

2006 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

3. The United States Congress and the President together have the power to enact federal law. Federal bureaucratic agencies have the responsibility to execute federal law. However, in the carrying out of these laws, federal agencies have policy-making discretion.

- (a) Explain two reasons why Congress gives federal agencies policy-making discretion in executing federal laws.
- (b) Choose one of the bureaucratic agencies listed below. Identify the policy area over which it exercises policy-making discretion AND give one specific example of how it exercises that discretion.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Federal Reserve Board

- (c) Describe two ways in which Congress ensures that federal agencies follow legislative intent.
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4. The framers of the United States Constitution created a legislative system that is bicameral. However, it is not just bicameral; the framers also established two houses of distinctly different character and authority.

- (a) Discuss two reasons why the framers created a bicameral legislature.
- (b) Identify one power unique to the House of Representatives and explain why the framers gave the House that power.
- (c) Identify one power unique to the Senate and explain why the framers gave the Senate that power.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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2006 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 4

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two reasons discussed.

Acceptable reasons for discussion may include:

- Compromise at Constitutional Convention (representation of large vs. small population states).
- Compromise among competing interests/protect minority interests.
- Slow the process.
- Different types of representation/federalism.
- An intrabranch check/prevent majority tyranny.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct identification of a power unique to the House of Representatives, and 1 point is earned for a correct explanation that is linked to the character of the House of Representatives.

Acceptable identifications may include:

- Initiate revenue bills.
- Choose the President when the electoral college is deadlocked.
- Impeachment.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Closer to the people.
- More representative of and responsive to the public/direct election to two-year terms.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct identification of a power unique to the Senate, and 1 point is earned for a correct explanation that is linked to the character of the Senate.

Acceptable identifications may include:

- Treaty ratification.
- Confirmation of judicial and executive appointments.
- Try impeachments/conviction/removal from office.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- More mature/“august” body.
- More insulated from public opinion/indirectly elected (originally).
- Longer and/or staggered terms.
- Reflects state interests.

Note: The unique power must be one that is included in the Constitution (e.g., “filibuster” does not get credit because it is a Senate rule, not a constitutional power).