

Section 1 Quiz

Parties and What They Do



A. Key Terms and Concepts

Read the statements below. If a statement is true, write T in the blank provided. If it is false, write F.

- _____ 1. The two major parties in the United States are election-oriented rather than issue-oriented.
- _____ 2. Once its candidates are elected, a political party has no interest in whether they perform well in office.
- _____ 3. The function that most clearly sets political parties apart from other political groups operating in the United States is the nomination of candidates for elective office.
- _____ 4. Most federal appointments to executive offices are made on a partisan basis.
- _____ 5. One of the most important functions of the party in power is the "watchdog" function.

B. Main Ideas

Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank provided.

- _____ 6. A political party is a group of persons who join together in order to
 - a. alert the public to problems that need government action.
 - b. gain control of the government through the electoral process.
 - c. educate the public about the need for political activism.
 - d. ensure that nominees for public office are of good character.
- _____ 7. The function of informing the public and stimulating political debate is performed by
 - a. the news media.
 - b. political parties.
 - c. interest groups.
 - d. all of the above.
- _____ 8. Broadly based parties like those in the United States tend to reduce and moderate political conflict by
 - a. encouraging public debate of controversial issues.
 - b. ensuring that party members share similar views on important questions.
 - c. urging voters to "throw the rascals out."
 - d. encouraging conflicting groups to agree to compromise solutions.
- _____ 9. Under the system of separation of powers, political parties are usually the agents that prompt cooperation between
 - a. the legislative and executive branches.
 - b. Federal and State governments.
 - c. Congress and State legislatures.
 - d. the executive and judicial branches.
- _____ 10. The function of the "loyal opposition" is to
 - a. establish guidelines for candidate selection.
 - b. ensure that the party platform is consistent with the party's principles.
 - c. criticize the policies of the party in power.
 - d. make sure that the party's candidates, once elected, perform well.

Section 2 Quiz
The Two-Party System



A. Key Terms and Concepts

Match the descriptions in Column I with the terms in Column II. Write the correct letter in each blank.

Column I

- _____ 1. institution that promotes continuation of the two-party system
- _____ 2. a union of many persons of diverse interests
- _____ 3. general agreement
- _____ 4. for example, the "Solid South"
- _____ 5. culture composed of many distinct subgroups

Column II

- a. consensus
- b. one-party system
- c. pluralistic society
- d. single-member districts
- e. coalition

B. Main Ideas

Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank provided.

- _____ 6. The two-party system in America goes back to the
 - a. Revolution.
 - b. ratification of the Constitution.
 - c. Civil War.
 - d. Great Depression.
- _____ 7. The fact that candidates for Congress do not need to win a majority of votes in order to win an election
 - a. discourages people from voting for minor-party candidates.
 - b. allows minor-party candidates to gain congressional seats.
 - c. weakens the two-party system.
 - d. helps to ensure that incumbents are usually reelected.
- _____ 8. The statement that "Americans are an ideologically homogeneous people" refers to the fact that
 - a. American society is made up of many distinct cultures and groups.
 - b. Americans disagree with one another about the basic principles of government.
 - c. American history has been plagued by sharp political divisions among competing groups.
 - d. Americans share basic political ideals.
- _____ 9. Multiparty systems tend to produce
 - a. political instability.
 - b. fewer policy alternatives.
 - c. national unity.
 - d. economic prosperity.
- _____ 10. Which of the following groups would be most likely to support the Democratic party?
 - a. the business community
 - b. Protestants
 - c. people whose parents supported the Democratic party
 - d. white males

The Two-Party System in American History



A. Key Terms and Concepts

Complete each sentence in Column I by writing the letter of the correct term from Column II in the blank.

Column I

- _____ 1. Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were the leaders of the _____.
- _____ 2. The party that developed in opposition to the Jacksonian Democrats was the _____.
- _____ 3. The Era of Good Feeling was a period of _____ rule.
- _____ 4. In the 1996 presidential election, President Bill Clinton was the _____.
- _____ 5. The _____ expanded to include all white males during the Jacksonian era.

Column II

- a. incumbent
- b. one-party
- c. Whig party
- d. electorate
- e. Democratic-Republican party

B. Main Ideas

Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank provided.

- _____ 6. Which of the following was supported by the Democratic-Republicans?
 - a. presidential rather than congressional leadership
 - b. a broad interpretation of the Constitution
 - c. policies designed to help farmers and planters
 - d. a strong Federal Government
- _____ 7. During which period(s) of American history has the Democratic party dominated the Federal Government?
 - a. 1800-1860 only
 - b. 1800-1860 and 1932-1968
 - c. 1860-1932 only
 - d. 1860-1932 and 1968-present
- _____ 8. Which of the following groups was NOT part of the coalition that backed the post-Civil War Republican party?
 - a. African Americans
 - b. business and financial leaders
 - c. Western farmers
 - d. Southerners
- _____ 9. The critical election of 1896 was a _____ victory that signaled an end to divisive _____ conflicts.
 - a. Democratic, racial
 - b. Republican, religious
 - c. Democratic, economic
 - d. Republican, sectional
- _____ 10. Unlike previous periods, during the period from 1968 to the present,
 - a. one party has controlled both Congress and the presidency.
 - b. most of the conflicts that divide Americans have been over domestic issues.
 - c. one party has controlled the presidency while the other has controlled Congress.
 - d. minor parties have made substantial gains in congressional representation.

Section 4 Quiz
The Minor Parties



A. Key Terms and Concepts

Match the parties in Column I with the descriptions in Column II. Write the correct letter in each blank.

Column I

- _____ 1. Libertarian party
- _____ 2. Democratic party
- _____ 3. Populist party
- _____ 4. Bull Moose party
- _____ 5. Prohibition party

Column II

- a. ideological party
- b. splinter party
- c. single-issue party
- d. economic protest party
- e. major party

B. Main Ideas

Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank provided.

- _____ 6. Although ideological parties have not ____, they have ____.

 - a. been long-lived, attracted many voters
 - b. advocated constitutional change, called attention to needed reforms
 - c. won many elections, been long-lived
 - d. pushed for broad-based reforms, won changes in the electoral system

- _____ 7. The Free Soil party, the "Know Nothing" party, and the Right to Life party are all examples of

 - a. ideological parties.
 - b. single-issue parties.
 - c. splinter parties.
 - d. economic protest parties.

- _____ 8. Which of the following is a TRUE statement about splinter parties?

 - a. Most have formed around a single controversial issue.
 - b. Most of the important minor parties in the nation's history have been splinter parties.
 - c. Most of their successes have occurred at the national level.
 - d. Most have been long-lived.

- _____ 9. Minor parties are able to play a "spoiler role" in an election by

 - a. raising issues that the major parties do not want to address.
 - b. taking enough votes away from one of the two major parties to cost its candidate the election.
 - c. waging "mud-slinging" campaigns against both major-party candidates.
 - d. attracting voter and media attention away from the major-party candidates.

- _____ 10. Unlike major parties, minor parties

 - a. take clear-cut stands on controversial issues.
 - b. usually campaign locally as well as nationally.
 - c. are usually organized around a strong personality.
 - d. do not have a comprehensive platform.