

‘Obnoxious and Disliked’ and the ‘Bastard Orphan’

1776 and *Hamilton*’s Role in Shaping Individuals’ Knowledge of John Adams’s and Alexander Hamilton’s Contribution to the Creation of the American Standards of Governance

Heather Cook

Advised by Dr. Beatrice Adams and Dr. Megan Wrobel

The Departments of History and Political Science



How does 1776 and Hamilton shape individuals’ knowledge of John Adams’s and Alexander Hamilton’s contribution to the creation of the standards of governance in the United States?

Perception Hypotheses

- **H_{2a}**: Watching *1776* will provide individuals with a more positive perception of John Adams and his contributions to the creation of the American standards of governance.
 - **REJECTED**
- **H_{2b}**: Watching *Hamilton* will provide individuals with a more positive perception of Alexander Hamilton and his contributions to the creation of the American standards of governance.
 - **REJECTED**

Knowledge Hypotheses

- **H_{1a}**: Watching *1776* will provide individuals with increased knowledge about John Adams’s contribution to creating the American standards of governance.
 - **CONFIRMED**
- **H_{1b}**: Watching *Hamilton* will provide individuals with increased knowledge about Alexander Hamilton’s contribution to creating the American standards of governance.
 - **CONFIRMED**

Literature Review and Historiography

- **American Revolution Historiography**:
 - Imperialists
 - Progressives
 - neo-Whigs
- **Political Knowledge and Education**:
 - Political knowledge has decreased
 - Self-Selection bias
- **Political Perception and Film**:
 - Film creates perceived experiences
 - Reflects public opinions of government

Pre-Test and Post-Test Method

- A Pre-Test survey was conducted prior to watching film clips from *1776* and *Hamilton* which measured prior knowledge, preconceived perceptions, demographics, and news interaction.
- 30 minutes of *1776* film clips were viewed.
- A Post-Test survey regarding knowledge and perception of John Adams using the questions from the Pre-Test was conducted.
- 30 minutes of *Hamilton* film clips were viewed.
- A Post-Test survey regarding knowledge and perception of Alexander Hamilton using the questions from the Pre-Test was conducted.

