

**2010 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

SECTION II

Time—1 hour and 40 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. In your response, use substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

1. Individuals often form groups in order to promote their interests. The Constitution contains several provisions that protect the rights of individuals who try to promote their interests in a representative democracy.
 - (a) Explain two provisions in the Bill of Rights that protect individuals who try to influence politics.
 - (b) Interest groups engage in a variety of activities to affect public policy. Explain how each of the following is used by interest groups to exert influence over policy.
 - Grassroots mobilization
 - Lobbying of government institutions
 - Litigation
 - (c) Describe one specific federal governmental regulation of interest groups.

2. The federal bureaucracy as part of the executive branch exercises substantial independence in implementing governmental policies and programs. Most workers in the federal bureaucracy are civil-service employees who are organized under a merit system.
 - (a) Describe one key characteristic of the merit system.
 - (b) For each of the following, describe one factor that contributes to bureaucratic independence.
 - The structure of the federal bureaucracy
 - The complexity of public policy problems
 - (c) For each of the following, explain one Constitutional provision that it can use to check the bureaucracy.
 - Congress
 - The courts
 - Interest groups

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Question 1

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two provisions of the Bill of Rights identified. Each provision must be identified and include a discussion of what the provision protects.

Answers may include, but are not limited to:

- Speech — allows citizens to say almost anything they want
- Press — allows citizens access to information, each other and policymakers; printed advocacy
- Assembly — allows citizens to come together
- Petition — allows citizens to address government
- Various due process/criminal justice provisions (e.g., grand jury indictment, jury of peers, search and seizure) — protects citizens from retribution/harassment from government

Part (b): 3 points

One point is earned for each of three explanations. The explanations must include a description of the interest group activity and how that activity may influence the action of a governmental body, official or policy.

- Grassroots mobilization — interest groups organize citizens, who act to influence policymakers
- Lobbying — direct contact with policymakers for the purpose of persuasion through the provision of information, political benefits, etc.
- Litigation — the use of courts to gain policy preferences through cases or amicus curiae

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for describing a regulation. The regulation does not need to be identified by its formal title.

- Disclosure of contributions, funding or activities
- Registration of lobbyists, PACs
- Campaign finance laws
- Limits on gifts
- Limits on revolving-door appointments
- Limits on honoraria
- Prohibition of bribery
- Any named law or regulation with a description of what it does to regulate interest groups

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.