

AP American Government – Political Cartoon 1

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AP American Government – Political Cartoon 16

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- ☆ **They offer a measure of truth (truth as defined as being the perception of a majority of the population at that particular moment; please realize that perception need not be constant over time)**
- ☆ **They offer a measure of humorous satire, often scathingly so.**
- ☆ **They are placed within a realm of realism and political realities. That is to say, there is a not-so-hidden subtext understood to the informed who are reading the political cartoon.**
- ☆ **They often place a figure in a specific light (be it positive, negative, heroic, comedic, etc), although not necessarily always so.**

It should be noted that the aforementioned comments reflect good political cartoons by a professional, ones which leave the reader in intellectual contemplation. Poor cartoons are those which are intentionally divisive and which more aptly meet the definition of propaganda.



Please look at the above political cartoon, and then address the following questions. You may write your answers on the reverse of this page if you need more room. (1 point each for nr's.1-3; 7 points for nr.4, 5 points for nr.5)

1. What is the realm of this cartoon: (circle all which apply)

*Domestic events	*Domestic economics	*Politicians	*Civilians
*International events	*International economics	*War/soldiers	*Elections
*Other _____			
2. Who/what is/are the focus of this political satire?
(Please note that the 'focus' may be different than those who are portrayed in it)
3. Is the implied purpose of this political cartoon to: (circle all which apply)

*Poke fun at a specific person or situation	*Other _____
*To reflect an inconsistency in a policy	
4. What political/institutional/historical knowledge would you need to know to realize the depths of its message? (Be specific. Don't just write 'Congress'; instead describe the congressional laws which are subtly referenced, or don't write 'environment' without specifying the subjects position on the environment)
5. What message does this particular political cartoon reflect? Write a half-page which utilizes the cartoon as a writing prompt to explain what was occurring to the subjects or theme addressed in the cartoon.

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