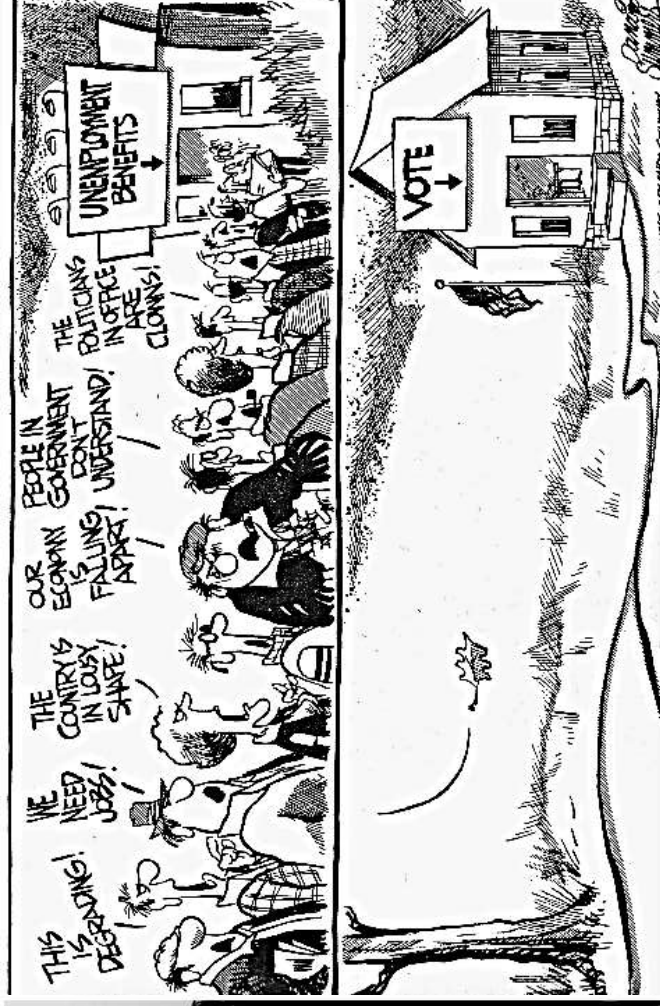
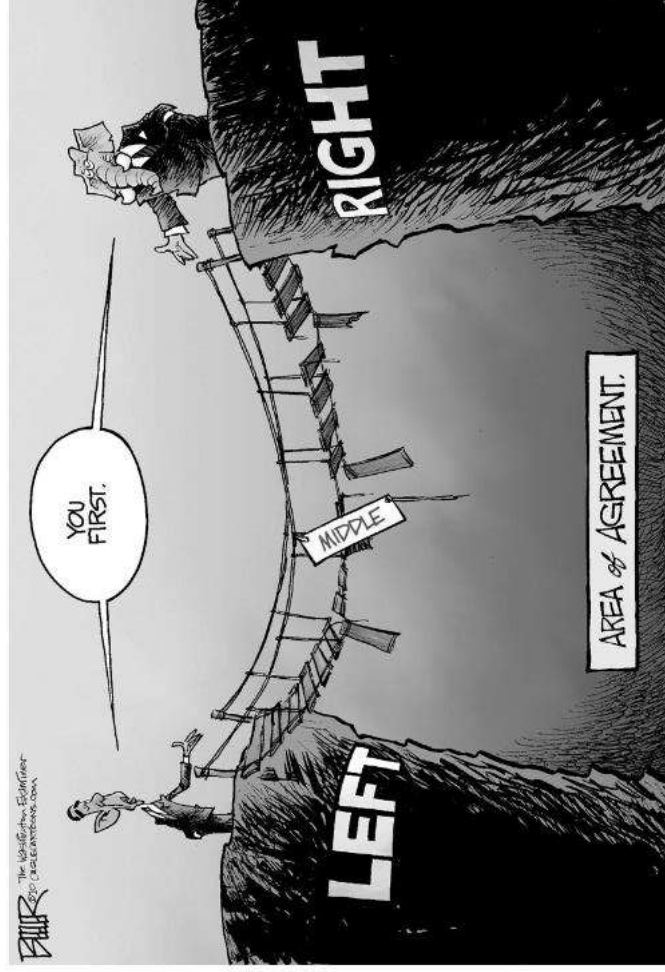


AP AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Free Response Exam Questions 1999 to 2018



SOURCE

These are all publically available for free, with scoring guidelines, scoring statistics, scoring rubric, samples of student responses, and score distributions, at...

New Exam practice: <https://advancesinap.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-us-government-and-politics-practice-exam-effective-fall-2018.pdf>

2018-2003: http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/exam/exam_information/2086.html#name07

2003-1999: http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/exam/exam_information/157025.html

***8* New Exam Long Questions**

***80* Old Exam Free Response Questions**

Writing Suggestions . . .

PREPARATION

1. **Brainstorm** on the question sheet before you start writing.
 - ↳ This is not just for organizing; often (usually, but not always) scorers are allowed to give you points if they see the correct answer in your scribbled brainstorm notes.
2. **Recognize the different types of questions and how they will be framed.**
 - ↳ List – low threshold; a task that requires no more than a simple enumeration of some factors of characteristics.
 - ↳ Identify – low threshold; a task that requires no more than a simple enumeration of some factors of characteristics.
 - ↳ Describe – medium threshold; provide a depiction of portrayal of a concept of its most significant characteristics.
 - ↳ Define – medium threshold; expects you to provide a meaning for a word or concept.
 - ↳ Discuss – medium threshold; require you to explore relationships between different concepts or other things
 - ↳ Compare/Contrast – high threshold; Expects you to **make specific links between two of more concepts**, occurrences or policies. You need to mention how they are similar or different.
 - ↳ Explain – high threshold; involves an exploration of possible causal relationships. Be sure to discuss logical connections or casual patterns that exist between political concepts.
 - ↳ Analyze – high threshold; usually required separating a concept into its component parts or characteristics as a way of understanding the whole.
 - ↳ Evaluate / Assess – high threshold; an assessment which involves considering how well something meets a certain standard.
3. **Recognize what the question is asking you to do.**
 - ↳ Is it about limiting or expanding government? Is it about the national or state government? Is it about institutions, processes, Constitution or something else? Know how you are directing the question.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

1. **Reword/repeat the step-up statement** as you open your writing
 - ↳ Structure your writing so each paragraph addresses a Free Response question, but do NOT number/letter the paragraphs. (Do present the paragraph topics in the order of the questions asked, but not labeled A, B, C, etc.) Why? Some scorers are given instructions to only count an answer in B as belonging to B, so if you missed it in your B answer but later answer it in D, then it can't be counted; however, if you do not label the paragraphs, then it can be counted.)

