

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 US Government & Politics
Question 1 Scoring Guidelines

5 POINTS TOTAL

Part A : 3 points total

1 point for each problem clearly linked to a solution

If only problem OR solution is given, no credit

No credit if problem is only implicit, not clearly listed

Possible examples of A:

- Amendment process
- Creation of a dominant national legislature
- Creation of an executive
- Interstate commerce
- National court system
- Power to coin money
- Power to raise a military force
- Power to tax/raise revenue
- Settle disputes between states
- Supermajority
- “Supremacy Clause”
- Treaties
- Reference to other enumerated powers of Article 1, Section 8

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{PRIVATE }**Part B: 2 points total{tc \l 1 "Part B": 2 points total"}**

1 point for general description of specific continuing tensions between centralization and decentralization (federal/state; federal/local governments) with **at least** implicit linkage to one of the three policy areas.

2 points for a specific explanation of the continuing tensions between centralization and decentralization (federal/state; federal/local governments) with **explicit** linkage to one of the three policy areas. Explanation has to say how, why, etc.

*Readers should look throughout essay for identification of problems and solutions, even if not

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

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