

2016 AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

4. The Constitution limited the power of the national government and restricted popular control; however, citizen participation has changed over time.
- (a) Explain how each of the following constitutional features protects against the concentration of power in the national government.
- Checks and balances
 - Federalism
- (b) Explain how one of the following features of the Constitution limited the people's ability to influence the national government.
- Electoral college
 - Selection of senators before the Seventeenth Amendment
- (c) Describe a constitutional amendment that increased suffrage.
- (d) Describe the effect of one of the following laws on citizen participation in elections.
- Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Motor Voter Act)

STOP

END OF EXAM

AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2016 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4

5 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two explanations of how each of the following constitutional features protected against the concentration of power in the national government:

- Checks and balances: By allowing each branch some power over the other branches the Constitution limits the possibility of one branch getting too powerful.
- Federalism: By dividing power between the national/federal and state governments, the Constitution ensured that the national government would not be too powerful.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for an explanation of how one of the following features of the Constitution limited the people's ability to influence the national government:

- Electoral College: feature that reduces the influence of the popular vote for the president, thereby limiting the people's direct influence on the national government.
- Selection of senators before the Seventeenth Amendment: The selection of senators prior to the Seventeenth amendment limited the direct influence of the people because state legislatures selected senators rather than the people choosing senators through a popular election.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a description of a Constitutional amendment that increases suffrage

- Fifteenth Amendment (African American male suffrage)
- Nineteenth Amendment (women's suffrage)
- Twenty-third Amendment (D.C. resident suffrage)
- Twenty-fourth Amendment (eliminated the poll tax)
- Twenty-sixth Amendment (suffrage for citizens age 18 and older)

An amendment number is not needed to earn credit, but a description of how the amendment increased suffrage is needed to earn credit.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a description of the effect of one of the following laws on citizen participation in elections:

- Voting Rights Act (VRA): eliminated barriers to voting; increased, but did not grant minority participation.
- National Voting Rights Act (Motor Voter): allows individuals to register to vote when getting driver's license or at other government agencies, making it easier to register.

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

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