

Question 3

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

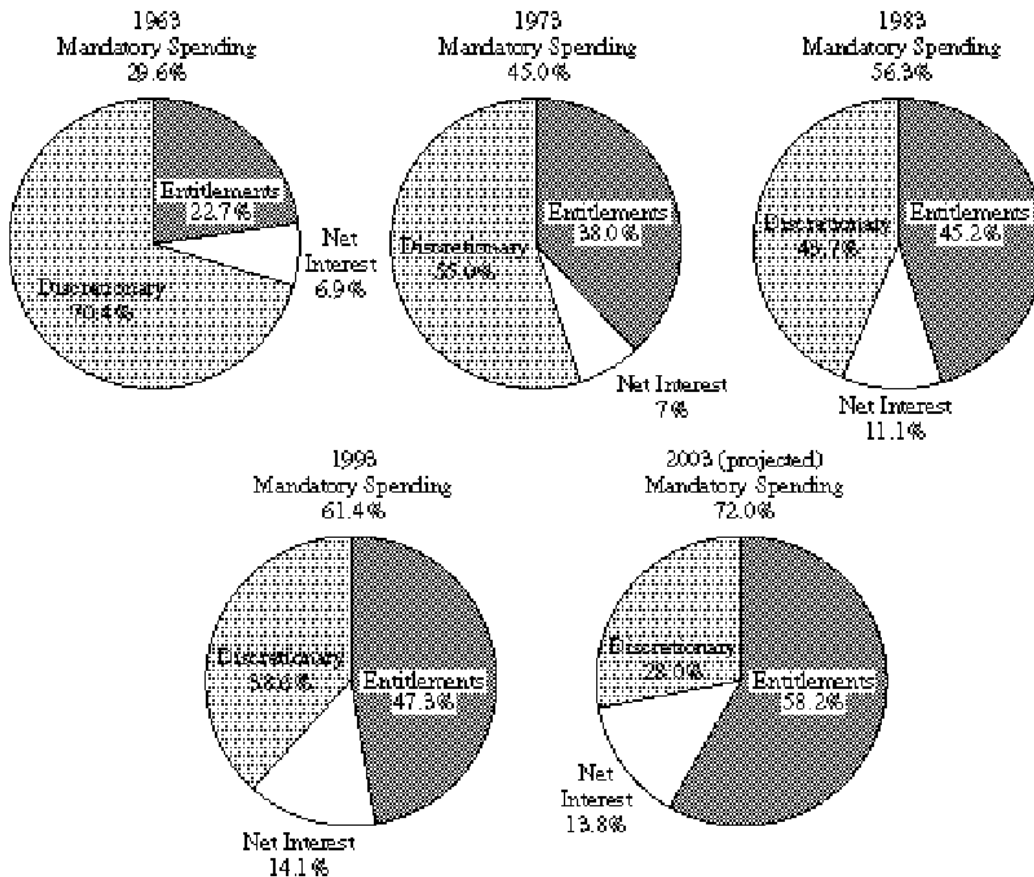
- Explain two specific methods Congress uses to exercise effective oversight of the federal bureaucracy.

OR

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

Question 4

GROWTH OF MANDATORY SPENDING IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET



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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5 total points possible on this question.

- **1 point** for taking an explicit position: "Yes, Congress is effective," or "No, Congress is not effective," in providing oversight of the bureaucracy.

If the writer takes the affirmative (Congress exercises effective oversight):

- **2 points** (maximum) for a complete explanation of first specific method Congress uses to exercise effective oversight.

Award **1 point** for a statement showing general understanding of method of oversight.

Award **2 points** for a specific explanation showing HOW/WHY the method is effective.

Methods of effective oversight *may* include

- Budget control
 - Reauthorization/Jurisdiction of agencies
 - Setting guidelines for new agencies
 - Hearings, committee investigations
 - Power to organize/reorganize agency
 - "Sunset" legislation
 - Congressional support agencies-GAO, CBO
 - Iron triangles as a source of information
 - Casework as a source of information
 - Influence over selection of leadership
 - Program evaluation
- **2 points** (maximum) for a complete explanation of a second specific method Congress uses to exercise effective oversight. Use the guidelines above for the first method in awarding one or two points for the explanation of the method.

If the writer takes the negative (Congress fails to exercise effective oversight):

- **2 points** (maximum) for a complete explanation of the first reason for this failure.

Award **1 point** for a statement showing general understanding of why failure occurs.

Award **2 points** for a specific explanation of how/why the oversight method is not effective.