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# **AP<sup>®</sup> United States Government and Politics 2014 Scoring Guidelines**

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2014 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 1**

**6 points**

**Part (a): 1 point**

One point is earned for making an accurate comparison of *both* Federalist and Anti-federalist positions.

- The Federalists wanted a stronger national government and weaker state governments, while the Anti-federalists wanted a weaker national government and stronger state government.
- The Federalists wanted a balanced relationship between federal and state governments, while the Anti-federalists wanted a weaker national government and stronger state government.

**Part (b): 2 points**

One point is earned for each accurate description of a feature of the original Constitution that led to the growth of the national government's power. Acceptable descriptions include:

- Necessary and Proper clause/Elastic clause
- Supremacy clause
- Commerce clause
- General Welfare clause
- Taxing power
- Unitary Executive

**Part (c): 2 points**

One point is earned for an accurate explanation of how each of the following addressed Anti-federalist concerns:

- First Amendment – Student must demonstrate knowledge of at least one right in the First Amendment and indicate that the First Amendment protects an individual's liberty and provides protection from government power.
- Tenth Amendment – Student must demonstrate an understanding that powers not mentioned in the Constitution are reserved to the states and people.

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**Question 1 (continued)**

**Part (d): 1 point**

One point is earned for an accurate explanation of how one of the following clauses has altered the balance of power between the state and national governments.

- Due Process Clause – Student must demonstrate an understanding that individual protections in the Bill of Rights are applied to the states. Student must indicate that states are compelled to follow national requirements.
- Equal Protection Clause – Student must demonstrate an understanding that the clause protects members of groups from discrimination by states. Student must indicate that states are compelled to follow national requirements.

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is off task or is attempted 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): 1 point**

One point is earned for an accurate identification of how one of the following amendments affected the electorate:

- The Fifteenth Amendment gave African Americans the right to vote.
- The Nineteenth Amendment gave women the right to vote.
- The Twenty-Sixth Amendment gave citizens age 18 and over the right to vote.

**Part (b): 2 points**

One point is earned for each explanation of factors that affect voter turnout:

- Motor voter laws add more registered voters to the rolls, potentially changing voter turnout.
- Photo identification laws create a potential barrier for those without accepted forms of ID, changing voter turnout.

**Part (c): 1 point**

One point is earned for an accurate description of how one of the following affects the likelihood of a person voting in an election:

- Education
  - Education is positively correlated with voter turnout: The higher the education level of a person, the more likely he or she is to vote.
- Age
  - Age is positively correlated with voter turnout: The older a person is, the more likely he or she is to vote.

**Part (d): 2 points**

One point is earned for each accurate explanation of why voter turnout differs in the following:

- Presidential vs. midterm elections
  - Media coverage is greater in presidential elections.
  - Increased interest in and importance of national and presidential campaigns.
- Primary vs. general elections
  - Partisans and activists are more likely to vote in primaries.
  - Only party members may vote in closed primaries.
  - Many primary elections are noncompetitive.
  - Independents are less likely to participate in primary elections.
  - General elections simplify choices.
  - Media coverage is greater in general elections.
  - Increased interest in and importance of general elections.

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

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

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### Question 3

**6 points**

**Part (a): 2 points**

One point is earned for each accurate description of an enumerated power that Congress has in making foreign policy. Enumerated powers include:

- Declaring war
- Power of the purse
- Treaty ratification
- Regulating commerce with other nations
- Raising and supporting army/navy
- Passing laws relative to foreign policy
- Defining and punishing offenses against the laws of other nations
- Confirming cabinet or administrative appointments: Defense, State, trade reps, etc.

**Part (b): 2 points**

One point is earned for each description of expressed powers the president has in making foreign policy. Expressed powers include:

- Receiving ambassadors
- Appointing ambassadors
- Commander-in-Chief
- Making treaties
- Appointing cabinet officers and administrative agency heads relevant to foreign policy

**Part (c): 1 point**

One point is earned for an accurate explanation of how executive agreements expand the president's ability to implement foreign policy: they can be entered into unilaterally (no interference from Congress).

**Part (d): 1 point**

One point is earned for an accurate explanation of how one of the following limits the president's ability to implement foreign policy. Accurate explanations include:

- Elections
  - Elections matter: Presidents must seek re-election; they can be voted out of office after first term; elections can shift agenda or focus.
  - Midterm elections lead to shifts in partisan makeup of Congress, often to the detriment of the president's party.
- Presidential approval ratings
  - Lower ratings can lead to perceptions of lesser authority or influence, constraining the president's freedom to implement foreign policy.

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

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

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## 2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 4

#### 5 points

##### Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of party polarization as increased ideological consistency, divisions along party lines, or both.

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

One point is earned for identifying a trend in the graph (e.g., party polarization has increased in the House; is higher in the House than in the Senate over time; was up, then down, then up).

##### Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for each accurate description of a cause of party polarization in Congress. Acceptable causes include:

- Clear issue differences between the parties
- Increasing reliance on ideologically-driven activists
- Ideologically-driven membership
- Gerrymandering
- Media effects on politics (e.g., fragmentation of traditional media; consolidation of media ownership; media focus on ideological extremism)
- Changing norms in Congress (e.g., lower levels of trust or dislike among members; shorter work week)
- Direct primaries – ideological voters in congressional elections
- Changing campaign finance rules
- Rise of single issue interest groups
- Shifts in the party (i.e., Republicans' "Southern Strategy")

##### Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for an accurate description of how party polarization affects Congressional policy making. Acceptable effects include:

- Gridlock (e.g., fewer laws passed; confirmation processes become more difficult; filibuster; greater numbers of vacancies in courts and agencies)
- Lack of compromise (e.g., fewer laws passed; confirmation processes become more difficult; filibuster; greater numbers of vacancies in courts and agencies)

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

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