Discussion Questions: *“Public Opinion and American Democracy”* by V.O. Key

1. According to Key, what is perplexing about public opinion and democracy?
2. What does the excerpt suggest regarding sample surveys and sampling procedures?
3. What does the author suggest regarding the power structure’s view of the public?
4. Describe some of the “restraints” that Key considers to be important with regard to public opinion?
5. Explain how socioeconomics impacts governance and public opinion according to the article.
6. What does Key mean by, “The mystique of democracy has in it no place for ruling classes.”? Explain.
7. What are “opinion dikes”?
8. Explain what Key suggests regarding “permissive consensus”?
9. What does Key suggest with regard to “corruption of the masses”?