

# **2000 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. 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 Constitution was an attempt to address problems of decentralization that were experienced under the Articles of Confederation.
  - (a) List three problems of decentralized power that existed under the Articles of Confederation. For each problem you listed, identify one solution that the Constitution provided to address the problem.
  - (b) Some have argued that the tensions between decentralized and centralized power continue to exist. Support this argument by explaining how one of the following illustrates the continuing tension.
    - Environmental policy
    - Gun control
    - Disability access
2. The Supreme Court is commonly thought to be “above politics.” However, one can argue that the appointment of Supreme Court justices is political.
  - (a) Identify three characteristics of Supreme Court nominees and discuss how each characteristic has been politically relevant during the appointment process.
  - (b) Identify two methods that have been used by interest groups to influence the appointment process. Explain how each of these methods has been used to influence that process.
3. The figure below displays voting patterns by state in the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections. Using the information in the figure and your knowledge of United States voting behavior, perform the following tasks.
  - (a) Using the map below, identify one of the numbered regions with strong support for the Democratic presidential candidate and identify and explain two factors that contribute to that support.
  - (b) Using the map below, identify one of the numbered regions with strong support for the Republican presidential candidate and identify and explain two factors that contribute to that support.

2000 AP Comparative Government & Politics  
Question 2 Scoring Guidelines

## 7 POINTS TOTAL

\*\*\*Note: “appointment process” includes nomination and confirmation

### Part A : 4 points total: Nominees’ CHARACTERISTICS

**1 point for identifying ALL THREE characteristics (1 point total)**

**1 point for EACH discussion (3 points total)**

Accepted characteristics may include:

- Acceptability (NOT to House OR Congress)
- Age
- Competence/qualifications (e.g. ABA rating)
- Gender
- Ideology
- Issue orientation (litmus test)
- Judicial experience
- Partisan identification
- Patronage
- Race/Ethnicity
- Region
- Religion
- Reputation (e.g. prestigious education, ethics, character)
- Role (activist vs. restraint)

Not necessary to use specific examples of nominees. If example is incorrect, but discussion is correct, student still gets credit.

The discussion for each must show that they are three distinct characteristics – (e.g., acceptability must be discussed differently than ideology – no double-dipping)

### Part B: 3 points total: METHODS Used by Interest Groups to Influence Process

**1 point for identifying BOTH methods (1 point total)**

**1 point for EACH explanation that provides linkage (2 points total)**

- two explanations must be distinct (no double-dipping)
- explanation must answer question of how the method has been used to influence the process

METHODS must be relevant to the appointment process and may include:

- Advertisement (any media)
- Campaign contributions to White House or Senate
- Mailings/e-mail
- Op-ed pieces
- Press conferences
- Lobbying EITHER White House staff/President OR lobbying the judicial committee (NOT lobbying Congress in general; can say “lobbying Senate;” can say “lobbying White House to influence the President’s selection”)
- “Use of media” (does not count with another form of media as second point)
- Protests/demonstrations
- Ratings
- Talk shows (TV and radio)
- Testifying after nomination
- Writing to interest group members

Attempts to answer question but earns no points: scored as zero (0)

Blank or off-task: scored as a dash ( - )