IN YOUR WRITING

1. Always use a **verb** in your answers. Express an action.
2. These are Free Response Questions, NOT an Essay.
3. Backup/support your ideas with **examples**.
4. Never give your personal opinion (avoid 'I think' or 'I feel').
 - ↳ You are stating facts, providing knowledge and/or identifying concepts, or explaining how things work; you are now speculating, or guessing, or talking about your personal thoughts on government.
5. Assume the reader knows little about the situation you are writing about and about government. Define your terms, explain concepts, and flesh out ideas. Do not assume the grader will be able to make leaps of logic or connect-the-dots in your writing...describe the process logically without skipping steps; you want to explain it as if you were speaking to a twelve year old. Yes, be that clear and concise.
6. Do not try to be too clever in your answer. Get straight to the point. Give them the obvious answer as one of your responses.
7. Select an objective, neutral-ideology voice.
 - ↳ Although scorers are not supposed to be biased, it is human nature to be so. Avoid overt liberal or conservative rhetoric.
8. **Do not argue the premise of the question prompt.**
 - ↳ If the prompt claims something or suggests something, try to understand why this claim or suggestion is true. Whatever you do, do not disagree with the prompt – you are not right, the person who wrote the AP test is. Agree with the prompt, accept the premise, and answer the question.
9. It is advisable underline the key points in your answer

MISCELLEANOUS

1. Remember, minor factual errors are ok.
2. Spelling does not matter. Sentence structure matters little. Handwriting matters only if it is illegible.
3. Remember that politics is about **who has power, how they use it, how they acquired it, and at the expense of whom.**
 - ↳ If the question allow, be sure to touch on these
4. Is the question about a statistical graph they offered you?
 - ↳ If so, then **you MUST use a specific piece of information (a statistic) from the chart within your answer.**
5. **Always answer one question beyond that which they ask you.**
 - ↳ If they are asking for two answers, then give them three; if they are asking for three, give them four. This way, if one of your points is not developed enough for the point, you will have a backup. More examples equal better scores.

FINAL THOUGHTS

1. “ATQ” – “**Attack The Question**”
 - ↳ Answer the question. Don’t go after the wrong target; do what the question tells you to do.
2. “ATDQ” – “**Answer The Damn Question**”
 - ↳ Be sure your answer clearly addresses the question prompt.

Scoring the Concept Application Question (3 points possible)

**A good response should:

- Describe a political institution, behavior, or process connected with the scenario (0-1 point)
- Explain how the response in part (A) affects or is affected by a political process, government entity, or citizen behavior as related to the scenario (0-1 point)
- Explain how the scenario related to a political institution, behavior, or process in the course (0-1 point)

Scoring the Quantitative Analysis Question (4 points possible)

**A good response should:

- Identify or describe the data in the quantitative visual (0-1 point)
- Describe a pattern, trend, or similarity/difference as prompted by the question (0-1 point) and draw a conclusion for that pattern, trend, or similarity/difference (0-1 point)
- Explain how specific data in the quantitative visual demonstrates a principal in the prompt (0-1 point)

Scoring the SCOTUS Comparison Question (4 points possible)

**A good response should:

- Identify a similarity/difference between the two Supreme Court cases, as specified in the question (0-1 point)
- Provide prompted factual information from the specified required Supreme Court case (0-1 point), and explain how or why that information from the specified Supreme Court case is relevant to the non-required Supreme Court case described in the question (0-1 point)
- Describe or explain an interaction between the holding in the non-required Supreme Court case and a relevant political institution, behavior, or process (0-1 point)

Scoring the Argument Essay (6 points possible)

**A good response should:

- Make a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the question and establishes a line of reasoning (0-1 point)
- Describe one piece of evidence that is accurately linked to the topic of the question (1 out of 3 points); use one piece of specific and relevant evidence to support the argument (2 out of 3 points), and; use two pieces of specific and relevant evidence to support the argument (3 out of 3 points)
- Explain how or why the evidence supports the claim or thesis (0-1 point)
- Respond to an opposing or alternate perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal that is consistent with the argument (0-1 point)

PRACTICE EXAM 2018-B1

(Provided by AP, July 2018. Page 1 of 2)

Concept Application Question

Nr.1 The following is from the 2016 Republican Party Platform.

“Because the Federal Reserve’s monetary policy decisions affect job creation, upward mobility for workers, and equitable prosperity, they should be transparent. Similarly, the Federal Reserve’s important role as a lender of last resort should also be carried out in a more transparent manner. the Republican Party will advance legislation that brings transparency and accountability to the federal Reserve, the Federal Open Market Committee, and the Federal Reserve’s dealing with foreign banks.”

Source: www.gop.com/the-2016-republican-party-platform/

After reading the scenario, respond to A, B, and C below:

- Describe an action, other than advancing legislation, that members of Congress may take to bring transparency and accountability to the Federal Reserve.
- In the context of this section of the Republican Party platform, explain how the proposal to increase transparency and accountability described in part A would affect the Federal reserve’s ability to make economic policy.
- Explain how ideological differences between the parties might affect Democratic Party support of the proposal.

Quantitative Analysis Question

Nr.2 Use the information graphic to answer the following questions:

- Describe a trend in presidential nominees to district courts with regard to gender
- Describe a similarity or difference between Republican and Democratic presidents’ nominees to federal district courts with regard to the political party of those they nominate
- Explain how the similarity or difference affects the judicial decisions of the federal district courts with regard to civil liberties.
- Explain how the number and party affiliation of federal district court appointees affects presidential influence and power.

CHARACTERISTICS OF FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT APPOINTEES, PRESIDENTS JOHNSON TO BUSH

	Johnson (D)	Nixon (R)	Ford (R)	Carter (D)	Reagan (R)	G. Bush (R)	Clinton (D)	G. W. Bush (R)
Gender								
Male	98.4%	99.4%	98.1%	85.6%	91.7%	80.4%	71.5%	80.3%
Female	1.6%	0.6%	1.9%	14.4%	8.3%	19.6%	28.5%	19.7%
Party								
Democratic	94.3%	7.3%	21.2%	91.1%	4.8%	6.1%	87.5%	6.9%
Republican	5.7%	92.7%	78.8%	4.5%	91.7%	88.5%	6.2%	84.7%
Independent	0%	0%	0%	4.5%	3.4%	5.4%	6.3%	8.4%
Number of Federal District Court Appointees	125	182	50	203	290	148	305	261

Source: UScourts.gov

PRACTICE EXAM 2018-B2

(Provided by AP, June 2018, page 2 of 2)

SCOTUS Comparison Question

Nr.3 In 2010 Arizona passed a law that sought to reduce the number of undocumented immigrants in the state. The law made it a crime to seek or obtain work in the state without proper documentation, and it also made hiring, sheltering, or transporting undocumented people illegal. It also gave local law enforcement the authority to require proof of residency in the course of a lawful arrest, and it gave them the authority to perform warrantless stops of people they suspected of being undocumented.

The United States Department of Justice challenged the state law as an interference with the national government's enumerated powers to regulate and enforce immigration law. In *Arizona v United States (2012)*, the Supreme Court agreed with the United States in a 6 – 3 decision stating most of the provisions of the law did conflict with federal authority. The Court said, "The Government of the united States has broad, undoubted power over the subject of immigration and the status of aliens. . . . This authority rests in part, on the National Government's constitutional power to establish an uniform Rule of naturalization, and its inherent power as sovereign to control and conduct relations with foreign nations."

