AP® United States Government and Politics
2008 Scoring Guidelines

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AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
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Question 1

7 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct definition of congressional reapportionment. One point is earned for a correct explanation of why reapportionment is important to states.

An acceptable definition of congressional reapportionment is:

- The reallocation of the number of representatives each state has in the House of Representatives.

Acceptable explanations of why congressional reapportionment is important to states are:

- Reapportionment increases or decreases the number of seats a state has in the House/Congress (not the Senate).
- More representatives mean that a state has more influence.
- Reapportionment increases or decreases a state's number of electoral votes.

NOTE: The explanation point must be tied to an appropriate definition of reapportionment.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of congressional redistricting. An acceptable definition is:

- The drawing/redrawing of House/congressional (not Senate) district lines.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two explanations of the goals of politicians when they gerrymander during redistricting. Acceptable explanations may include:

- To enhance political party strength/to minimize the strength of the opposition party.
- To protect incumbents/to discourage challengers.
- To increase minority representation/to decrease minority representation.
- To punish foes/to reward friends.

NOTE: "Cracking" or "packing" must be tied to one of the above in order to earn the explanation point.

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of limits that the United States Supreme Court has placed on congressional redistricting.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Districts must be equally populated.
- Lines must be contiguous or connected.
- Redistricting cannot dilute minority voting strength.
- District lines cannot be drawn solely based upon race.
- Districts must be compact.
- Communities of interest must be protected.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

Question 2

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of formal, enumerated powers that enable the president to exert influence over domestic policy. Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Legislative powers (veto, pocket veto, signing legislation).
- State of the Union address.
- Appointment power (to a domestic office).
- Calling Congress into session.
- Chief executive role ("faithfully execute the law" clause).
- Commander-in-chief role (must connect it to domestic policy in order to earn the point).

Part (b): 4 points

One point is earned for each of two definitions and two explanations of limits to the president's ability to influence domestic policymaking in Congress. Explanations must be tied to a correct, though not necessarily complete, definition.

	Correct Definition	**Examples of Acceptable Explanations**
Mandatory Spending	Spending not controlled by annual budget decisions (nondiscretionary spending, automatic spending, etc.)	• Budgetary constraints make it difficult to accomplish policy goals. • It is difficult to make budget cuts that might accomplish policy goals.
Party Polarization	Increased interparty differences	• Opposing party may block policy goals. • There is a lack of moderates with whom to build coalitions.
Lame-Duck Period	Period of time in which an officeholder's term is coming to an end	• President's power is perceived as being diminished. • Congress is less responsive to the president.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

Question 3

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of fiscal policy. Acceptable definitions include:

- Taxing and/or spending
- The budget

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing a significant way the executive branch influences fiscal policy. Acceptable descriptions include:

- The president proposes/prepares the federal budget.
- The president signs/vetoes legislation (related to taxing, spending, and borrowing, not generic).
- The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recommends the budget.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing a significant way the legislative branch influences fiscal policy. Acceptable descriptions include:

- Congress passes the federal budget.
- Congress acts on tax and spending legislation.
- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) advises Congress on economic policies.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of monetary policy. Acceptable definitions include:

- Regulating the money supply.
- Controlling inflation/deflation.
- Adjusting interest rates to regulate the economy.
- Adjusting bank reserve requirements.
- The cost of money.

Part (e): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two explanations of why the Federal Reserve Board is given independence in establishing monetary policy. Acceptable explanations include:

- It removes politics from monetary policy decision making.
- Congress/the president can abdicate responsibility for difficult decisions by delegating decision-making power.
- The Federal Reserve Board relies on expertise when making decisions.
- The Federal Reserve Board makes economic policies efficiently.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

Question 4

5 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two explanations of measures taken by some states that affected voter turnout among African American citizens. Acceptable explanations are:

- Literacy tests
- Poll taxes
- Grandfather clauses
- Dilution of voting strength through redistricting
- White primaries
- Election procedures (notification, access)

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of alternative forms of participation. Acceptable descriptions are:

- Demonstrations/protests/public rallies/civil disobedience
- Organized interest-group activity (e.g., NAACP)
- Courts/litigation
- Boycotts
- Election activities other than voting (campaigning, donating)

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why an alternative form of participation was effective in changing civil rights policies based on the response in (b).

The response must *explain how or why* policy outputs or outcomes result from participation, including the following three elements:

- Participation
- Linkage mechanism
- Policy output or outcome

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.