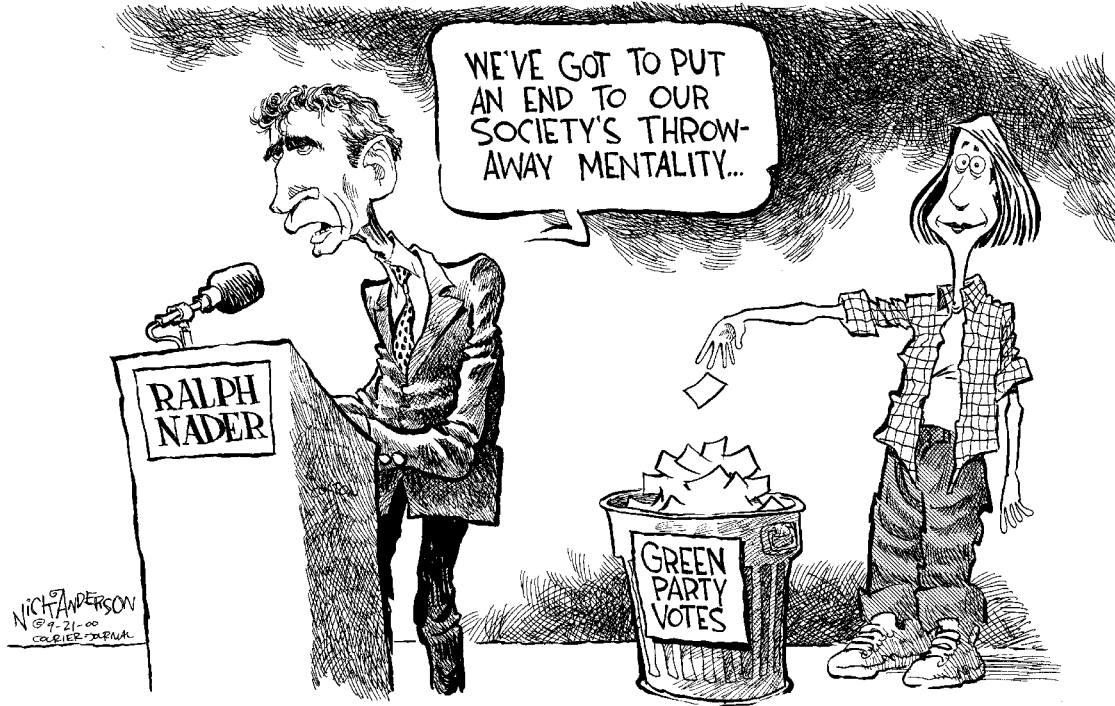


**2004 AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**



© 2000, The Washington Post Writers Group. Reprinted with permission.

3. Minor parties (third parties) have been a common feature of United States politics.
- (a) Describe the point of view expressed about minor parties in the political cartoon above.
 - (b) Identify and explain how two rules of the United States electoral system act as obstacles to minor-party candidates winning elections.
 - (c) Minor parties make important contributions to the United States political system in spite of the institutional obstacles to their candidates' success. Describe two of these contributions.
-
4. Trust and confidence in government have declined in recent decades.
- (a) Explain how divided government has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government. Be sure to include a definition of divided government in your response.
 - (b) Explain how the increased cost of election campaigns has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government.
 - (c) Explain two specific consequences of the decline in trust and confidence in government for individual political behavior.

END OF EXAMINATION

**AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2004 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 4

6 points

Part a: (2 points) 1 point definition, 1 point explanation

Definition of divided government required for first point. (Essay must earn first point to be eligible for explanation point, below.)

Explanation point requires linkage between divided government and decline in trust/confidence.

Acceptable responses may include linkage to:

- Heightened partisanship
- Decline of the middle (moderates frozen out, extremes driving legislation)
- Frustration with the governmental process
- Confirmation process slowed, stopped, or circumvented, increasing frustration/disgust
- Gridlock

Part b: (2 points) 2 point explanation

For the first point, acceptable explanations include:

- Candidates must spend more time raising money
- Role of interest groups (PACs), corporations and connections to wealthy donors
- Keeps good people from running for office
- Small contributions don't matter
- *Perception* that there is wasteful spending

To receive the second point, must provide linkage to cynicism or distrust.

Part c: (2 points) 1 point for each of two explanations

Acceptable behavioral consequences include:

- Protest
- Decline in voting
- Increase in independents or third-party identifiers
- Indications of less conventional participation, more non-conventional participation, or limitation to local nonpartisan or community action

Score of zero (0) for attempted answer that earns no points.

Score of dash (—) for blank or off-task answer.