Based on the information above, respond to the following questions:

- (a) Identify a common constitutional principle used to make a ruling in both *McCullough v Maryland (1819)* and *Arizona v United States (2012)*
- (b) Explain how the facts of *McCullough v Maryland* and the facts of *Arizona v United States* led to a similar holding in both cases.
- (c) Describe an action that Congress could take to respond to the *Arizona v United States* decision if it disagreed with the decision.

Argument Essay

Nr.4 Equality of opportunity is a central value in the American political system. Choose either Congress or the Supreme Court, and present an argument for why your choice is most responsible for advancing the principle of equality of opportunity in the United States.

In your essay, you must:

- Articulate a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and established a line of reasoning.
- Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of accurate and relevant information:
 - At least ONE piece of evidence must be from the list below:
 - Constitutional amendments
 - The Declaration of Independence
 - Federalist 78
 - Use a second piece of evidence must be from a different course on the list above OR from your knowledge of Congress or the Supreme Court
- Use reasoning to explain why your evidence supports your claim/thesis
- Respond to an opposing or alternative perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal.

PRACTICE EXAM 2018-A1

(Provided by AP, June 2018. Page 1 of 2)

Concept Application Question

Nr.1 Consumers complained after EpiPen maker Mylan “hiked the price of the emergency auto-injector by \$100 in recent months for no obvious reason.... The price has increased 450% since 2004, when a dose cost \$100 in today’s dollars, to its current price of more than \$600.... The medication itself isn’t expensive. Analysts calculate that the dosage contained in a single pen is worth about \$1.”

Source: Washington Post, August 23, 2016

After reading the scenario, respond to A, B and C below:

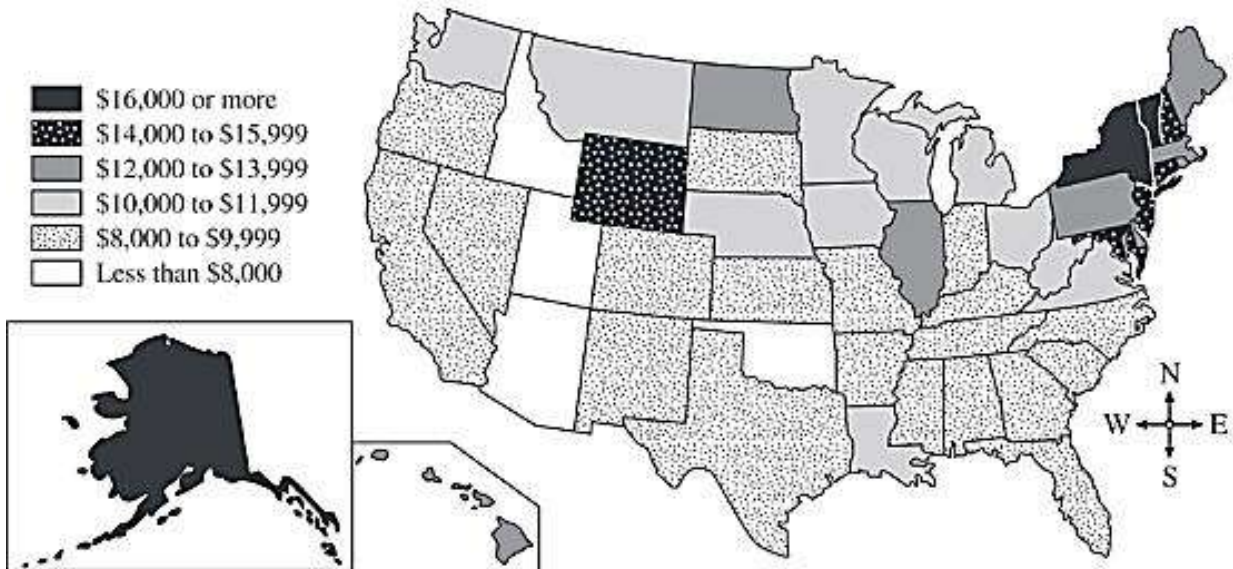
- (a) Describe a power Congress could use to address the comments outlined in the scenario.
- (b) In the context of the scenario, explain how the use of congressional power described in Part A can be affected by its interaction with the presidency.
- (c) In the context of the scenario, explain how the interaction between Congress and the presidency can be affected by linkage institutions.

Quantitative Analysis Question

Nr.2 Use the information graphic to answer the questions

- (a) Identify the most common level of education spending by states in the Southeast
- (b) Describe a similarity in public education spending by state or region, as illustrated in the information graphic, and draw a conclusion about that similarity of difference
- (c) Explain how public education spending as shown in the information graphic demonstrated the principle of federalism.

PUBLIC EDUCATION SPENDING: AMOUNT SPENT PER PUPIL BY STATE IN 2014



PRACTICE EXAM 2018-A2

(Provided by AP, June 2018, page 2 of 2)

SCOTUS Comparison Question

Nr.3 Monthly town board meetings in Greece, New York, opened with a prayer given by clergy selected from the congregations listed in a local directory, but nearly all the local churches were Christian, so nearly all of the participating prayer givers were too. A lawsuit was filed alleging that the town violated the Constitution by preferring Christians over other religious groups and by sponsoring sectarian prayers. Petitioners sought to limit the town to “inclusive and ecumenical” prayers that referred only to a “generic God.”

In the ensuing case, *Town of Greece v. Galloway* (2014), the Supreme Court held in a 5-4 decision that no constitutional violation existed. The majority opinion states that legislative prayer in this situation lent gravity to public business, reminded lawmakers to transcend petty differences to pursue a higher purpose, reflected on values that were a part of the nation’s heritage, provided a spirit of cooperation, and celebrated the changing of seasons. The audience was primarily lawmakers themselves, and though many bowed their heads during the prayer, they did not solicit similar gestures by the public. It was delivered as a ceremonial portion of the town’s meeting.

- (a) Identify the constitutional clause that is common to both *Greece v. Galloway* (2014) and *Engel v. Vitale* (1962).
- (b) Based on the constitutional clause identified in part A, explain why the facts of *Engel v. Vitale* led to a different holding than the holding in *Greece v. Galloway*.
- (c) Describe an action that members of the public who disagree with the holding in *Greece v. Galloway* could take to limit its impact.

Argument Essay

Nr.4 Develop an argument that explains which of the three models of representative democracy – participatory, pluralist, or elite – best achieves the founders intent for American democracy in terms of ensuring a stable government run by the people.

In your essay, you must:

- Articulate a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and established a line of reasoning.
- Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of accurate and relevant information:
 - At least ONE piece of evidence must be from one of the following foundational documents
 - Brutus 1
 - Federalist nr.10
 - United States Constitution
 - Use a second piece of evidence from another foundational document from the list or from your study of the electoral process.
- Use reasoning to explain why your evidence supports your claim/thesis
- Respond to an opposing or alternative perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal.

Exams from the 2018 test and earlier represent the “old” style of AP Exam, which was retired stylistically in 2018.

Beginning with a few newly redesigned AP Exams released for practice in 2018 and from the actual 2019 Exam onward, the very style, structure and nature of the Free Response questions have taken on different characteristics.

The old style exams follow.
They are no longer the format being utilized.

