

**2018 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

4. In a democracy, what the majority wants should influence public policy. The opinion of the majority is sometimes, but not always, reflected in policy change.
- (a) Explain how interest groups reduce the influence of public opinion on policy.
- (b) Explain how EACH of the following increases the likelihood of policy change.
- Newly elected president
 - National crisis
- (c) Describe the role of EACH of the following institutions in the policy process.
- The courts
 - The media

STOP

END OF EXAM

AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4

5 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for an explanation of how interest groups reduce the influence of public opinion on policy.

Interest groups use tactics (lobbying, providing information, campaign contributions) to affect policy change by institutions or individuals, regardless of public opinion on the policy.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for an explanation of how a newly elected president increases the likelihood of policy change.

- Presidents claim an electoral mandate that allows them to pressure Congress into adopting their agenda.
- Presidents have more political capital during their honeymoon period, which allows them to set the legislative agenda.
- New presidents can issue executive orders or make appointments that may influence public policy.
- The new president's party is more likely to have gained seats in Congress during the presidential election, which makes it easier to pass legislation.

One point is earned for an explanation of how a national crisis increases the likelihood of policy change.

- Focuses the attention of policy makers, which can lead to policy change.
- Unifies and mobilizes the public, which can lead to policy change.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for a description of the role of the courts in the policy process.

Court decisions can create, block, or guide public policy (judicial review, overturn, precedent).

One point is earned for a description of the role of the media in the policy process.

- The media can set the policy agenda.
- They can choose which issues to cover and how to frame them.
- They inform the public on public policy issues.

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is off-task or is attempted but earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is assigned to an answer that is blank.