



AP United States Government and Politics 2001 Scoring Guidelines

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**AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2001 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 1

8 POINTS TOTAL

Part (a): 2 points (1 for each method identification)

Part (b): 4 points (1 for each description; 1 for each example)

Part (c): 2 points

Part (a): (1 point for each method identification; 2 points total)

Formal methods:

Methods of amendment must include one method of proposal and one method of ratification.

Methods of proposal:

- By two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress
- By national constitutional convention called by Congress at the request of two-thirds of the state legislatures (never been used)

Methods of Ratification:

- By legislatures in three-fourths of the states
- By conventions in three-fourths of the states

Students do not have to give the exact fractions, as long as they understand that it is an extraordinary majority *and* that it involves federalism.

Simple majority is not adequate.

Do not have to use exact terms (propose, ratify, supermajority, federalism).

Part (b): (1 point for each description of informal methods; 1 point for each example; 4 points total)

Informal methods may include:

- Courts (judicial review/judicial interpretation/application)
- Elastic clause
- Development of political customs/traditions
- The example chosen must be linked to the method described.

Part (c): (1 point for basic explanation; 1 point for elaboration; 2 points total)

Can get one point for a basic explanation. (i.e., “it’s harder to amend formally”)

Second point requires further elaboration

Score of zero (0) for attempted answer that earns no points

Score of dash (–) for blank or off-task answer

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Question 2

6 POINTS TOTAL

Part (a): 1 point (1 point for two identifications)

Part (b): 4 points (1 point for each identification, 1 point for each explanation)

Part (c): 1 point for discussion

Part (a): 1 point (1 point for two identifications of patterns)

Requires two factual statements about patterns that can be drawn from the graph.

Each pattern must address a spread of at least four years on the graph.

Must identify a pattern. Identification of a single point on the graph is *not* credited.

- Incumbency rates are high in the House
 - Incumbency rates are high in the Senate
 - House typically has higher incumbency rates than Senate
 - House incumbency rates have increased over time
 - Senate incumbency rates have increased over time
 - House incumbency has generally been above 80%; Senate has been above 50%
 - Rates of incumbency are more stable in the House than in the Senate
-

Part (b): 4 points (1 point for each identification, 1 point for each explanation)

Some acceptable factors that contribute to incumbency advantage include:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| • Sophomore surge | • Franking |
| • Campaign finance | • Name recognition |
| • Constituency service | • Pork barrel |
| • Access to media | • Redistricting |
| • Experience (must go beyond the single word to be more than restatement of “incumbency”) | |

Explanations:

Must be an *explicit* statement of how or why the factors contribute to incumbency advantage.

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Question 2 (cont.)

Part (c): 1 point for discussion

Consequences can be positive or negative. Some acceptable consequences include:

- Continuity over time
- Less radical change/more incremental change
- More experienced political leaders
- More established relations with interest groups

Discourages challengers

- Policy specialization
- Fewer women and minorities
- Lack of responsiveness

Discussion must have an explicit link to the larger political process.

Score of zero (0) for attempted answer that earns no points

Score of dash (–) for blank or off-task answer

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Question 3

6 POINTS TOTAL

Part (a): 3 points

Identification:

(1 point) Identification of the “provision.” Must use “equal protection.”

Explanation:

(1 point) Factual statement about the holding.

(1 point) Explanation of the significance or impact of the case in United States politics

Must go beyond the holding of the case

- For example: “led to Civil Rights movement”
 - NOT credited: “Brown led to desegregation of public schools”
-

Part (b): 3 points

Identification:

(1 point) Identification of the “provision.” Must use “due process.”

Explanation:

(1 point) Factual statement about the holding.

(1 point) Explanation of the significance or impact of the case in United States politics

Must go beyond holding of the case

- NOT credited “All police must read Miranda rights”
-

Score of zero (0) for attempted answer that earns no points

Score of dash (–) for blank or off-task answer

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Question 4

6 POINTS TOTAL

Explanations must include more than simply a definition of the political factor

Explanation must include how or why the factor makes it difficult to enact policy

Example must be explicitly linked to the political factor

Hypothetical examples are acceptable if the concepts are correctly exemplified

2 points: Divided government: (must include reference to party)

Explanation (1 point) (How/why difficult to enact)

- President/Congress controlled by different parties
- Chambers of Congress controlled by different parties

Example (1point)

2 points: Weak party discipline:

Explanation (1point) (How/why difficult to enact)

- Crossover voting
- Diminished party ties
- Difficulty predicting party support
- Leadership has a more difficult time getting the votes
- Individual members of Congress can defect without serious consequences

Example (1point)

2 points: Growth in number of interest groups and PACs

Explanation (1point) (How/why difficult to enact)

- Competing interests
- Interest groups can oppose policy initiatives.
- Interest groups are “veto groups”

Example (1point)

Score of zero (0) for attempted answer that earns no points

Score of dash (–) for blank or off-task answer