2018

Nr.1 Political parties seek to win elections to control government

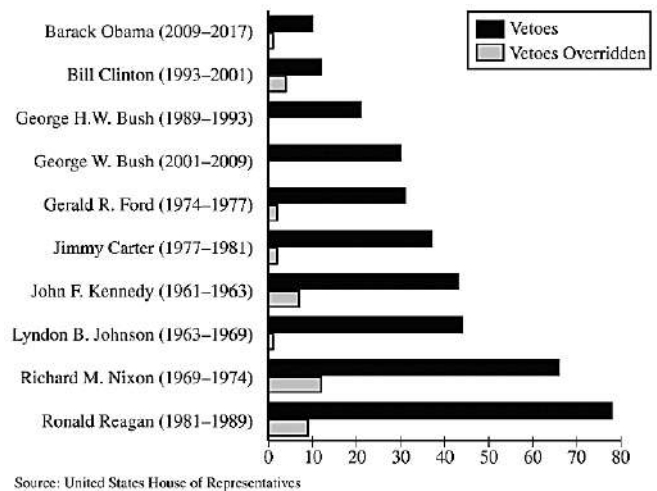
- Identify two activities that political parties do to win elections.
- Describe one way third parties can affect elections.
- Explain how single-member districts make it difficult for third parties to win elections
- Explain how electoral competition is affected by gerrymandering.

Nr.2 Public opinion polls are commonly used by politicians and the media

- Identify two characteristics of a reliable scientific public opinion poll
- Describe two ways polling results are used by politicians
- Explain how frequent public opinion polls impact media coverage of political campaigns

Nr.3 The United States Constitution gave Congress and the president specific legislative powers. As a result, the interactions between the two are dynamic and complex.

- Describe the constitutional principle of checks and balances.
- Describe EACH of the following presidential powers in the legislative process.
 - Veto
 - State of the Union address
- Using the data in the chart, describe the relationship between the number of presidential vetoes and the number of congressional overrides
- Explain how Congress can reduce the likelihood of a presidential veto.



Nr.4 In a democracy, what the majority wants should influence public policy. The opinion of the majority is sometimes, but not always, reflected in policy change.

- Explain how interest groups reduce the influence of public opinion on policy.
- Explain how EACH of the following increases the likelihood of policy change
 - Newly elected president
 - National crisis
- Describe the role of EACH of the following institutions in the policy process.
 - The courts
 - The media

Nr.1 The framers of the Constitution intended the Supreme Court to be politically insulated. Despite this intent, the Supreme Court is not completely insulated from political influences.

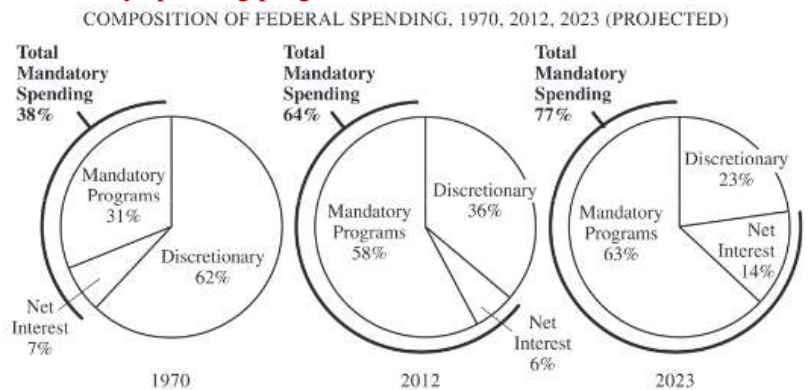
- Describe one constitutional provision that seeks to insulate the Supreme Court from public opinion.
- Identify a power exercised by the Supreme Court that acts as a check on another branch of the federal government.
- Explain how each of the following can limit the independence of the Supreme Court
 - Congress
 - President
- Explain how the Supreme Court protects its political independence.

Nr.2 Interest groups play an important role in the political process.

- Identify the primary goal of interest groups.
- Describe each of the following strategies used by interest groups.
 - Lobbying
 - Amicus curiae
- Explain how each of the following hinders the success of interest groups in obtaining their primary goal.
 - Separation of powers
 - Bureaucratic discretion

Nr.3 Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare are all mandatory spending programs, also known as entitlement programs.

- Identify a change in federal spending between 1970 and 2023 (projected) based on the chart above.
- Describe the difference between entitlement programs and discretionary programs.
- Describe one demographic trend that has contributed to changes in entitlement spending.
- Explain why changes in entitlement spending make balancing the federal budget difficult.
- Explain how deficit spending affects the projected trend in net interest.



Source: The Congressional Budget Office, *An Analysis of the President's 2014 Budget*, May 2013, and the Office of Management and Budget, *FY 2014 Budget, Historical Tables*, April 2013.

NOTE: Mandatory programs include Social Security, major federal health programs, other entitlement programs, and offsetting receipts.

Nr.4 The balance of powers between the United States national government and state governments is shaped by the Constitution and Supreme Court rulings.

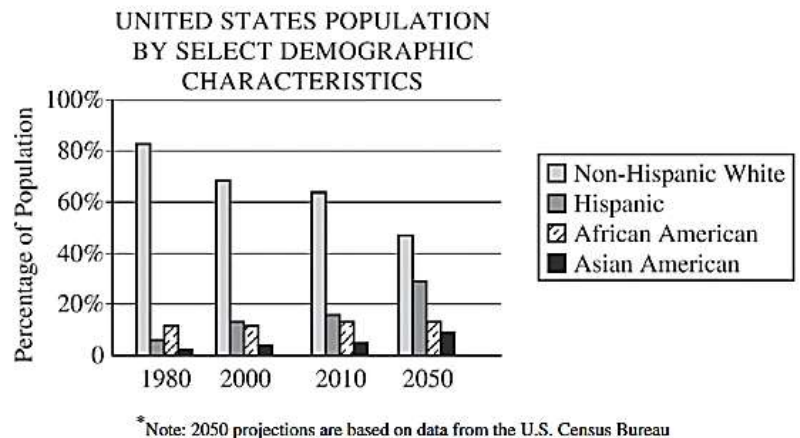
- Describe each of the following constitutional provisions
 - Supremacy clause
 - Tenth Amendment
- Explain how one of the following court rulings changed the balance of power between the national government and state governments
 - United States v. Lopez
 - Obergefell v. Hodges
- Describe two advantages of federalism for the creation of public policy in the United States.

Nr.1 Linkage institutions – such as political parties, the media, and interest groups – connect citizens to the government and play significant roles in the electoral process.

- Describe one important function of political parties as a linkage institution in elections.
- Describe the influence of the media on the electoral process in each of the following roles.
 - Gatekeeping / agenda setting
 - Scorekeeping / horse race journalism
- Describe two strategies interest groups use to influence the electoral process
- Explain how, according to critics, interest groups may limit representative democracy.

Nr.2 The United States is experiencing dramatic change in the makeup of its population. These changes have political consequences for political institutions.

- Identify a trend depicted in the chart
- Assume that recent voting patterns continue, explain how the trend identified in (a) is likely to affect the electoral success of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party.
- Explain how the demographic changes shown in the chart are likely to affect the way in which parties operate in Congress
- Describe two specific actions that presidents can take to respond to the demographic changes in the chart.



