

**2011 AP<sup>®</sup> UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

3. Nominees for the presidency of the two major parties are chosen by delegates at national conventions. How these delegates are chosen varies across states and between the political parties.
- a. Define each of the following methods used by states to choose delegates to party conventions.
    - Open primary
    - Caucus
  - b. Republican Party rules permit winner-take-all primaries. Describe one consequence of this rule for the Republican nomination process.
  - c. The Democratic Party has used superdelegates in the presidential nominating process since 1984. Explain why the use of superdelegates increases the influence of party leaders in the Democratic nomination process.
  - d. Explain why a candidate's strategy to win the nomination is often different from the strategy developed to win the general election.
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4. The Constitution of the United States creates a government of separate institutions that share power rather than a government that delegates power exclusively to a single branch. Frequently, this means that presidents and Congress struggle with each other.
- a. For each of the presidential powers below, explain one way that congressional decision making is affected by that power.
    - Veto power
    - Power to issue executive orders
    - Power as commander in chief
  - b. For each of the congressional powers below, explain one way that presidential decision making is affected by that power.
    - Legislative oversight power
    - Senate advice and consent power
    - Budgetary power

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**

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## 2011 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 4

**6 points**

**Part (a): 3 points**

One point is earned for each explanation of how congressional decision making is affected by the following presidential powers:

- Veto power
  - Results in congressional interaction with the president/executive branch during the legislative process (e.g., bargaining, negotiation, compromising, consulting).
  - Prevents or discourages congressional action if the president makes a statement of clear opposition or threatens a veto.
- Power to issue executive orders
  - Congress acts in response to or anticipates executive orders (e.g., countermands, preempts, compromises).
  - Congress avoids taking action on controversial issues.
- Power as commander in chief
  - Congress engages in oversight activities.
  - Congress clarifies its role associated with the power to declare war (i.e., War Powers Act).
  - Congress controls military spending and thus can approve, modify or reject funding.

**Part (b): 3 points**

One point is earned for each explanation of how presidential decision making is affected by the following congressional powers:

- Power of legislative oversight
  - Presidents minimize the number or extent of actions that might draw congressional scrutiny.
- Senate advice and consent power
  - Presidents weigh the implications of making controversial or ideological nominations or appointments.
  - Presidents use recess appointments, avoiding controversial confirmation battles.
  - Presidents use executive agreements to avoid the need to have treaties ratified.
- Budgetary power
  - Presidents consider budget items or programs that are important to members of Congress.
  - Presidents consult with members of Congress during the budget process.
  - Presidents sign budgets that include provisions they oppose rather than veto the budget.
  - Presidents postpone agenda items because of difficulty in getting congressional budgetary approval.

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is attempted but earns no points.

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