

**2001 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

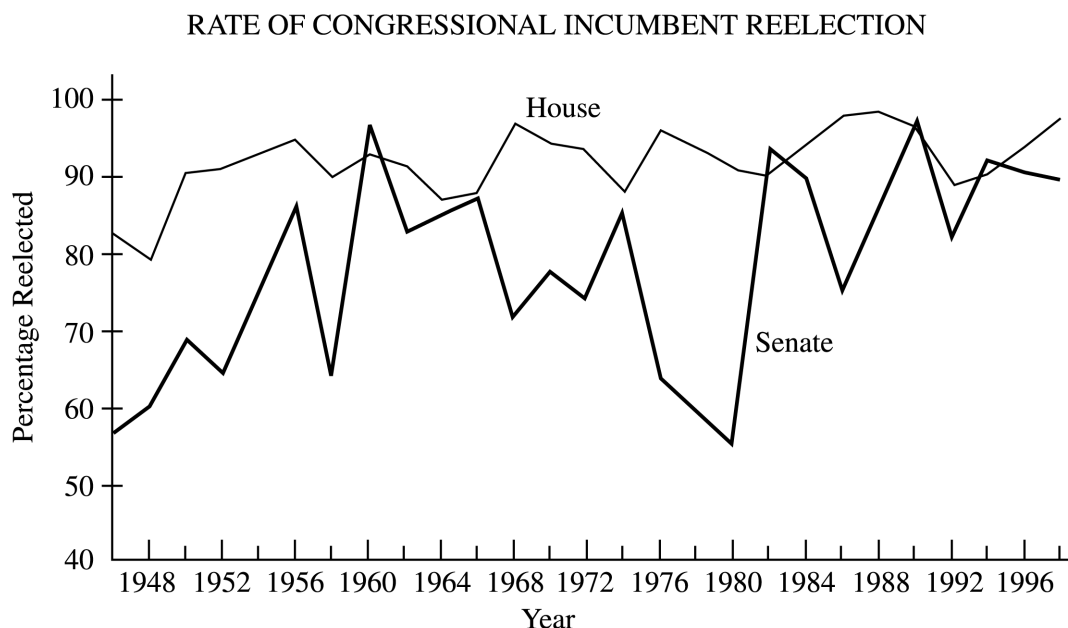
**UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**SECTION II**

**Time—100 minutes**

**Directions:** You have 100 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four 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 United States Constitution has endured for more than two centuries as the framework of government. However, the meaning of the Constitution has been changed both by formal and informal methods.
    - a. Identify two formal methods for adding amendments to the Constitution.
    - b. Describe two informal methods that have been used to change the meaning of the Constitution. Provide one specific example for each informal method you described.
    - c. Explain why informal methods are used more often than the formal amendment process.
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2. The graph above shows reelection rates for incumbents in the House and Senate. From this information and your knowledge of United States politics, perform the following tasks.
  - a. Identify two patterns displayed in the graph.
  - b. Identify two factors that contribute to incumbency advantage. Explain how each factor contributes to incumbency advantage.
  - c. Discuss one consequence of incumbency advantage for the United States political process.

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2001 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 1**

**8 POINTS TOTAL**

**Part (a):** 2 points (1 for each method identification)

**Part (b):** 4 points (1 for each description; 1 for each example)

**Part (c):** 2 points

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**Part (a):** (1 point for each method identification; 2 points total)

**Formal methods:**

Methods of amendment must include one method of proposal and one method of ratification.

**Methods of proposal:**

- By two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress
- By national constitutional convention called by Congress at the request of two-thirds of the state legislatures (never been used)

**Methods of Ratification:**

- By legislatures in three-fourths of the states
- By conventions in three-fourths of the states

Students do not have to give the exact fractions, as long as they understand that it is an extraordinary majority *and* that it involves federalism.

Simple majority is not adequate.

Do not have to use exact terms (propose, ratify, supermajority, federalism).

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**Part (b):** (1 point for each description of informal methods; 1 point for each example; 4 points total)

*Informal methods may include:*

- Courts (judicial review/judicial interpretation/application)
  - Elastic clause
  - Development of political customs/traditions
  - The example chosen must be linked to the method described.
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**Part (c):** (1 point for basic explanation; 1 point for elaboration; 2 points total)

Can get one point for a basic explanation. (i.e., “it’s harder to amend formally”)

Second point requires further elaboration

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**Score of zero (0)** for attempted answer that earns no points

**Score of dash (–)** for blank or off-task answer