Nr.3 The public policy process involves interactions between Congress and the bureaucracy

- Identify the primary role of Congress in the policy process
- Explain how divided party control of Congress can make the policy process difficult
- Identify the primary role of the bureaucracy in the policy process.
- Explain how one of the following increases the power of the bureaucracy in the policy process.
 - Rule making
 - Bureaucratic discretion
- Explain how each of the following enables Congress to limit the power of the bureaucracy
 - Oversight hearings
 - Power of the purse

Nr.4 The Constitution limited the power of the national government and restricted popular control; however, citizen participation has changed over time.

- Explain how each of the following constitutional features protects against the concentration of power in the national government
 - Checks and balances
 - Federalism
- Explain how one of the following features of the Constitution limited the people's ability to influence the national government.
 - Electoral college
 - Selection of senators before the Seventeenth Amendment
- Describe a constitutional amendment that increased suffrage.
- Describe the effects of one of the following laws on citizen participation in elections
 - Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Motor Voter Act)

- Nr.1 American politics has often been called an “invitation to struggle.” Although in recent years the president has been thought to have an advantage in policy making, there are still constraints on the power of the president.
- Describe a power of the president in each of the following roles
 - Chief legislator
 - Chief bureaucrat or chief administrator
 - Explain how each of the following limits the president’s influence in policy making
 - Civil service employees
 - The Supreme Court
 - Describe the influence of divided government on the policy-making process
- Nr.2 The framers of the Constitution devised a federal system of government that affected the relationship between the national and state governments.
- Compare state sovereignty under the Articles of Confederation and under the Constitution
 - Explain how each of the following has been used to expand the power of the federal government over the states.
 - Commerce Clause
 - Mandates
 - Explain how each of the following has played a role in the devolution of power from the national government to the states.
 - Block grants
 - Supreme Court decisions
- Nr.3 The framers created the electoral college to elect the president of the United States. This system influences the campaign strategies of presidential candidates.
- Describe one reason that the framers chose to use the electoral college as the method to elect the president.
 - Describe the message the cartoon conveys about presidential elections.
 - Explain why California, Texas, and New York do not appear prominently in the cartoon above.
 - Describe two campaign tactics presidential candidates use to win the key states identified in the cartoon.



- Nr.4 The Fourteenth Amendment protects civil rights and civil liberties
- Describe the difference between civil rights and civil liberties.
 - Identify the primary clause of the Fourteenth Amendment that is used to extend civil rights.
 - Describe a specific legislative action that extended civil rights to each of the following:
 - Women
 - Person with disabilities
 - Identify the primary clause of the Fourteenth Amendment that is used to extend civil liberties.
 - Explain how civil liberties were incorporated by the Supreme Court in two of the following cases:
 - Gideon v. Wainwright
 - Mapp v. Ohio
 - Miranda v. Arizona

Nr.1 The United States Constitution's ratification resulted from a political process that required compromise between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists. Many of the debates in government today continue to reflect the concerns of each perspective.

- Compare the positions of Federalists and Anti-Federalists regarding the power of the national government.
- Describe two features of the original Constitution that have led to a growth in the power of the national government.
- Explain how each of the following additions to the Constitution addressed Anti-Federalist concerns.
 - First Amendment
 - Tenth Amendment
- Explain how one of the following clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment has altered the balance of power between the state and national governments.
 - Due process clause
 - Equal protection clause.

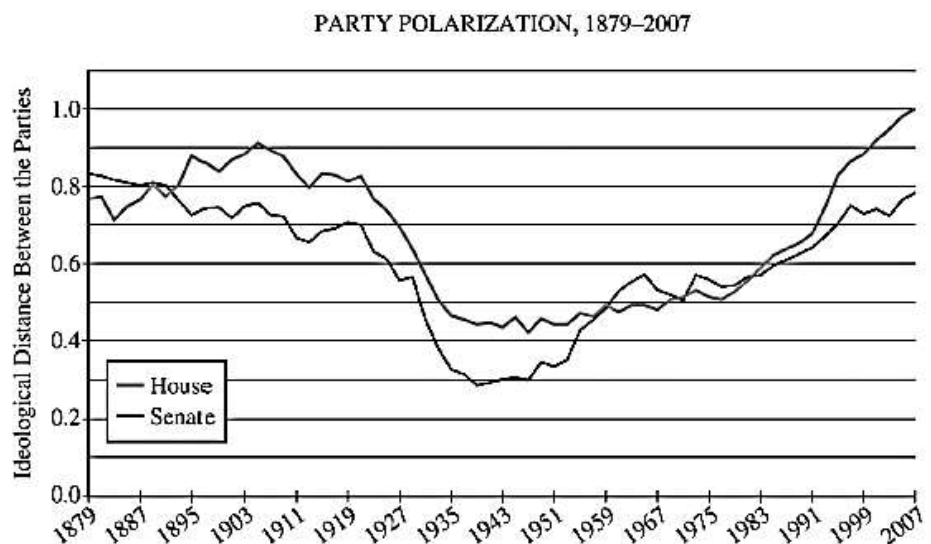
Nr.2 Voter turnout is influenced by constitutional provisions, voting laws and demographics.

- Identify the effect of one of the following amendments on the electorate.
 - Fifteenth Amendment
 - Nineteenth Amendment
 - Twenty-sixth Amendment
- Explain how each of the following factors may affect voter turnout
 - Motor-voter laws
 - Photo identification laws
- Select one of the following demographic features and describe its relationship to the likelihood of a person voting in an election.
 - Education
 - Age
- Explain why voter turnout is different in each of the following.
 - Presidential versus midterm elections
 - Primary versus general elections

Nr.3 Congress and the president both have a role in making foreign policy. Despite recent expansions in presidential power, there are still limits on presidential decision making in foreign policy.

- Describe two enumerated powers Congress has in making foreign policy.
- Describe two expressed powers the president has in making foreign policy.
- Explain how executive agreements expand the president's ability to implement foreign policy.
- Explain how one of the following can limit the president's ability to implement foreign policy.
 - Elections
 - Presidential approval rating

- Nr.4
- Define party polarization.
 - Identify a trend shown in the graph.
 - Describe two causes of party polarization in Congress
 - Describe one effect of party polarization on congressional policy making.



Nr.1 There are several different approaches to representation within a democratic political system

- (a) Define defect democracy
- (b) Define republican form of government
- (c) Describe one reason the framers of the Constitution chose a republican form of government over a direct democracy.
- (d) Describe each of the models of congressional representation
 - Trustee model (attitudinal view)
 - Delegate model (representation view)
- (e) Explain why a member of Congress might sometimes act as a trustee (attitudinal view) rather than a delegate (representational view).

Nr.2 Political parties play important roles in United States elections and government institutions. Over the past several decades, the influence of political parties in elections has declined while their strength in Congress has increased.

- (a) Describe two important functions of political parties in United States elections
- (b) Describe one important role political parties play within Congress to promote the party's public policy agenda
- (c) Explain how each of the following factors has weakened the influence of political parties over the political process.
 - Direct primaries
 - Candidate-centered campaigns
- (d) Explain how party polarization has strengthened party influence in Congress.

