

2013 AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

SECTION II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. Spend approximately one-fourth of your time (25 minutes) on each question. In your response, use substantive examples where appropriate.

1. There are several different approaches to representation within a democratic political system.
 - (a) Define direct democracy.
 - (b) Define republican form of government.
 - (c) Describe one reason the framers of the United States Constitution chose a republican form of government over a direct democracy.
 - (d) Describe each of the models of congressional representation.
 - Trustee model (attitudinal view)
 - Delegate model (representational view)
 - (e) Explain why a member of Congress might sometimes act as a trustee (attitudinal view) rather than a delegate (representational view).

2. Political parties play important roles in United States elections and government institutions. Over the past several decades, the influence of political parties in elections has declined while their strength in Congress has increased.
 - (a) Describe two important functions of political parties in United States elections.
 - (b) Describe one important role political parties play within Congress to promote the party's public policy agenda.
 - (c) Explain how each of the following factors has weakened the influence of political parties over the political process.
 - Direct primaries
 - Candidate-centered campaigns
 - (d) Explain how party polarization has strengthened party influence in Congress.

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PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS TO THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY BY SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, 2000–2011 (in percent)						
President	African American	Hispanic	Asian American	White	Women	Men
Barack Obama	22%	11%	8%	59%	46%	54%
George W. Bush	7%	9%	1%	82%	22%	78%

Source: Alliance for Justice, August 2011
Percentages do not add up to 100.

3. Presidents consider many factors when nominating candidates to the federal courts, and getting their nominees confirmed is often difficult.
- (a) Using the chart above, describe ONE similarity between President Barack Obama’s judicial appointments and those made by President George W. Bush.
 - (b) Using the chart above, describe TWO differences between President Barack Obama’s judicial appointments and those made by President George W. Bush.
 - (c) Explain why a president’s party affiliation accounts for differences in presidential appointments to the judiciary.
 - (d) Describe one way a president can increase the chances of having judicial nominations to federal courts confirmed.
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4. The public policy process is complex. The formation, enactment, and implementation of public policy involve many government institutions.
- (a) Explain the importance of each of the following in the formation of the policy agenda.
 - Media
 - Elections
 - (b) Describe the roles of each of the following in the enactment of public policy.
 - Congressional committees
 - Executive orders
 - (c) Explain the importance of each of the following in the implementation of public policy.
 - Bureaucratic discretion
 - Issue networks OR iron triangles

STOP

END OF EXAM

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2013 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two correct descriptions of the functions of political parties in elections including:

- Provide cues for voters
- Provide a platform of issues
- Recruit candidates for government office
- Nominate candidates for government office
- Raise funds for their candidates' campaigns
- Support for candidates' campaigns
- Mobilize voters and get out the votes

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for the correct description of a role of political parties within Congress to promote the party's public policy agenda:

- Leadership positions in Congress are assigned on a party basis.
- Party leaders articulate legislative policy priorities of the party.
- Party leaders facilitate legislative policy priorities of the party.
- Majority party selects committee chairs who promote the party's legislative priorities in committee.
- Majority party appoints and controls the standing committees.
- Majority party controls floor debates.
- Majority party controls the rules and calendar favorable to majority party's policy priorities.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for an explanation of how each of the following factors has weakened the influence of political parties over the political process:

- Direct primaries: Gives parties less control over the nomination process of candidates; candidates appeal directly to voters and bypass parties; candidates may win who are not favored by the party elite.
- Candidate-centered campaigns: Candidates appeal directly to voters; candidates can raise money by appealing to voters or PACs directly; candidates choose their own issues to campaign on.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for an explanation of how party polarization has strengthened party influence in Congress:

Members of political parties vote along party line; therefore they are less likely to cross party lines to vote with the other party.

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

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