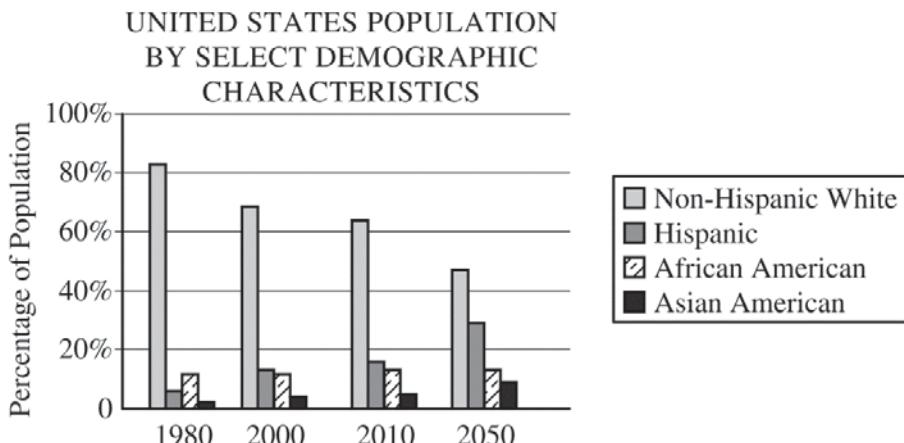


**2016 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**



\* Note: 2050 projections are based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau

2. The United States is experiencing a dramatic change in the makeup of its population. These changes have political consequences for political institutions.
- Identify a trend depicted in the chart.
  - Assuming that recent voting patterns continue, explain how the trend identified in (a) is likely to affect the electoral success of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party.
  - Explain how the demographic changes shown in the chart above are likely to affect the way in which parties operate in Congress.
  - Describe two specific actions that presidents can take to respond to the demographic changes in the chart above.
- 
3. The public policy process involves interactions between Congress and the bureaucracy.
- Identify the primary role of Congress in the policy process.
  - Explain how divided party control of Congress can make the policy process difficult.
  - Identify the primary role of the bureaucracy in the policy process.
  - Explain how one of the following increases the power of the bureaucracy in the policy process.
    - Rule making
    - Bureaucratic discretion
  - Explain how each of the following enables Congress to limit the power of the bureaucracy.
    - Oversight hearings
    - Power of the purse
-

# **AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 2016 SCORING GUIDELINES**

## **Question 2**

**5 points**

### **Part (a): 1 point**

One point is earned for identifying a correct trend. Answers may include:

- Decreasing percentage of non-Hispanic whites/white population
- Increasing percentage of Hispanic population
- Increasing percentage of Asian American population
- Stable percentage of African American population

### **Part (b): 1 point**

One point is earned for an explanation of how the trend correctly identified in part (a) is likely to affect the electoral success of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. Explanations may include:

- Democratic Party may experience greater electoral success due to the increasing percentage of minority voters.
- Republican Party may experience a decrease in electoral success due to the decreasing non-Hispanic white population.
- Republican Party could gain Hispanic voters based on socially conservative issues.

### **Part (c): 1 point**

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how demographic changes are likely to affect the way in which parties operate in Congress. Explanations may include that parties can:

- Introduce/sponsor legislation that is more focused on minority interests;
- Appoint minorities to leadership positions (committees, etc.);
- Be more responsive to lobbyists who represent minority interests;
- Influence committee priorities that are more focused on minority interests.

### **Part (d): 2 points**

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of specific actions that presidents can take to respond to demographic changes. Descriptions may include that presidents can:

- Issue executive orders/agreements to respond to minority policy views/interests;
- Appoint diverse individuals to federal government positions;
- Set the agenda to support/oppose minority interests (e.g., State of the Union);
- Go public/advocate for/against minority interests (bully pulpit);
- Sign or veto legislation regarding minority interests;
- Select VP nominee to reflect demographic changes.

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is off-task or is attempted but earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is assigned to an answer that is blank.