Knowledge Results

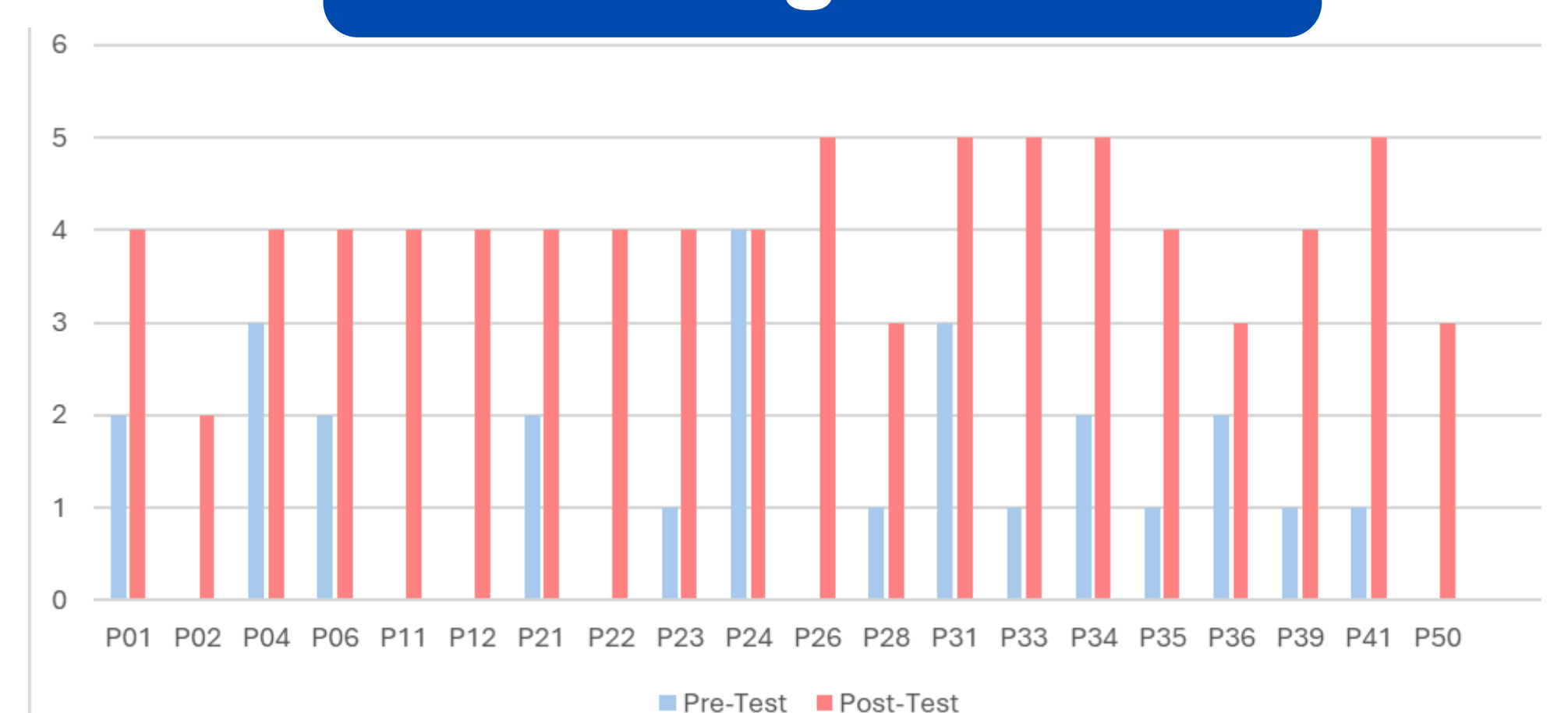


Figure 5.4 Pre-Test and Post-Test Answers by Participant for 1776 Survey Questions

