

**2017 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

4. The balance of power between the United States national government and state governments is shaped by the Constitution and Supreme Court rulings.

(a) Describe EACH of the following constitutional provisions.

- Supremacy clause
- Tenth Amendment

(b) Explain how ONE of the following court rulings changed the balance of power between the national government and state governments.

- *United States v. Lopez*
- *Obergefell v. Hodges*

(c) Describe TWO advantages of federalism for the creation of public policy in the United States.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 4

5 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for a description of the Supremacy clause.

- The Supremacy clause establishes that federal laws/United States Constitution take precedence over state laws/state constitutions.

One point is earned for a description of the Tenth Amendment.

- The Tenth Amendment establishes that powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for an explanation of how *United States v. Lopez* affected the balance of power between the federal and state governments.

- The Court's decision in *Lopez* struck down a federal law creating gun-free school zones, which limited the power of the federal government in relation to the states.
- The Court's decision in *Lopez* adopted a more narrow interpretation of Congress's use of the Commerce Clause, which limited the power of the federal government in relation to the states.

One point is earned for an explanation of how *Obergefell v. Hodges* affected the balance of power between the federal and state governments.

- The Court's decision in *Obergefell* declared that state laws prohibiting recognition of same-sex marriage violate the United States Constitution, which limited the power of state governments.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of an advantage of federalism for the creation of public policy in the United States.

- States can make policy specific to their individual needs.
- States serve as laboratories of democracy/policy innovators.
- The federal government can establish uniform policy, if and when necessary.
- Multiple access points increase the likelihood of success in policymaking.
- States can make policy in the absence of national consensus.
- The federal government is able to distribute necessary resources.

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.