

**2005 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

3. Initially, the United States Constitution did little to protect citizens from actions of the states. In the twentieth century, the Supreme Court interpreted the Constitution to protect the rights of citizens from state governments in a process referred to as incorporation.
- (a) Define selective incorporation.
- (b) For two of the following, explain how each has been incorporated. Each of your explanations must be based on a specific and relevant Supreme Court decision.
- Rights of criminal defendants
 - First Amendment
 - Privacy rights
-

4. The United States Congress has debated a variety of campaign finance reforms over the last decade. The proposals debated have included the following:

Eliminating soft money
Limiting independent expenditures
Raising limits on individual contributions

- (a) Select one of the listed proposals and do all of the following:
- Define the proposal.
 - Describe an argument that proponents make in favor of the proposal.
 - Describe an argument that opponents make against the proposal.
- (b) Select a different listed proposal and do all of the following:
- Define the proposal.
 - Describe an argument that proponents make in favor of the proposal.
 - Describe an argument that opponents make against the proposal.

END OF EXAM

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Question 4

6 points

Part (a): 3 points

One point is earned for the definition of the proposal, 1 point is earned for the description of the argument in favor of the proposal, and 1 point is earned for the description of the argument against the proposal. The response may get description points without the definition point, but the descriptions must reference the particular proposal.

Part (b): 3 points

One point is earned for the definition of the proposal, 1 point is earned for the description of the argument in favor of the proposal, and 1 point is earned for the description of the argument against the proposal. The response may get description points without the definition point, but the descriptions must reference the particular proposal.

Eliminating soft money

Definition: Prohibiting or regulating campaign contributions to political parties and/or contributions for party building activities

Acceptable arguments in favor include:

- Soft money is often used to circumvent limits on hard money.
- Levels the playing field.
- Lessens concern about undue influence of “fat cats”/buying of influence.
- Provides more disclosure and transparency.
- Decreases overall costs of campaigns.

Acceptable arguments against include:

- First Amendment.
- Contrary to ruling in *Buckley v. Valeo*.
- Party money is one step removed between contributor and decision-maker.
- Weakens political parties.
- Might lessen grassroots participation.

Limiting independent expenditures

Definition: Limiting money spent by individuals and groups not directly affiliated with the candidate or the party

Acceptable arguments in favor include:

- Can be used to circumvent limits on hard money.
- Levels the playing field.

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Question 4 (continued)

- Possibly reduces negative issue ads.
- Candidates want to control their own campaigns.
- Lessens concern about undue influence of “fat cats”/buying of influence.

Acceptable arguments against include:

- First Amendment.
- Contrary to ruling in *Buckley v. Valeo*.
- Might lessen grassroots participation.

Raising limits on individual contributions

Definition: Increasing the dollar amount individuals may give to a campaign, parties, or PACs

Acceptable arguments in favor include:

- Limits are not indexed to inflation.
- Candidates can spend less time fundraising.
- Decreases influence of PACs.
- Decreases restrictions on First Amendment rights.
- Decreases reliance on less-regulated forms of campaign funds.

Acceptable arguments against include:

- Allows the rich to have/buy more influence.
- Too much money in the process already.
- Drives up the cost of campaigns.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.