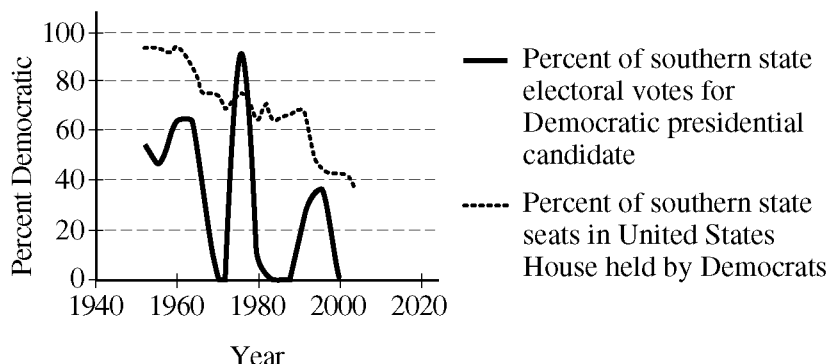


**2010 AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

**SOUTHERN STATE PARTISANSHIP IN UNITED STATES
HOUSE AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**



Source: Web site of the clerk of the House of Representatives (http://clerk.house.gov/art_history/house_history/index.html) and the National Archives (<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/historical.html>). States counted in this graphic are the eleven southern states of the former Confederacy (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia).

3. Over the last several decades, the composition of the Democratic and Republican parties has changed in important ways. A major partisan shift has occurred in the South, but other demographic changes have also been identified. Changes in party composition are reflected at different rates in presidential elections than in congressional elections.
- (a) Identify one specific trend evident in the figure above.
- (b) Choose two of the following and use each to explain why southern voters from 1948 to 2000 were electing Democratic candidates to Congress more frequently than choosing Democratic candidates for the presidency.
- Incumbency advantage
 - Gerrymandering
 - Differences between state and national parties
- (c) Several other changes in party composition have emerged in the past few decades. Select three of the following groups and for each explain how parties have changed in composition with respect to that group.
- Catholics
 - Labor union members
 - Women
 - Social conservatives

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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

AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for identifying one specific trend evident in the figure:

- Percentage of House seats for Democrats has trended down.
- Percentage of presidential electoral votes for Democrats has trended down.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each explanation of why, from 1948 to 2000, Southern voters elected Democratic candidates to Congress more frequently than they elected Democratic candidates to the presidency:

- Incumbency advantage — Even though Southern voters were voting for Republican presidential candidates, they continued to vote for incumbent Democratic congressional candidates because of the incumbency advantage.
- Gerrymandering — District lines created safe seats/majority-minority districts, which protected Democratic seats even though there were more Republican voters in statewide presidential elections.
- State versus national parties — Because national and state parties were largely independent of each other, to get votes Democratic congressional candidates responded to local interests, whereas Democratic presidential candidates responded to a national constituency.

Part (c): 3 points

One point is earned for each explanation of how, over the past few decades, party composition has changed with respect to three of the four groups:

- Catholics — They have become less reliable Democratic voters.
- Labor union members — They have become less reliable Democratic voters; have decreased in number and thus there are fewer Democratic supporters; have become a smaller percentage of the Democratic voting bloc.
- Women — They have become more reliable Democratic voters; have increased in number and thus there are more Democratic supporters; have become a larger percentage of the Democratic voting bloc.
- Social conservatives — They were previously nonexistent and have now crystallized to become more reliable Republican voters; previously found in the Democratic party and have moved to the Republican party.

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.