

1999

The College Board
Advanced Placement Examination

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS:
UNITED STATES

Question 1

In the 1990's presidential election campaigns have become more candidate centered and less focused on issues and party labels. This change has been attributed both to how the media cover presidential campaigns and to how candidates use the media. Identify and explain two ways in which the media have contributed to candidate-centered presidential campaigns. Identify and explain two ways in which presidential candidates' use of the media has contributed to candidate-centered campaigns.

Your answer should NOT include a discussion of presidential primary elections.

Question 2

National interest groups often target national-level policymaking institutions to achieve their policy objectives.

Select one of the following national interest groups.

- American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
- American Medical Association (AMA)
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)

For the group you selected do each of the following.

- a. Identify one major national-level policymaking institution that this group targets.
- b. Describe one resource or characteristic of the group you have chosen AND explain how it influences the choice of the target you have identified in (a).
- c. Describe another resource or characteristic of the group you have chosen AND explain how it influences the choice of the target you have identified in (a).

Question 3

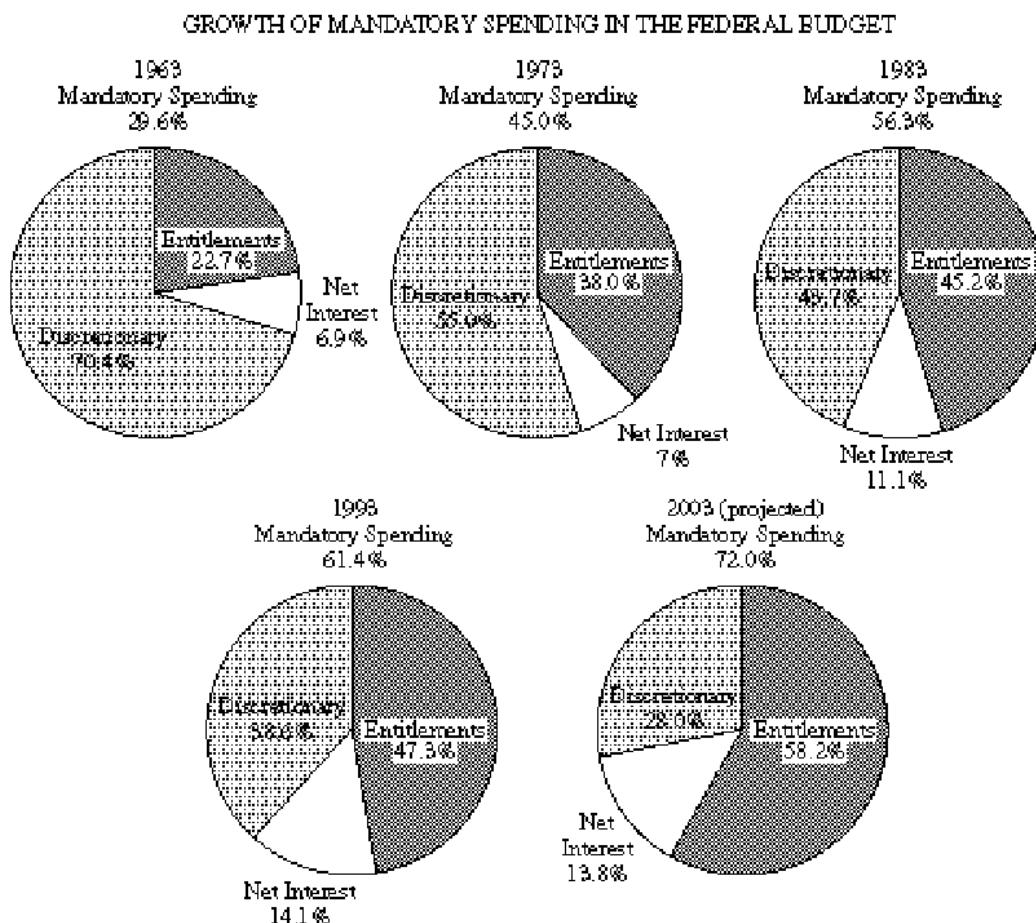
Is Congress effective in exercising legislative oversight of the federal bureaucracy? Support your answer by doing ONE of the following.

- Explain two specific methods Congress uses to exercise effective oversight of the federal bureaucracy.

OR

- Give two specific explanations for the failure of Congress to exercise effective oversight of the federal bureaucracy.

Question 4



Using the information in the pie charts above, identify two budgetary barriers that hinder the creation of new policy initiatives. Explain why each of the barriers you identified persists. Using your knowledge of United States politics, identify one nonbudgetary barrier AND explain how this barrier hinders the creation of new policy initiatives.

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Question 2

7 total points possible on this question.

The student must identify the national interest group he/she is discussing.

- a. **1 point total** for a correct identification of a national policymaking institution that the selected group would target

- The President
- The Legislature (give credit for identifying either the House or the Senate)
- The Judiciary
- The Bureaucracy or a specific agency

If student identifies a specific agency it should be clearly and substantively connected to the interest group, e.g., AARP focuses on Social Security Administration, Medicare portion of HHS, FDA and specific health remedy. AMA might focus on the FDA or the Dept of HHS. NAACP might focus on the Dept. of Justice Civil Rights Division or the EEOC. NAM focuses on FTC, Dept of Commerce, Transportation, Labor (OSHA)

Note: Incorrect answer is a non-national institution or non-policymaking institution.

- b. **3 points total**

- **1 point** for identifying a characteristic or resource of the selected group. All that is required here is an identification of a relevant characteristic or resource of the group.

Note: Candidate may receive one point here without earning the point in (a).

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Question 2 (cont.)

- **2 points** (maximum) for explaining how the characteristic or resource identified influences the choice of the policymaking institution targeted.

No points are awarded if a student did not earn the point in (a) for identifying the targeted institution.

1 point for only a general explanation that provides some linkage of the characteristic or resource to the choice of target institution.

2 points for a specific or full explanation that describes **HOW** the characteristic or resource influences the choice of target.

c. 3 points total

- **1 point** for identifying a second characteristic or resource of the selected group. All that is required here is an identification of a relevant characteristic or resource of the group.

Note: Candidate may receive one point here without earning the point in (a).

- **2 points** (maximum) for explaining how the second characteristic or resource identified influences the choice of the policymaking institution targeted.

No points are awarded if a student did not earn the point in (a) for identifying the targeted institution.

1 point for only a general explanation that provides some linkage of the characteristic or resource to the choice of target institution.

2 points for a specific or full explanation that describes **HOW** the characteristic or resource influences the choice of target.

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

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