

**2011 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

3. Nominees for the presidency of the two major parties are chosen by delegates at national conventions. How these delegates are chosen varies across states and between the political parties.
- a. Define each of the following methods used by states to choose delegates to party conventions.
 - Open primary
 - Caucus
 - b. Republican Party rules permit winner-take-all primaries. Describe one consequence of this rule for the Republican nomination process.
 - c. The Democratic Party has used superdelegates in the presidential nominating process since 1984. Explain why the use of superdelegates increases the influence of party leaders in the Democratic nomination process.
 - d. Explain why a candidate's strategy to win the nomination is often different from the strategy developed to win the general election.
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4. The Constitution of the United States creates a government of separate institutions that share power rather than a government that delegates power exclusively to a single branch. Frequently, this means that presidents and Congress struggle with each other.
- a. For each of the presidential powers below, explain one way that congressional decision making is affected by that power.
 - Veto power
 - Power to issue executive orders
 - Power as commander in chief
 - b. For each of the congressional powers below, explain one way that presidential decision making is affected by that power.
 - Legislative oversight power
 - Senate advice and consent power
 - Budgetary power

STOP

END OF EXAM

AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2011 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

5 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct definition of open primary: a primary election in which any voter can cast a ballot in any party's primary.

One point is earned for a correct definition of caucus: a meeting or gathering of members of a political party where members deliberate and choose from the list of those seeking the presidential nomination.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for an acceptable consequence for a winner-take-all primary, which can include the following:

- Shortens the timeframe for candidates wrapping up the nomination.
- Affects strategic decisions (e.g., allocation of funds, time).
- Advantages those with more prominence or better name recognition early in the process.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for an acceptable explanation of how superdelegates increase the power of party leaders, which can include the following:

- Party leaders are now assured a role in the nomination process, regardless of which candidate they support.
- Party leaders can cast the deciding vote in close nomination contests.
- Superdelegates are unpledged and therefore can change their minds on candidates as the process unfolds.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for an acceptable explanation for why campaign strategies often differ between primary and general elections, which can include the following:

- The electorate in the primary election is different from the electorate in the general election.
- A candidate's opponents in the primary are fellow partisans, whereas opponents in the general election are from other parties.
- There are differences in financing, media coverage and current events leading up to the general election.

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.