Nr.3 Presidents consider many factors when nominating candidates to the federal courts, and getting their nominees confirmed is often difficult.

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS TO THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY BY SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, 2000–2011 (in percent)						
President	African American	Hispanic	Asian American	White	Women	Men
Barack Obama	22%	11%	8%	59%	46%	54%
George W. Bush	7%	9%	1%	82%	22%	78%

- (a) Using the chart, describe one similarity between President Barack Obama's judicial appointments and those made by President George W. Bush.
- (b) Using the chart above, describe two differences between President Barack Obama's judicial appointments and those made by President George W. Bush.
- (c) Explain why a president's party affiliation accounts for differences in presidential appointments to the judiciary.
- (d) Describe one way a president can increase the chances of having judicial nominations to federal courts confirmed.

Nr.4 The public policy process is complex. The formation, enactment and implementation of public policy involve many government institutions.

- (a) Explain the importance of each of the following in the formation of the policy agenda.
 - Media
 - Elections
- (b) Describe the roles of each of the following in the enactment of public policy.
 - Congressional committees
 - Executive orders
- (c) Explain the importance of each of the following in the implementation of public policy.
 - Bureaucratic discretion
 - Issue networks OR iron triangles

2012

Nr.1 Members of Congress are charged with three primary duties – writing laws, overseeing the implementation of laws, and serving the needs of their constituents.

(a) Describe the role of each of the following in lawmaking

- Senate filibuster
- House Rules Committee
- Conference committees

(b) Describe one method by which Congress exercises oversight of the federal bureaucracy

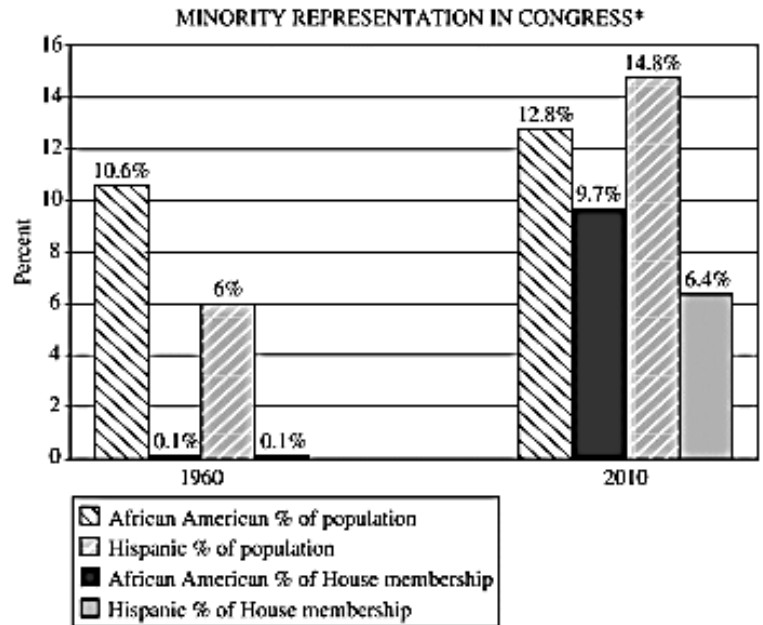
(c) Explain how casework affects member's attention to legislation

Nr.2 (a) Using the chart, compare minority representation in 1960 and 2010.

(b) Explain how each of the following assisted in the removal to barriers to minority voting.

- Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Twenty-fourth Amendment

(c) Identify one barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress. Explain why the barrier you identified inhibits minority representation in Congress.



*Figure does not include all minority groups in Congress.

Nr.3 The judicial branch is often assumed to be insulated from politics. However, politics affect many aspects of the judiciary.

(a) Describe two political factors that affect presidents' decisions to appoint members of the federal judiciary.

(b) Identify two political factors that affect the confirmation process of a president's nominees and explain how each factor complicates a confirmation

(c) Explain how one legislative power serves as a check on court decisions.

(d) Explain how one executive power serves as a check on court decisions.

Nr.4 Interest groups seek to influence political processes in ways that benefit their members. In doing so, however, they may not act in the overall public interest.

(a) Describe two techniques interest groups use to influence elections

(b) Explain how interest groups use each of the following to influence government decision making.

- Issue networks (also known as iron triangles)
- Amicus curiae briefs

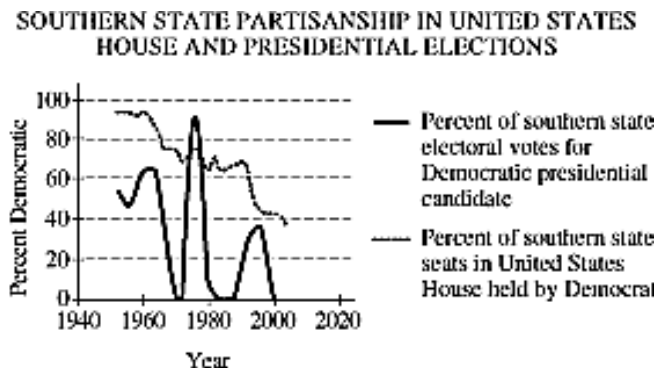
(c) Explain how each of the following serves to limit interest group influence.

- The media
- Pluralism

- Nr.1 The United States Supreme Court receives many appeals, but it hears and rules on a small percentage of cases each year. Numerous factors influence the actions of the Court, both in deciding to hear a case and in the decisions it hands down.
- Define judicial review.
 - Explain how judicial review empowers the Supreme Court within the system of checks and balances.
 - Describe the process through which the Court grants writ of certiorari.
 - Explain how each of the following influences decisions made by individual justices when deciding cases heard by the Court.
 - Stare decisis
 - Judicial activism.
- Nr.2 Public opinion polls are a way to link the public with elected officials. Members of Congress often use polls to understand the views of their constituents, but they must also pay attention to other political considerations.
- Identify two characteristics of a valid, scientific, public opinion poll.
 - Explain why each of the following enhances the influence of public opinion on the voting decisions of members of Congress.
 - Strong public opinion as expressed in polling results
 - Competitive re-elections
 - Explain why each of the following limits the influence of public opinion on the voting decisions of members of Congress
 - Legislators' voting records
 - Party leadership
- Nr.3 Nominees for the presidency of the two major parties are chosen by delegates at national conventions. How these delegates are chosen varies across states and between the political parties.
- Define each of the following methods used by states to choose delegates to party conventions
 - Open primary
 - Caucus
 - Republican Party rules permit winner-take-all primaries. Describe one consequence of this rule for the Republican nomination process.
 - The Democratic Party has used superdelegates in the presidential nomination process since 1984. Explain why the use of superdelegates increases the influence of party leaders in the Democratic nominating process.
 - Explain why a candidate's strategy to win the nomination is often different from the strategy developed to win the general election.
- Nr.4 The Constitution of the United States creates a government of separate institutions that share power rather than a government that delegates power exclusively to a single branch. Frequently, this means that presidents and Congress struggle with each other.
- For each of the presidential powers below, explain one way that congressional decision making is affected by that power.
 - Veto power
 - Power to issue executive orders
 - Power as commander-in-chief
 - For each of the congressional powers listed below, explain one way that presidential decision making is affected by that power.
 - Legislative oversight power
 - Senate advice and consent power
 - Budgetary power

