

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

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

AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2013 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of the importance of each of the following in the formation of the policy agenda:

Media

- Affects agenda setting by what it chooses to cover (priming/gatekeeping/watchdog).
- Media framing of issues.

Elections

- Election winners control agenda.
- Initiative process.
- Issues raised during campaigns.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct description of the role of each of the following in the enactment of public policy:

Congressional committees: committee actions related to the enactment of public policy (gatekeeper/mark-up legislation/hold hearings).

Executive Orders

- Presidents use executive orders to enact policy.
- Bypass Congress.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of the importance of each of the following in the implementation of public policy:

Bureaucratic discretion: bureaucrats have the ability to shape implementation of public policy.

Issue networks or iron triangles

- Interest group(s)/congressional committee(s) pressure bureaucracy to implement policy that benefits them.
- Bureaucracy can shape policy implementation to benefit interest group(s).

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.