

2008 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. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

1. Congressional reapportionment and redistricting are conducted every ten years. When redistricting is conducted, politicians often engage in gerrymandering.
 - (a) Define congressional reapportionment and explain one reason why it is important to states.
 - (b) Define congressional redistricting.
 - (c) Explain two goals of politicians when they gerrymander during redistricting.
 - (d) Describe two limits that the United States Supreme Court has placed on congressional redistricting.

2. A number of factors enable presidents to exert influence over Congress in the area of domestic policy. However, presidents are also limited in their influence over domestic policymaking in Congress.
 - (a) The Constitution grants the president certain enumerated powers. Describe two of these formal powers that enable the president to exert influence over domestic policy.
 - (b) Choose two of the following. Define each term and explain how each limits the president's ability to influence domestic policymaking in Congress.
 - mandatory spending
 - party polarization
 - lame-duck period

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Question 1

7 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct definition of congressional reapportionment. One point is earned for a correct explanation of why reapportionment is important to states.

An acceptable definition of congressional reapportionment is:

- The reallocation of the number of representatives each state has in the House of Representatives.

Acceptable explanations of why congressional reapportionment is important to states are:

- Reapportionment increases or decreases the number of seats a state has in the House/Congress (not the Senate).
- More representatives mean that a state has more influence.
- Reapportionment increases or decreases a state's number of electoral votes.

NOTE: The explanation point must be tied to an appropriate definition of reapportionment.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of congressional redistricting. An acceptable definition is:

- The drawing/redrawing of House/congressional (not Senate) district lines.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two explanations of the goals of politicians when they gerrymander during redistricting. Acceptable explanations may include:

- To enhance political party strength/to minimize the strength of the opposition party.
- To protect incumbents/to discourage challengers.
- To increase minority representation/to decrease minority representation.
- To punish foes/to reward friends.

NOTE: "Cracking" or "packing" must be tied to one of the above in order to earn the explanation point.

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Question 1 (continued)

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of limits that the United States Supreme Court has placed on congressional redistricting.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Districts must be equally populated.
- Lines must be contiguous or connected.
- Redistricting cannot dilute minority voting strength.
- District lines cannot be drawn solely based upon race.
- Districts must be compact.
- Communities of interest must be protected.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.