2010

- Nr.1 Individuals often form groups in order to promote their interests. The Constitution contains several provisions that protect the rights of individuals who try to promote their interests in a representative democracy.
- Explain two provisions in the Bill of Rights that protect individuals who try to influence politics.
 - Interest groups engage in a variety of activities to affect public policy. Explain how each of the following is used by interest groups to exert influence over policy.
 - Grassroots mobilization
 - Lobbying of government institutions
 - Litigation
 - Describe one specific federal governmental regulation of interest groups
- Nr.2 The federal bureaucracy as part of the executive branch exercises substantial independence in implementing governmental policies and programs. Most workers in the federal bureaucracy are civil service employees who are organized under a merit system.
- Describe one key characteristic of the merit system.
 - For each of the following, describe one factor that contributes to bureaucratic independence.
 - The structure of the federal bureaucracy
 - The complexity of public policy problems
 - For each of the following, explain one Constitutional provision that it can use to check the bureaucracy
 - Congress
 - The courts
 - Interest groups
- Nr.3 Over the last several decades, the composition of the Democratic and Republican parties has changed in important ways. A major partisan shift has occurred throughout the South, but other demographic changes have also been identified. Changes in party composition are reflected at different rates in presidential elections than in congressional elections.
- (a) Identify one specific trend evident in the figure above
- (b) Choose two of the following and use each to explain why southern voters from 1948 to 2000 were electing Democratic candidates to Congress more frequently than choosing Democratic candidates for the presidency.
- Incumbency advantage
 - Gerrymandering
 - Differences between state and national parties
- (c) Several other changes in party composition have emerged in the past few decades. Select three of the following groups and for each explain how parties have changed in composition with respect to that group.
- Catholics
 - Labor union members
 - Women
 - Social conservatives
- Nr.4 The framers of the Constitution created a political system based on limited government. The original Constitution and the Bill of Rights were intended to restrict the powers of the national government. Later constitutional developments also limited the powers of the state governments.
- Explain how each of the following limits the powers of the national executive
 - Federalism
 - Checks and balances
 - Explain how each of the following two provisions in the Bill of Rights limits the powers of the national government.
 - Establishment clause
 - Guarantee of a public trial
 - Choose one of the following and explain how it limits the power of state governments.
 - Citizenship clause of the Fourteenth Amendment
 - Selective incorporation



- Nr.1 In The Federalist paper number 10, James Madison expressed concern over the possibility that both majority and minority factions would have too much power over government, and he presented ways of minimizing that danger. The United States Constitution established a democratic government but also contained several provisions that limited the majority rule. Throughout the next two centuries, the role of majority rule in the United States government and politics continued to change.
- Identify the part of the national government that was originally most closely tied to citizens and explain how it was tied to citizens.
 - Explain two ways the United States Constitution limited majority rule.
 - Choose two of the following twentieth century developments and explain how each moved the United States from a less democratic system to a more democratic system.
 - Primary elections
 - The Seventeenth Amendment
 - Expansion of suffrage
- Nr.2 In the United States political system, there are several linkage institutions that can connect citizens to government. Elections constitute one such institution. Because of low voter turnout, elections present an imperfect method of linking citizens to their government. Even when there is low voter turnout, however, other linkage institutions can connect citizens to government.
- Describe how each of the following is related to the likelihood of voting.
 - Age
 - Education
 - Identify one current government electoral requirement that decreases voter turnout. Explain how it decreases voter turnout
 - Identify one linkage institution other than elections and explain two ways it connects citizens to government.
- Nr.3 In the United States Congress, the majority party exerts a substantial influence over lawmaking. However, even when one party has a numerical majority in each chamber of the United States Congress, there is no guarantee that legislation supported by that majority party will be passed by both chambers. Rules of each chamber independently influence the likelihood that legislation will pass in that chamber; legislation passed by one chamber is not always passed by the other.
- Describe two advantages the majority party in the United States House of Representatives has in lawmaking, above and beyond the numerical advantage that the majority party enjoys in floor voting.
 - Describe two differences between House and Senate rules that may make it likely that legislation may pass in one chamber but not in the other.
 - Explain how the differences identified in (b) can lead to the passage of a bill in one chamber but not in the other.
- Nr.4 One of the most important ways the news media influence politics is through agenda setting.
- Define policy agenda
 - Explain how the national news media engage in agenda setting.
 - Explain the primary reason the president tends to have an advantage over Congress in gaining media attention.
 - Consider the table above.
 - Describe the difference in the viewing patterns of older and younger age groups.
 - Describe the change from 1974 to 2002 in viewing habits that exists for all age categories
 - Given the information in the table, describe one implication for presidents in their use of the media to promote their political and policy objectives to the American public.

Viewers' Ages and Frequency of Viewing of Network Nightly News: 1974 and 2002 Combined		
1974	Frequently (%)	Rarely (%)
18–29	45	13
30–44	50	12
45–64	68	8
65 and older	71	5
2002	Frequently (%)	Rarely (%)
18–29	19	22
30–44	22	17
45–64	40	11
65 and older	53	8

- Nr.1 Congressional reapportionment and redistricting are conducted every ten years. When redistricting is conducted, politicians often engage in gerrymandering.
- (a) Define congressional reapportionment and explain one reason why it is important to the states.
 - (b) Define congressional redistricting
 - (c) Explain two goals of politicians when they gerrymander during redistricting.
 - (d) Describe two limits that the United States Supreme court has placed on congressional redistricting.
- Nr.2 A number of factors enable presidents to exert influence over Congress in the area of domestic policy. However, presidents are also limited in their influence over domestic policymaking in Congress
- (a) The Constitution grants the president certain enumerated powers. Describe two of these formal powers that enable the president to exert influence over domestic policy.
 - (b) Choose two of the following. Define each term and explain how each limits the president's ability to influence domestic policymaking in Congress
 - Mandatory spending
 - Party polarization
 - Lame-duck period
- Nr.3 Fiscal policy and monetary policy are two tools used by the federal government to influence the United States economy. The executive and legislative branches share the responsibility of setting fiscal policy. The Federal Reserve Board has the primary role of setting monetary policy.
- (a) Define fiscal policy.
 - (b) Describe one significant way the executive branch influences fiscal policy
 - (c) Describe one significant way the legislative branch influences fiscal policy
 - (d) Define monetary policy
 - (e) Explain two reasons why the Federal Reserve Board is given independence in establishing monetary policy.
- Nr.4 "The rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."
- Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, 1870
- Despite the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, voter turnout among African American citizens was very low throughout the first half of the twentieth century. Over the past 50 years, civil rights policies have changed substantially, along with a significant increase in African American voter turnout.
- (a) Explain how two measures taken by some states prior to the 1960s affected voter turning among African American citizens.
 - (b) Facing discrimination at the voting booth, many African American citizens turned to alternative forms of political participation. Describe two alternative forms of participation that helped bring about change in civil rights policies.
 - (c) Choose one of the forms of participation you described in (b) and explain why it was effective in changing civil rights policies.

