

2000 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

SECTION II

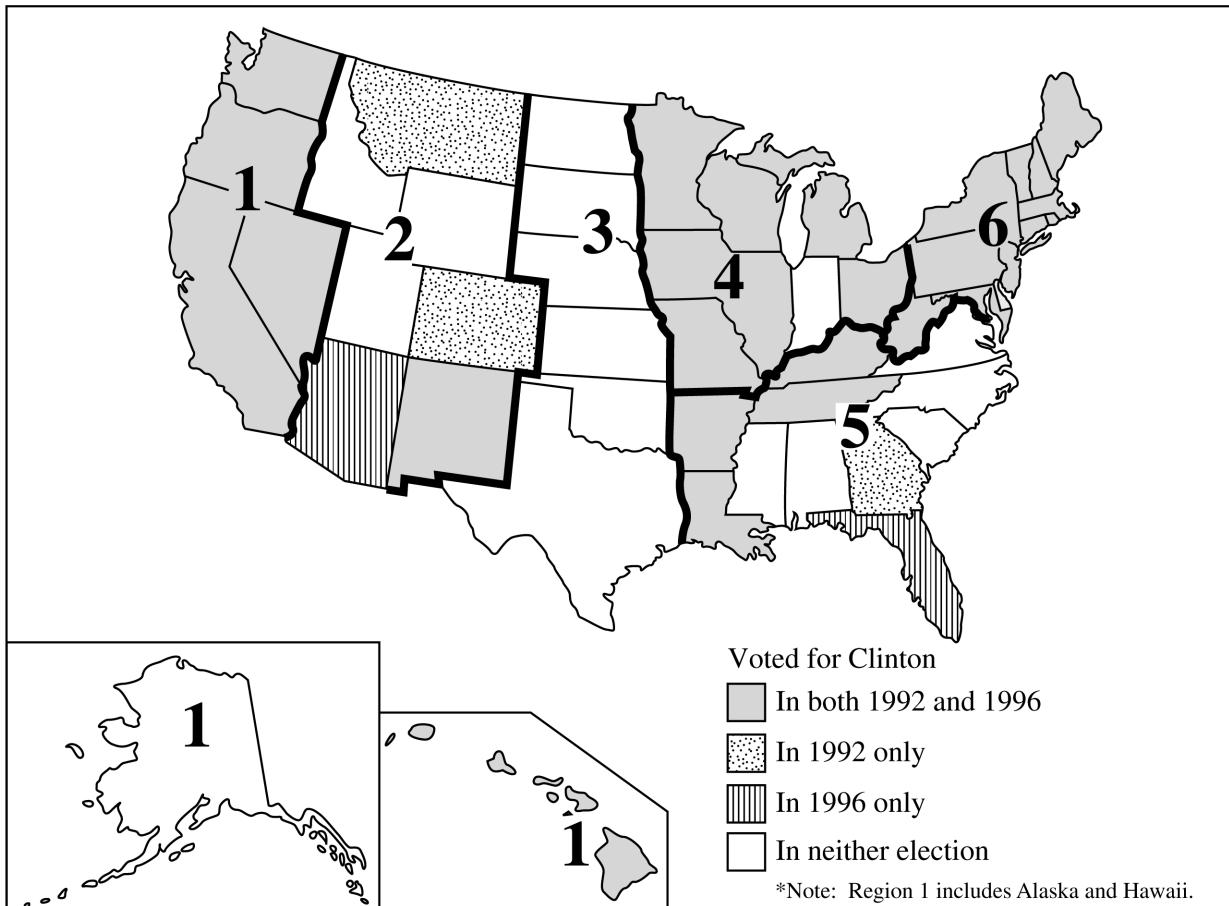
Time—100 minutes

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer all four of the following 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. Illustrate your essay with substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

1. The Constitution was an attempt to address problems of decentralization that were experienced under the Articles of Confederation.
 - (a) List three problems of decentralized power that existed under the Articles of Confederation. For each problem you listed, identify one solution that the Constitution provided to address the problem.
 - (b) Some have argued that the tensions between decentralized and centralized power continue to exist. Support this argument by explaining how one of the following illustrates the continuing tension.
 - Environmental policy
 - Gun control
 - Disability access
2. The Supreme Court is commonly thought to be “above politics.” However, one can argue that the appointment of Supreme Court justices is political.
 - (a) Identify three characteristics of Supreme Court nominees and discuss how each characteristic has been politically relevant during the appointment process.
 - (b) Identify two methods that have been used by interest groups to influence the appointment process. Explain how each of these methods has been used to influence that process.
3. The figure below displays voting patterns by state in the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections. Using the information in the figure and your knowledge of United States voting behavior, perform the following tasks.
 - (a) Using the map below, identify one of the numbered regions with strong support for the Democratic presidential candidate and identify and explain two factors that contribute to that support.
 - (b) Using the map below, identify one of the numbered regions with strong support for the Republican presidential candidate and identify and explain two factors that contribute to that support.

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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS BY STATE, 1992 AND 1996



4. The three obstacles listed below have made it difficult for Congress to enact significant campaign finance reform.

- *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976)
- Soft money
- Incumbency

Select two of the obstacles. For each obstacle, provide both of the following.

- (a) A brief description of the obstacle
- (b) An explanation of how the obstacle has made it difficult for Congress to enact significant campaign finance reform

END OF EXAMINATION

2000 AP Comparative Government & Politics
Question 3 Scoring Guidelines

9 POINTS TOTAL

Note that this map deals with the PRESIDENTIAL election – and A and B ask for explain of support for presidential candidate, not Congress, governor, etc.

1 point for correctly identifying BOTH a Democratic region and a Republican region.

For strong Democratic support: regions 1, 4, 6 only

For strong Republican support: region 3 only

Part A: 4 points total Support for Democratic candidate:

Identify first factor that contributes to Democratic support (**1 point**)

Explain first factor -- student must answer the question “why?” or “how?” (**1 point**)

Identify second factor that contributes to Democratic support (**1 point**)

Explain second factor -- student must answer the question “why?” or “how?” (**1 point**)

Possible Democratic factors include:

- Unions/labor
- Race/ethnicity
- Urban areas
- Tradition of Democratic support (does not apply to Region 1)
- Liberal
- Environmental concerns

Part B: 4 points total Support for Republican candidate:

Identify first factor that contributes to Republican support (**1 point**)

Explain first factor -- student must answer the question “why?” or “how?” (**1 point**)

Identify second factor that contributes to Republican support (**1 point**)

Explain second factor -- student must answer the question “why?” or “how?” (**1 point**)

Possible Republican factors include:

- Non-union
- Rural/less urban
- Tradition of Republican support
- Conservative
- Strong Christian/Protestant/Fundamentalist

Region 3: just saying that Dole is from Kansas or Bush is from Texas is not enough for ID unless explained in terms of the region

Attempts to answer question but earns no points: scored as zero (0)
Blank or off-task: scored as a dash (-)