

**2012 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

**UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

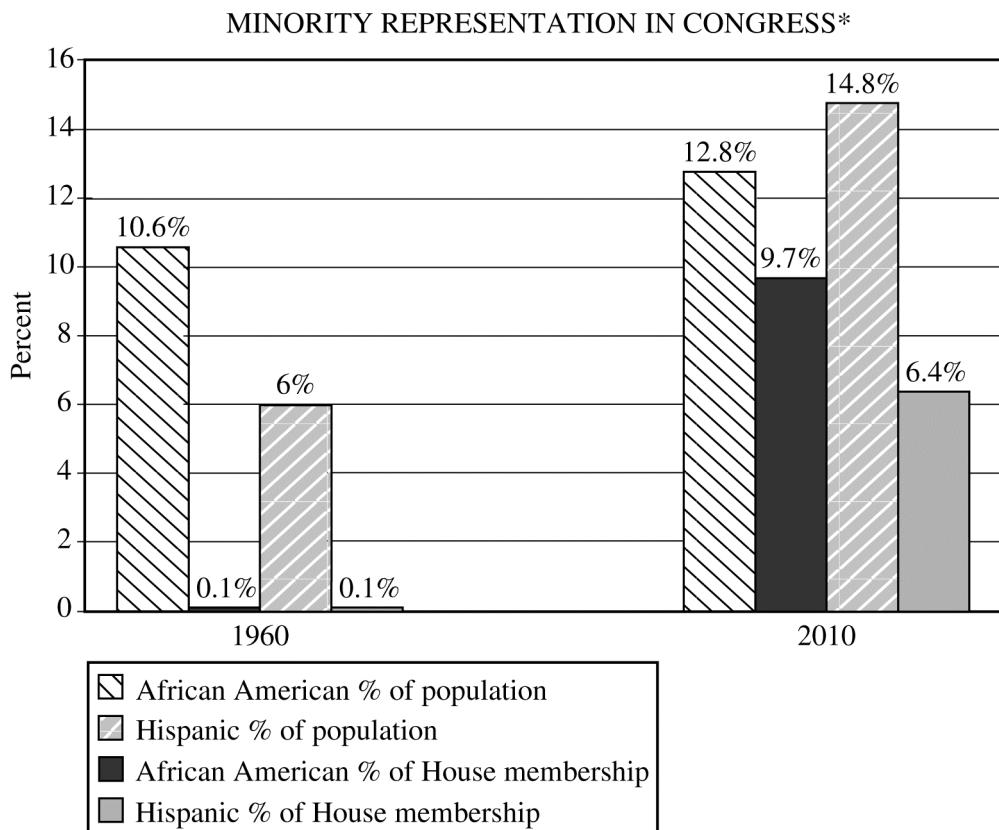
**SECTION II**

**Time—1 hour and 40 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. In your response, use substantive examples where appropriate.

1. Members of Congress are charged with three primary duties—writing laws, overseeing the implementation of laws, and serving the needs of their constituents.
  - (a) Describe the role of each of the following in lawmaking.
    - Senate filibuster
    - House Rules Committee
    - Conference committee
  - (b) Describe one method by which Congress exercises oversight of the federal bureaucracy.
  - (c) Explain how casework affects members' attention to legislation.

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\*Figure does not include all minority groups in Congress.

2. (a) Using the chart above, compare minority representation in 1960 and 2010.
- (b) Explain how each of the following assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting.
  - Voting Rights Act of 1965
  - Twenty-fourth Amendment
- (c) Identify one barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress. Explain why the barrier you identified inhibits minority representation in Congress.

# **AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 2012 SCORING GUIDELINES**

## **Question 1**

**5 points**

### **Part (a): 3 points**

Describe the **role** of each of the following in lawmaking (3 points total, 1 point per role):

- Senate filibuster allows a senator on the floor to:
  - Prevent/delay action on a particular bill.
  - Prevent/delay other business from being conducted.
- Rules Committee schedules or manages the flow of legislation on the floor to:
  - Make it easier or more difficult for a bill to pass.
  - Make the process more efficient/orderly/manageable.
- Conference Committee reconciles differences in House and Senate versions of a bill.

Must describe the role in lawmaking explicitly.

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

Describe one **method** by which Congress exercises oversight of the federal bureaucracy (1 point):

- Budgetary process (power of the purse)
- Committee hearings
- Confirmation or rejection of political appointments to the bureaucracy
- Investigations
- New legislation
- Legislative veto

Must describe the context in which Congress uses the method to oversee the bureaucracy.

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

Explain **how** casework affects members' attention to legislation (1 point):

- Diverts time, resources, and staff, thus reducing members' ability to focus on legislation.
- Develops awareness of problems, thus focusing more time and resources on related legislation.

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

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