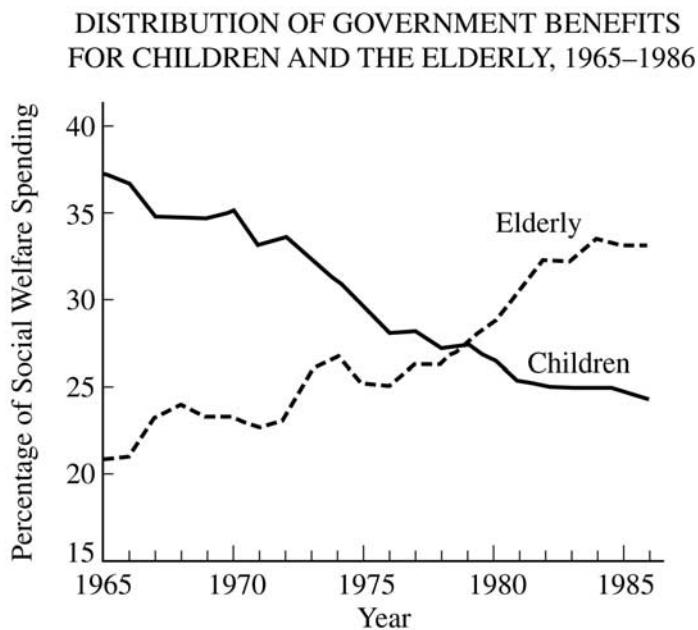


# 2002 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

## UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS SECTION II Time—100 minutes

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

1. The concept of “divided government” in the United States means that one political party can control the executive branch while another controls the legislative branch. This poses problems for the President in making appointments to federal offices.
    - (a) Describe two problems that divided government poses for the President in making federal appointments.
    - (b) Identify and explain two ways Presidents try to overcome the problems described in (a).
- 



Source: *Washington Post National Weekly Edition*

2. Using the information in the figure above and your knowledge of United States politics, complete the following tasks.
  - (a) Describe what the figure above demonstrates about the distribution of government benefits over time.
  - (b) Identify two politically relevant factors that have affected the changing distribution of government benefits between children and the elderly.
  - (c) Explain how each of the two factors identified in (b) has affected the changing distribution of government benefits.

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# **AP<sup>®</sup> UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 2002 SCORING GUIDELINES**

## **Question 1**

**6 points total**

Part A: 2 points possible (1 point per description)

Part B: 4 points possible (1 point for each of 2 identifications, 1 point for each of 2 explanations)

**Part A** (problems posed for Presidents):

Simple, declarative statements acceptable for description

- greater policy conflict likely/ideological conflict
- narrows the field of potential candidates
- offices go unfilled
- tougher committee scrutiny
- harder to get congressional/Senate/legislature approval/confirmation/ratification of appointments (House not acceptable)
- more frequent character attacks on nominees

**Senatorial courtesy does not apply**

**Part B** (ways Presidents overcome problems)

One point for identification; second point for explanation only available after adequate identification.

Explanation must answer *how* Presidents' efforts work to overcome problems.

Reference to approval/ratification/confirmation must include reference to Senate/Congress. Reference to congress or legislature is acceptable; House is NOT)

- generate public support (including use of media)
- compromise on choices (ideological compromise)
- building coalitions in Congress
- making deals (e.g., veto as threat)
- building coalitions with interest groups
- making interim recess appointments
- more intense background screening of nominees (looking for “bulletproof” candidates)
- selecting more minority nominees (i.e., “diversification”)
- increased reliance on White House staff (when forced to appoint officials not in line with President’s position)

Score of zero (0) for attempted answer that earns no points

Score of dash (—) for blank or off-task answer