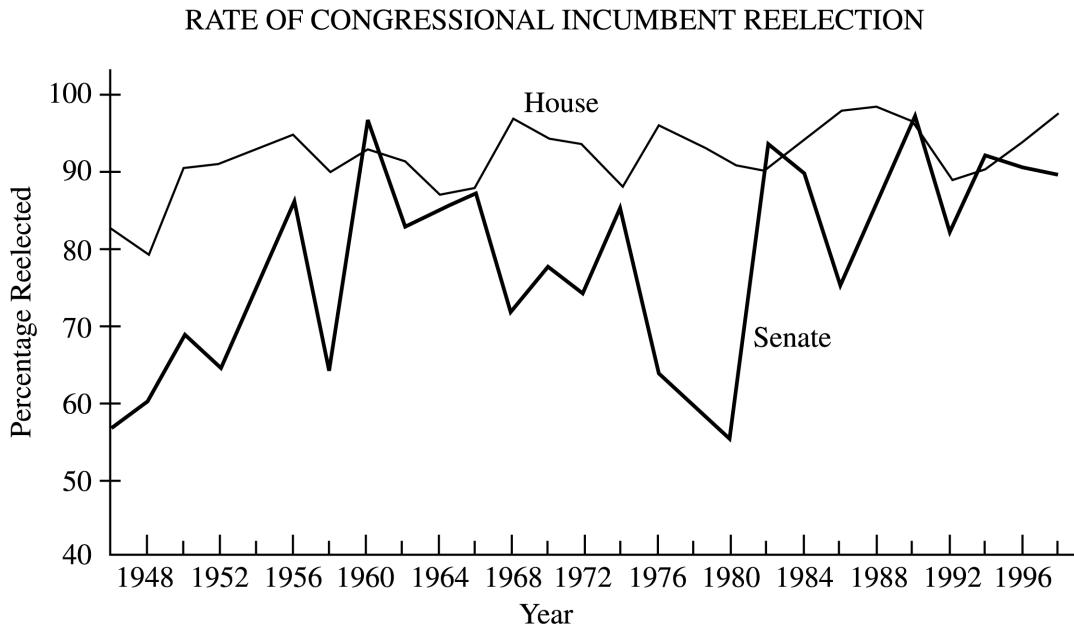


# **2001 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

## **UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS SECTION II Time—100 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. Illustrate your essay with substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

1. The United States Constitution has endured for more than two centuries as the framework of government. However, the meaning of the Constitution has been changed both by formal and informal methods.
  - a. Identify two formal methods for adding amendments to the Constitution.
  - b. Describe two informal methods that have been used to change the meaning of the Constitution. Provide one specific example for each informal method you described.
  - c. Explain why informal methods are used more often than the formal amendment process.



2. The graph above shows reelection rates for incumbents in the House and Senate. From this information and your knowledge of United States politics, perform the following tasks.
  - a. Identify two patterns displayed in the graph.
  - b. Identify two factors that contribute to incumbency advantage. Explain how each factor contributes to incumbency advantage.
  - c. Discuss one consequence of incumbency advantage for the United States political process.

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3. Many scholars and observers have argued that the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution has become the single most important act in all of United States politics.
  - a. Identify which provision of the Fourteenth Amendment was applied in one of the following Supreme Court cases. For the case you select, explain the significance of the decision in United States politics.
    - *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* (1954)
    - *Baker v. Carr* (1962)
    - *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke* (1978)
  - b. Identify which provision of the Fourteenth Amendment was applied in one of the following Supreme Court cases. For the case you select, explain the significance of the decision in United States politics.
    - *Mapp v. Ohio* (1961)
    - *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963)
    - *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966)
4. Explain how each of the political factors listed below makes it difficult for the federal government to enact public policy. Provide one example for each explanation.
  - Divided government
  - Weak party discipline
  - Growth in the number of interest groups and political action committees (PAC's)

**END OF EXAMINATION**