

**2008 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

3. Fiscal policy and monetary policy are two tools used by the federal government to influence the United States economy. The executive and legislative branches share the responsibility of setting fiscal policy. The Federal Reserve Board has the primary role of setting monetary policy.
- (a) Define fiscal policy.
 - (b) Describe one significant way the executive branch influences fiscal policy.
 - (c) Describe one significant way the legislative branch influences fiscal policy.
 - (d) Define monetary policy.
 - (e) Explain two reasons why the Federal Reserve Board is given independence in establishing monetary policy.
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4. “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, 1870

Despite the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, voter turnout among African American citizens was very low throughout the first half of the twentieth century. Over the past 50 years, civil rights policies have changed substantially, along with a significant increase in African American voter turnout.

- (a) Explain how two measures taken by some states prior to the 1960s affected voter turnout among African American citizens.
- (b) Facing discrimination at the voting booth, many African American citizens turned to alternative forms of political participation. Describe two alternative forms of participation that helped bring about changes in civil rights policies.
- (c) Choose one of the forms of participation you described in (b) and explain why it was effective in changing civil rights policies.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 3

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of fiscal policy. Acceptable definitions include:

- Taxing and/or spending
- The budget

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing a significant way the executive branch influences fiscal policy. Acceptable descriptions include:

- The president proposes/prepares the federal budget.
- The president signs/vetoes legislation (related to taxing, spending, and borrowing, not generic).
- The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recommends the budget.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing a significant way the legislative branch influences fiscal policy. Acceptable descriptions include:

- Congress passes the federal budget.
- Congress acts on tax and spending legislation.
- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) advises Congress on economic policies.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of monetary policy. Acceptable definitions include:

- Regulating the money supply.
- Controlling inflation/deflation.
- Adjusting interest rates to regulate the economy.
- Adjusting bank reserve requirements.
- The cost of money.

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Question 3 (continued)

Part (e): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two explanations of why the Federal Reserve Board is given independence in establishing monetary policy. Acceptable explanations include:

- It removes politics from monetary policy decision making.
- Congress/the president can abdicate responsibility for difficult decisions by delegating decision-making power.
- The Federal Reserve Board relies on expertise when making decisions.
- The Federal Reserve Board makes economic policies efficiently.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.