING | Clothing valued for individual style and expression of personality. | Clothing valued for its quality and acceptance into norm of middle class. Label important. | Clothing valued for its artistic sense and expression. Designer important. |
| TIME | Present most important. Decisions made for moment based on feelings or survival. | Future most important. Decisions made against future ramifications. | Traditions and history most important. Decisions made partially on basis of tradition and decorum. |
| EDUCATION | Valued and revered as abstract but not as reality. | Crucial for climbing success ladder and making money. | Necessary tradition for making and maintaining connections. |
| DESTINY | Believes in fate. Cannot do much to mitigate chance. | Believes in choice. Can change future with good choices now. | Noblesse oblige. |
| LANGUAGE | Casual register. Language is about survival. | Formal register. Language is about negotiation. | Formal register. Language is about networking. |
| **FAMILY STRUCTURE** | Tends to be matriarchal. | Tends to be patriarchal. | Depends on who has money. |

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| WORLD VIEW | Sees world in terms of local setting. | Sees world in terms of national setting. | Sees world in terms of international view. |
| LOVE | Love and acceptance conditional, based upon whether individual is liked. | Love and acceptance conditional and based largely upon achievement. | Love and acceptance conditional and related to social standing and connections. |
| DRIVING FORCE | Survival, relationships, entertainment. | Work, achievement. | Financial, political, social connections. |