

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

4. The framers of the Constitution created a political system based on limited government. The original Constitution and the Bill of Rights were intended to restrict the powers of the national government. Later constitutional developments also limited the powers of state governments.
- (a) Explain how each of the following limits the powers of the national executive.
- Federalism
 - Checks and balances
- (b) Explain how each of the following two provisions in the Bill of Rights limits the powers of the national government.
- Establishment clause
 - Guarantee of a public trial
- (c) Choose one of the following and explain how it limits the power of state governments.
- Citizenship clause of the Fourteenth Amendment
 - Selective incorporation

STOP

END OF EXAM

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2010 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 4

5 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each explanation of how each of the following limits the powers of the **national executive**.

- Federalism — divides power between national and state governments, which limits the authority of the national executive.
- Checks and balances — the response must explain how other branches of government can check (limit, restrict) what the executive can do. A correct example of a check or balance on the national executive is acceptable to earn this point.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each explanation of how each of the following limits the powers of the **national government**.

- Establishment Clause — prevents the national government from establishing a national religion or taking any action that would show preferential treatment for one religion over another.
- Guarantee of a public trial — requiring trials to be open to the public limits the government's ability to violate the rights of citizens.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for an explanation of how one of the following limits the power of **state governments**.

- Citizenship Clause — provides a national definition of citizenship that states cannot violate; requires states to provide citizenship guarantees to all who meet the definition of citizen.
- Selective incorporation — prohibits states from denying Bill of Rights provisions regarding freedom of expression, rights of the accused or privacy.

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.