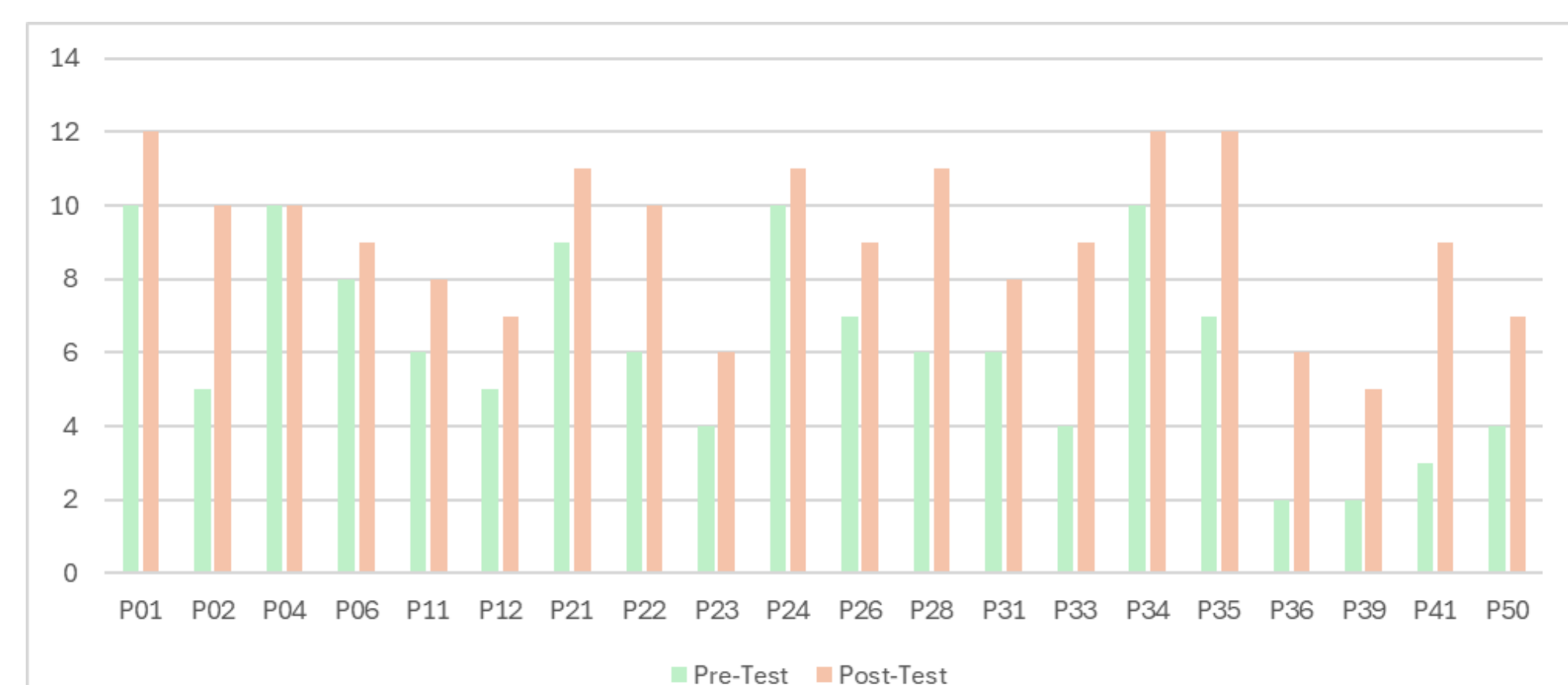


Figure 5.5 Pre-Test and Post-Test Answers by Participant for *Hamilton* Survey Questions



Perception Results

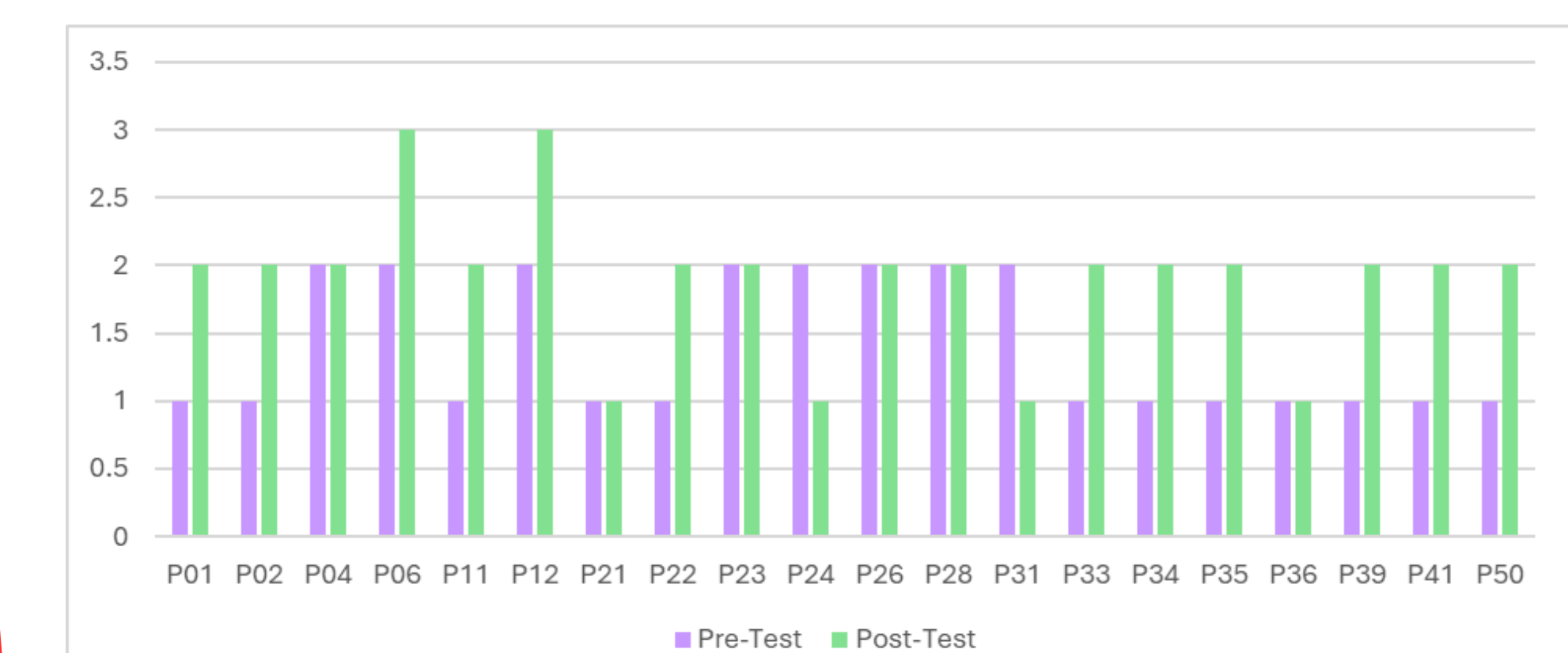


Figure 5.7 Pre-Test and Post-Test results of John Adams Perception Data where 1 is neutral, 2 is positive, and 3 is extremely positive

