

2011 AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

3. Nominees for the presidency of the two major parties are chosen by delegates at national conventions. How these delegates are chosen varies across states and between the political parties.
- Define each of the following methods used by states to choose delegates to party conventions.
 - Open primary
 - Caucus
 - Republican Party rules permit winner-take-all primaries. Describe one consequence of this rule for the Republican nomination process.
 - The Democratic Party has used superdelegates in the presidential nominating process since 1984. Explain why the use of superdelegates increases the influence of party leaders in the Democratic nomination process.
 - Explain why a candidate's strategy to win the nomination is often different from the strategy developed to win the general election.
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4. The Constitution of the United States creates a government of separate institutions that share power rather than a government that delegates power exclusively to a single branch. Frequently, this means that presidents and Congress struggle with each other.
- For each of the presidential powers below, explain one way that congressional decision making is affected by that power.
 - Veto power
 - Power to issue executive orders
 - Power as commander in chief
 - For each of the congressional powers below, explain one way that presidential decision making is affected by that power.
 - Legislative oversight power
 - Senate advice and consent power
 - Budgetary power

STOP

END OF EXAM

AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2011 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

5 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct definition of open primary: a primary election in which any voter can cast a ballot in any party's primary.

One point is earned for a correct definition of caucus: a meeting or gathering of members of a political party where members deliberate and choose from the list of those seeking the presidential nomination.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for an acceptable consequence for a winner-take-all primary, which can include the following:

- Shortens the timeframe for candidates wrapping up the nomination.
- Affects strategic decisions (e.g., allocation of funds, time).
- Advantages those with more prominence or better name recognition early in the process.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for an acceptable explanation of how superdelegates increase the power of party leaders, which can include the following:

- Party leaders are now assured a role in the nomination process, regardless of which candidate they support.
- Party leaders can cast the deciding vote in close nomination contests.
- Superdelegates are unpledged and therefore can change their minds on candidates as the process unfolds.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for an acceptable explanation for why campaign strategies often differ between primary and general elections, which can include the following:

- The electorate in the primary election is different from the electorate in the general election.
- A candidate's opponents in the primary are fellow partisans, whereas opponents in the general election are from other parties.
- There are differences in financing, media coverage and current events leading up to the general election.

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

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