



## **AP<sup>®</sup> United States Government & Politics 2003 Free-Response Questions**

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FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

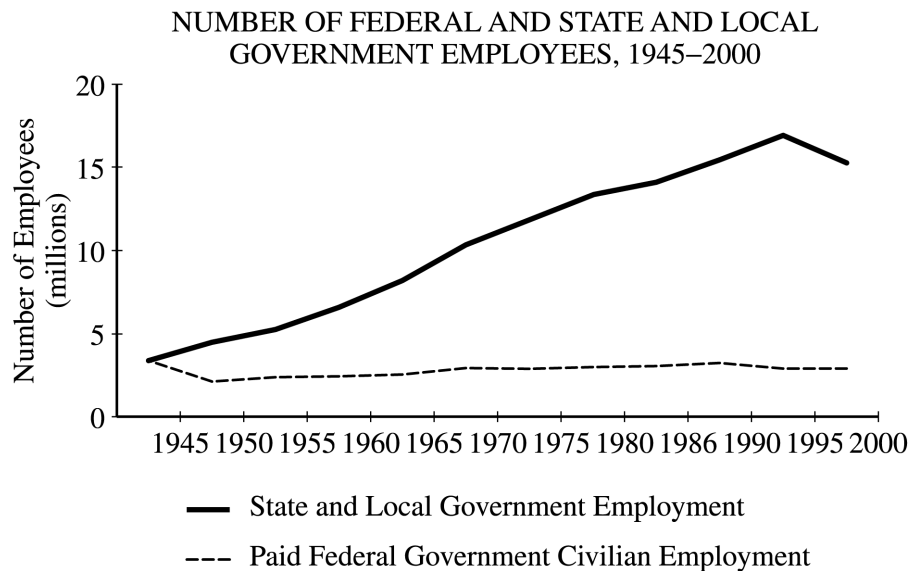
**UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**SECTION II**

**Time—100 minutes**

**Directions:** You have 100 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four 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. In your response, use substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

1. Presidential approval ratings fluctuate over the course of each presidential administration.
  - (a) Identify two factors that decrease presidential approval ratings, and explain why each factor has that effect.
  - (b) Identify two factors that increase presidential approval ratings, and explain why each factor has that effect.
2. Citizens often choose to participate in the political process in ways other than voting.
  - (a) Identify two forms of participation in the political process other than voting.
  - (b) Explain two advantages of each form of participation you identified in (a).



3. Using the data in the graph above and your knowledge of United States politics, perform the following tasks.
  - (a) Identify two trends shown in the graph.
  - (b) Explain how each of the following contributes to the difference between the federal and the state and local lines in the graph.
    - Block grants
    - Federal mandates

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4. Both party leadership and committees in Congress play key roles in the legislative process.
- (a) Define two of the following elements of the congressional committee system and explain how each influences the legislative process.
- Specialization
  - Reciprocity/logrolling
  - Party representation on committees
- (b) Identify two ways party leadership in Congress can influence the legislative process, and explain how each way influences the process.

**END OF EXAMINATION**