

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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Question 1

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of direct democracy:

- Rule by the people + $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Individual participation on legislation or policy} \\ \textbf{OR} \\ \text{Making decisions without delegating authority to elected representatives} \end{array} \right.$

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for defining a republican form of government:

Authority is delegated to elected representatives to make decision on behalf of citizens.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a description of one reason the framers chose a republican form of government.

Reasons include:

- Fear of mob rule (tyranny of the majority)
- Size of country
- Elitism – inadequate education/uninformed public
- Did not trust people
- To counter the influence of factions
- Preexistence of states
- Reinforcement of federalism

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for each description of the models of congressional representation.

- An acceptable description of the **trustee model** (attitudinal view):
 - Decisions made by elected official using their own personal views **or** decisions made by the elected official based on the public good and **not** on the basis of constituents' views.
- An acceptable description of the **delegate model** (representational view):
 - Decisions made by the elected official mirror the constituents' views, represent constituents' views, or do what voters tell them to do.

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for an acceptable explanation of why a member of Congress might sometimes act as a trustee (attitudinal view) rather than a delegate (representational view).

- Information access
- Reliance on expertise
- Divided constituency
- Salience of issue
- Vote his or her conscience (explaining why)
- Difficulty determining what voters want

Note: Must close loop to show contrast that the representative is voting regardless of what the constituents want.

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Question 1 (continued)

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.