



AP[®] United States Government and Politics 2013 Scoring Guidelines

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AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2013 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of direct democracy:

- Rule by the people + $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Individual participation on legislation or policy} \\ \textbf{OR} \\ \text{Making decisions without delegating authority to elected representatives} \end{array} \right.$

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for defining a republican form of government:

Authority is delegated to elected representatives to make decision on behalf of citizens.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a description of one reason the framers chose a republican form of government.

Reasons include:

- Fear of mob rule (tyranny of the majority)
- Size of country
- Elitism – inadequate education/uninformed public
- Did not trust people
- To counter the influence of factions
- Preexistence of states
- Reinforcement of federalism

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for each description of the models of congressional representation.

- An acceptable description of the **trustee model** (attitudinal view):
 - Decisions made by elected official using their own personal views **or** decisions made by the elected official based on the public good and **not** on the basis of constituents' views.
- An acceptable description of the **delegate model** (representational view):
 - Decisions made by the elected official mirror the constituents' views, represent constituents' views, or do what voters tell them to do.

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for an acceptable explanation of why a member of Congress might sometimes act as a trustee (attitudinal view) rather than a delegate (representational view).

- Information access
- Reliance on expertise
- Divided constituency
- Salience of issue
- Vote his or her conscience (explaining why)
- Difficulty determining what voters want

Note: Must close loop to show contrast that the representative is voting regardless of what the constituents want.

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Question 1 (continued)

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.

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Question 2

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two correct descriptions of the functions of political parties in elections including:

- Provide cues for voters
- Provide a platform of issues
- Recruit candidates for government office
- Nominate candidates for government office
- Raise funds for their candidates' campaigns
- Support for candidates' campaigns
- Mobilize voters and get out the votes

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for the correct description of a role of political parties within Congress to promote the party's public policy agenda:

- Leadership positions in Congress are assigned on a party basis.
- Party leaders articulate legislative policy priorities of the party.
- Party leaders facilitate legislative policy priorities of the party.
- Majority party selects committee chairs who promote the party's legislative priorities in committee.
- Majority party appoints and controls the standing committees.
- Majority party controls floor debates.
- Majority party controls the rules and calendar favorable to majority party's policy priorities.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for an explanation of how each of the following factors has weakened the influence of political parties over the political process:

- Direct primaries: Gives parties less control over the nomination process of candidates; candidates appeal directly to voters and bypass parties; candidates may win who are not favored by the party elite.
- Candidate-centered campaigns: Candidates appeal directly to voters; candidates can raise money by appealing to voters or PACs directly; candidates choose their own issues to campaign on.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for an explanation of how party polarization has strengthened party influence in Congress:

Members of political parties vote along party line; therefore they are less likely to cross party lines to vote with the other party.

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.

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Question 3

5 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a similarity between President Barack Obama's judicial appointments and those made by President George W. Bush. Possible responses include:

- In both cases more than half the appointees were white. President Obama's appointees were 59 percent white, while President Bush's appointees were 82 percent white.
- In both cases the number of Hispanic nominees is roughly similar, within two percentage points.
- In both cases Asian Americans were the lowest demographic nominated, both under 10 percent.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two correct descriptions of a difference between President Barack Obama's judicial appointments and those made by President George W. Bush. Possible responses include:

- Obama appointed a significantly greater percentage of women than did Bush. President Obama's appointees were 46 percent women, while President Bush's appointees were 22 percent women.
- Obama was more likely to appoint racial minority candidates than was Bush; for example, 22 percent of President Obama's appointees were African American, as opposed to 7 percent of President Bush's appointees.
- Obama appointed more than Bush in any single minority category, appointing a higher percentage of African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why a president's party affiliation accounts for differences in presidential appointments to the judiciary. Possible responses include:

- President chooses nominees with similar views who will rule in a manner consistent with the President's policy preferences — party ID is a rough indicator.
- President chooses nominees that cater to his party's electoral coalition, which will help his party win future elections.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a way that a president can increase the chances of having judicial nominations confirmed. Possible responses include:

- Consulting with the Senate/using senatorial courtesy
- Choosing a moderate
- Properly vetting candidates/selecting qualified candidates

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.

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Question 4

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of the importance of each of the following in the formation of the policy agenda:

Media

- Affects agenda setting by what it chooses to cover (priming/gatekeeping/watchdog).
- Media framing of issues.

Elections

- Election winners control agenda.
- Initiative process.
- Issues raised during campaigns.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct description of the role of each of the following in the enactment of public policy:

Congressional committees: committee actions related to the enactment of public policy (gatekeeper/mark-up legislation/hold hearings).

Executive Orders

- Presidents use executive orders to enact policy.
- Bypass Congress.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of the importance of each of the following in the implementation of public policy:

Bureaucratic discretion: bureaucrats have the ability to shape implementation of public policy.

Issue networks or iron triangles

- Interest group(s)/congressional committee(s) pressure bureaucracy to implement policy that benefits them.
- Bureaucracy can shape policy implementation to benefit interest group(s).

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.