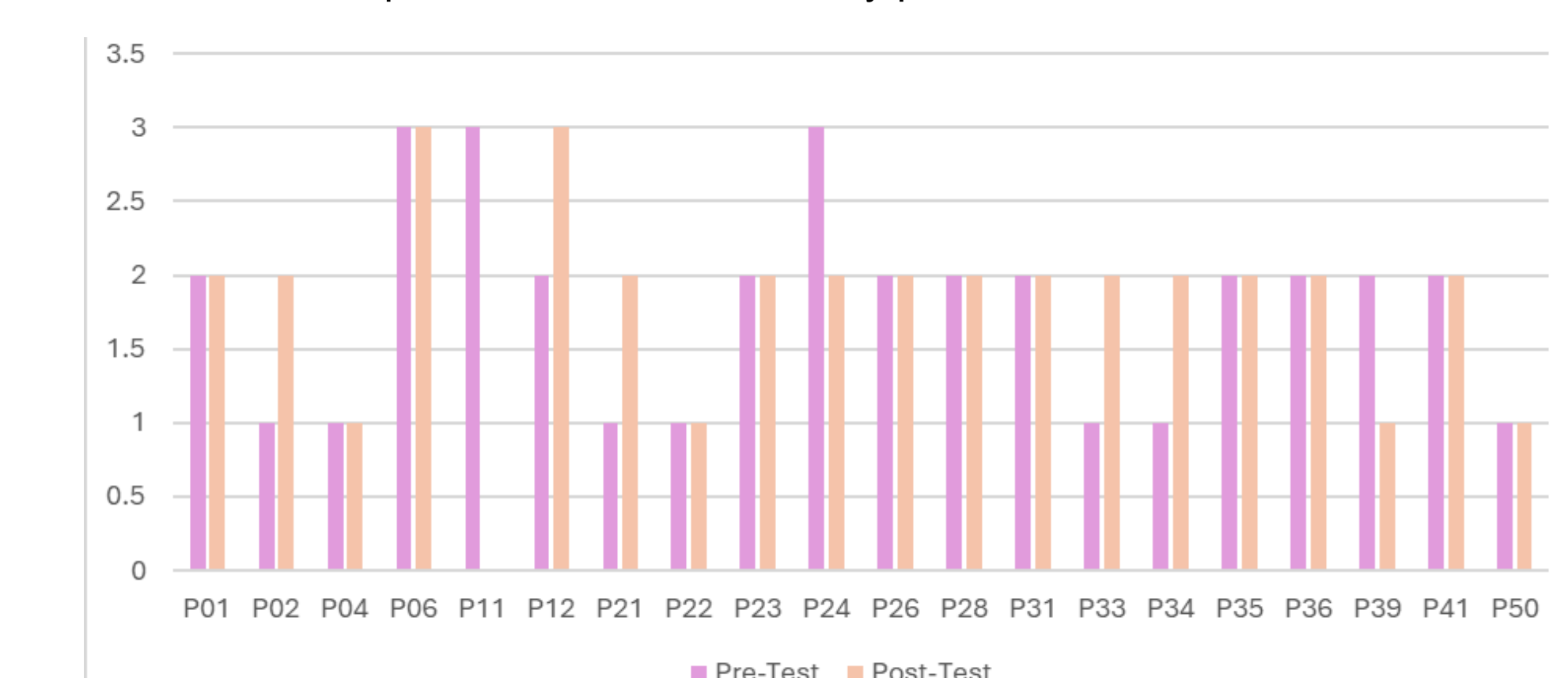


Figure 5.8 Pre-Test and Post-Test results of Alexander Hamilton Perception Data where 0 is missing, 1 is neutral, 2 is positive, and 3 is extremely positive