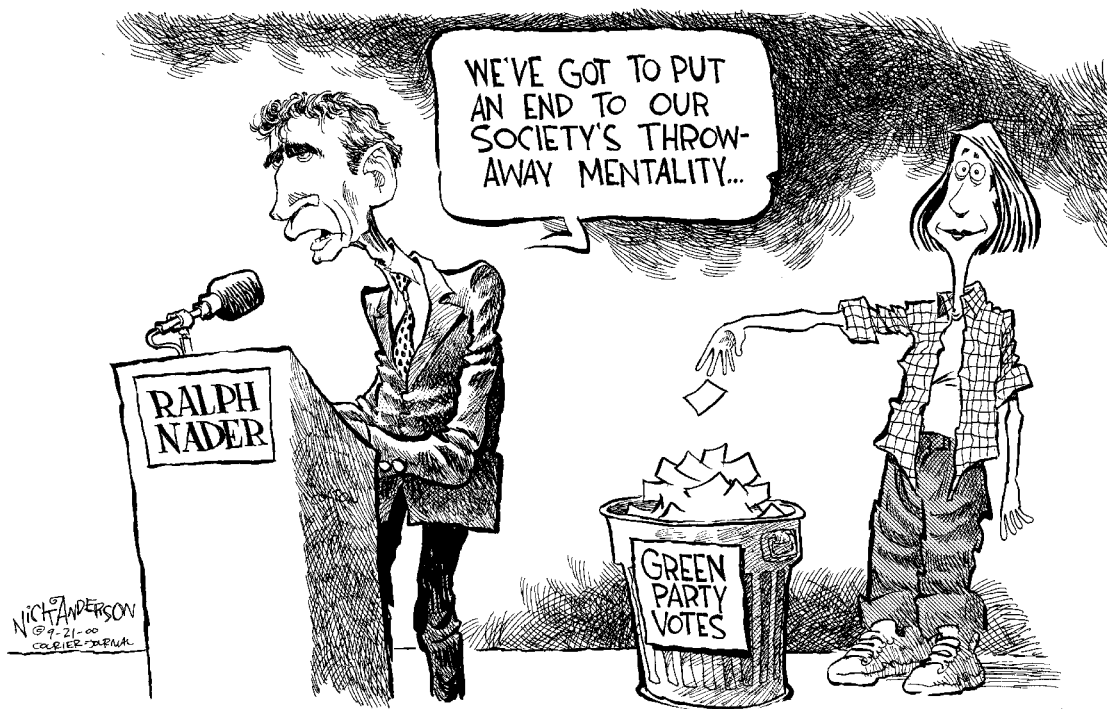


**2004 AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**



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3. Minor parties (third parties) have been a common feature of United States politics.
- (a) Describe the point of view expressed about minor parties in the political cartoon above.
 - (b) Identify and explain how two rules of the United States electoral system act as obstacles to minor-party candidates winning elections.
 - (c) Minor parties make important contributions to the United States political system in spite of the institutional obstacles to their candidates' success. Describe two of these contributions.
-
4. Trust and confidence in government have declined in recent decades.
- (a) Explain how divided government has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government. Be sure to include a definition of divided government in your response.
 - (b) Explain how the increased cost of election campaigns has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government.
 - (c) Explain two specific consequences of the decline in trust and confidence in government for individual political behavior.

END OF EXAMINATION

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2004 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 3

7 points

Part a: (1 point) 1 point for description

Accurate description of cartoon's point of view (e.g., voting for a third party is throwing away a vote)

Part b: (4 points) 1 point for each of two identifications, 1 point for each of two explanations

Accepted answers may include:

- Winner-take-all aspect of electoral college
- Ballot access
- Campaign financing (rules/limits, not effects)
- Federal funding of presidential elections
- Exclusion from presidential debates
- Single-member plurality districts

Part c: (2 points) 1 point for each of two descriptions

Acceptable answers may include:

- New or different ideas or issues
- Voice for fringe
- Safety valve for discontent
- Enhanced participation
- Room for critical voices
- Pushes major parties to include otherwise underrepresented concerns/groups
- Clarify major-party candidates' positions

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

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