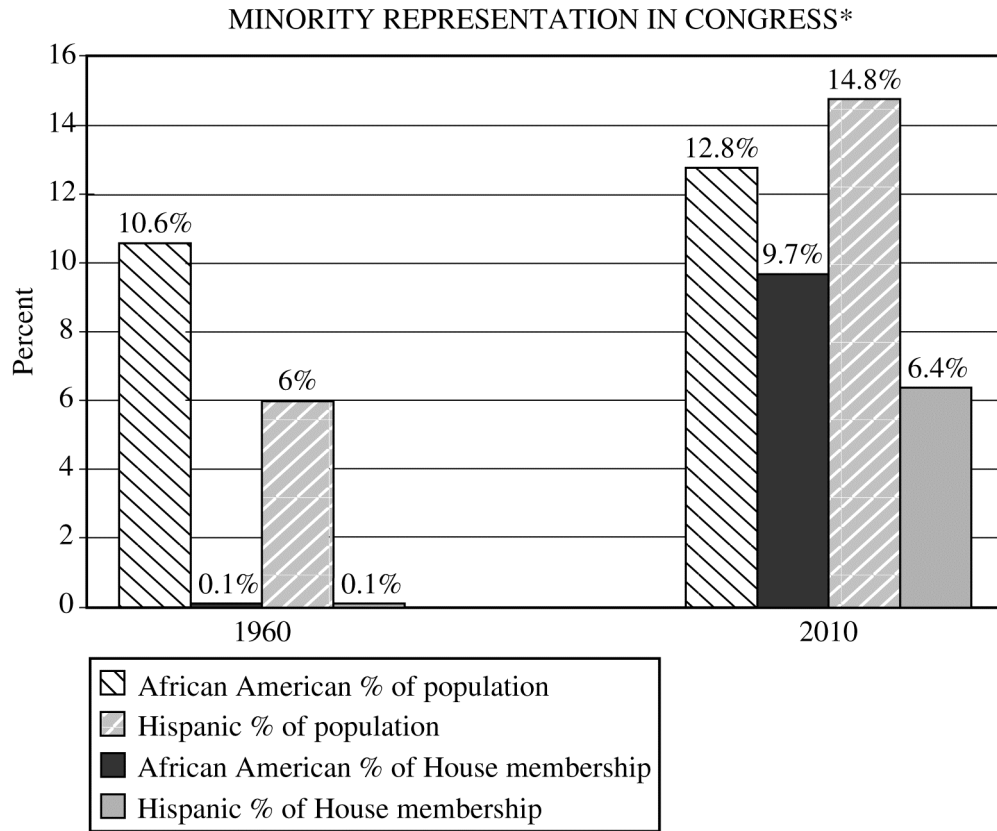


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FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**



\*Figure does not include all minority groups in Congress.

2. (a) Using the chart above, compare minority representation in 1960 and 2010.
- (b) Explain how each of the following assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting.
- Voting Rights Act of 1965
  - Twenty-fourth Amendment
- (c) Identify one barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress. Explain why the barrier you identified inhibits minority representation in Congress.

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3. The judicial branch is often assumed to be insulated from politics. However, politics affects many aspects of the judiciary.
- (a) Describe two political factors that affect presidents' decisions to appoint members of the federal judiciary.
  - (b) Identify two political factors that affect the confirmation process of a president's nominees and explain how each factor complicates a confirmation.
  - (c) Explain how one legislative power serves as a check on court decisions.
  - (d) Explain how one executive power serves as a check on court decisions.
- 
4. Interest groups seek to influence political processes in ways that benefit their members. In doing so, however, they may not act in the overall public interest.
- (a) Describe two techniques interest groups use to influence elections.
  - (b) Explain how interest groups use each of the following to influence government decision making.
    - Issue networks (also known as iron triangles)
    - Amicus curiae briefs
  - (c) Explain how each of the following serves to limit interest group influence.
    - The media
    - Pluralism

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**

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## 2012 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 2

**5 points**

**Part (a): 1 point**

One point is earned for demonstrating an increase in minority representation between 1960 and 2010.

**Part (b): 2 points**

One point is earned for an explanation of **how** the Voting Rights Act of 1965 assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting:

- Eliminating voter registration requirements (e.g., literacy tests, residency requirements) that prevented minorities from voting led to increased access for minority voters.
- Creating federal oversight of elections helped eliminate discriminatory mechanisms (e.g., voter intimidation, ballot fraud) that were used to prevent minority voters from voting, which led to increased access for minority voters.
- Eliminating the use of English-only ballots that prevented non-English-speaking minorities from voting led to increased access for minority voters.

A second point is earned for an explanation of **how** the Twenty-fourth Amendment assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting: Eliminating poll taxes that limited voting by lower-income people led to an increase in minority voting because minorities are often overrepresented among poor people.

**Part (c): 2 points**

One point is earned for identifying one barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress. The barrier may affect either minority candidates running for Congress **or** minority voters attempting to vote for minority candidates.

Minority Candidates	Minority Voters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incumbency advantage</li><li>• Gerrymandered districts</li><li>• Majority-minority districts</li><li>• Prejudice, racism, sexism</li><li>• Electoral resources</li><li>• Electoral qualifications</li><li>• Single-member districts/winner-take-all</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I.D. requirements</li><li>• English-only ballots</li><li>• Felony disenfranchisement</li><li>• Purging voter rolls</li><li>• Voter intimidation</li></ul>

A second point is earned for explaining **how** the barrier identified above inhibits minority representation in Congress:

- A minority candidate barrier must explain **how** the barrier identified above limits minority representation.
- A minority voter barrier must explain **how** the barrier limits minority participation and **how** that directly affects minority representation in Congress.

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is completely off task or is on task but earns no points.

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