Nr.1 A significant feature of the Electoral College is that most states have a winner-take-all system.

- (a) Describe the winner-take-all feature of the Electoral College.
- (b) Explain one way in which the winner-take-all feature of the Electoral College affects how presidential candidates from the two major political parties run their campaigns
- (c) Explain one way in which the winner-take all feature of the Electoral College hinders third-party candidates.
- (d) Explain two reasons why the Electoral College has not been abolished.

Nr.2 The First Amendment includes two clauses relating to the freedom of religion.

- (a) Select one of the following cases and identify the First Amendment clause upon which the United States Supreme Court based its decision.
 - Engel v. Vitale (school prayer)
 - Lemon v. Kurtzman (state funding for private religious schools)
- (b) Describe the Supreme Court's decision in the case that you selected in (a)
- (c) Select one of the following cases and identify the First Amendment clause upon which the Supreme Court based its decision.
 - Reynolds v. United States (polygamy)
 - Oregon v. Smith (drug use in religious ceremonies)
- (d) Describe the Supreme Court's decision in the case that you selected in (c)
- (e) Many of these decisions have caused controversy in the United States. Describe two ways in which other political institutions might limit the impact of Supreme Court decisions/

Nr.3 Conflicts between Congress and the President over war powers have their origin in the United States Constitution. In 1973 Congress passed the War Powers Resolution in an attempt to clarify the balance of powers between the two branches of government.

- (a) Describe the primary constitutional conflict between Congress and the President over the decision to go to war.
- (b) Describe two provisions of the War Powers Resolution that were designed to limit the President's power over war making.
- (c) The War Powers Resolution has received mixed reviews, but Congress has other powers over war making. Other than the constitutional power that you described in (a), identify and explain two other formal powers Congress has over war making.

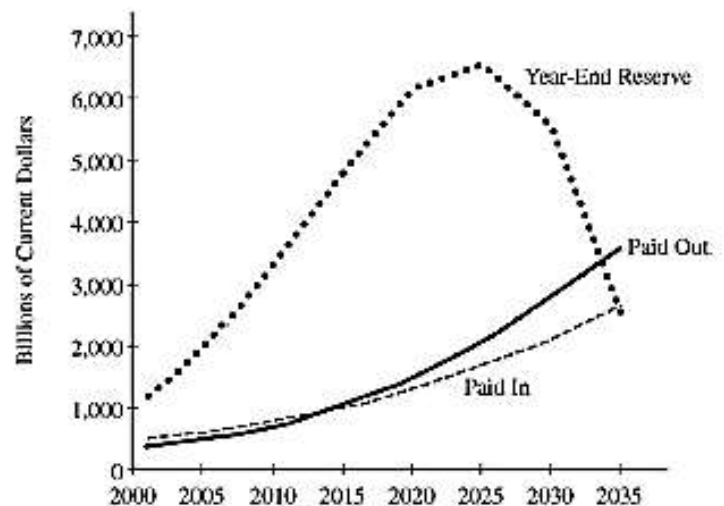
Nr.4 The framers of the United States Constitution created a federal system

- (a) Define federalism
- (b) Select two of the following and explain how each has been used to increase the power of the federal government relative to the states.
 - Categorical grants
 - Federal mandates
 - Selective incorporation
- (c) Select two of the following and explain how each has been used to increase the power of the states relative to the federal government.
 - Welfare Reform Act of 1996
 - Block grants
 - Tenth Amendment

- Nr.1 While interest groups and political parties each play a significant role in the United States political system, they differ in their fundamental goals.
- Identify the fundamental goal of interest groups in the political process.
 - Identify the fundamental goal of major political parties in the political process.
 - Describe two different ways by which interest groups support the fundamental goals of political parties in the political process.
 - For one of the forms of support you described in (c), explain two different ways in which that form of support helps interest groups to achieve their fundamental goals in the political process.

- Nr.2 In recent decades, entitlement programs have constituted a substantial portion of the United States federal budget. Social Security is the largest entitlement program in the United States. From the information in the chart above and your knowledge of United States government and politics, perform the following tasks.

SOCIAL SECURITY RECEIPTS, SPENDING, AND RESERVE ESTIMATES, 2001–2035



- Define entitlement program
- What is the primary source of revenue for the Social Security program?
- Identify one threat to the future of the Social Security program should the trends depicted in the chart above continue.
- Describe one demographic trend that threatens the future of the Social Security program AND explain how it is responsible for the threat you identified in (c).
- Explain how any one of the trends in the chart above would change if the age of eligibility for Social Security were raised.

- Nr.3 The United States Congress and the President together have the power to enact federal law. Federal bureaucratic agencies have the responsibility to execute federal law. However, in the carrying out of these laws, federal agencies have policy-making discretion.

- Explain two reasons why Congress gives federal agencies policy making discretion in executing federal laws.
- Choose one of the bureaucratic agencies listed below. Identify the policy area over which it exercises policy making discretion AND give one specific example of how it exercises that discretion.
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
 - Federal Reserve Board
- Describe two ways in which Congress ensures that federal agencies follow legislative intent.

- Nr.4 The framers of the United States constitution created a legislative system that is bicameral. However, it is not just bicameral; the framers also established two houses of distinctly different character and authority.

- Discuss two reasons why the framers created a bicameral legislature
- Identify one power unique to the House of Representatives and explain why the framers gave the House that power.
- Identify one power unique to the Senate and explain why the framers gave the Senate that power.

- Nr.1 The judicial branch is designed to be more independent of public opinion than are the legislature or the executive. Yet, the United States Supreme Court rarely deviates too far from prevalent public opinion.
- Describe two ways in which the United States Supreme Court is insulated from public opinion
 - Explain how two factors work to keep the United States Supreme Court from deviating too far from public opinion.
- Nr.2 The power of the federal government relative to the power of the states has increased since the ratification of the Constitution.
- Describe two of the following provisions of the Constitution and explain how each has been used over time to expand federal power.
 - The power to tax and spend.
 - The “necessary and proper” or “elastic” clause
 - The commerce clause
 - Explain how one of the following has increased the power of the federal government relative to the power of the state governments.
 - Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Clean Air Act
- Nr.3 Initially, the United States Constitution did little to protect citizens from actions of the states. In the twentieth century, the Supreme Court interpreted the Constitution to protect the rights of citizens from state governments in a process referred to as incorporation.
- Define selective incorporation
 - For two of the following, explain how each has been incorporated. Each of your explanations must be based on a specific and relevant Supreme Court decision.
 - Rights of criminal defendants
 - First Amendment
 - Privacy rights
- Nr.4 The United States Congress has debated a variety of campaign finance reforms over the last decade. The proposals debated have included the following:
- Eliminating soft money
 - Limiting independent expenditures
 - Raising limits on individual contributions
- Select one of the listed proposals and do all of the following:
 - Define the proposal
 - Describe an argument that proponents make in favor of the proposal
 - Describe an argument that opponents make against the proposal
 - Select a different listed proposal and do all of the following:
 - Define the proposal
 - Describe an argument that proponents make in favor of the proposal
 - Describe an argument that opponents make against the proposal

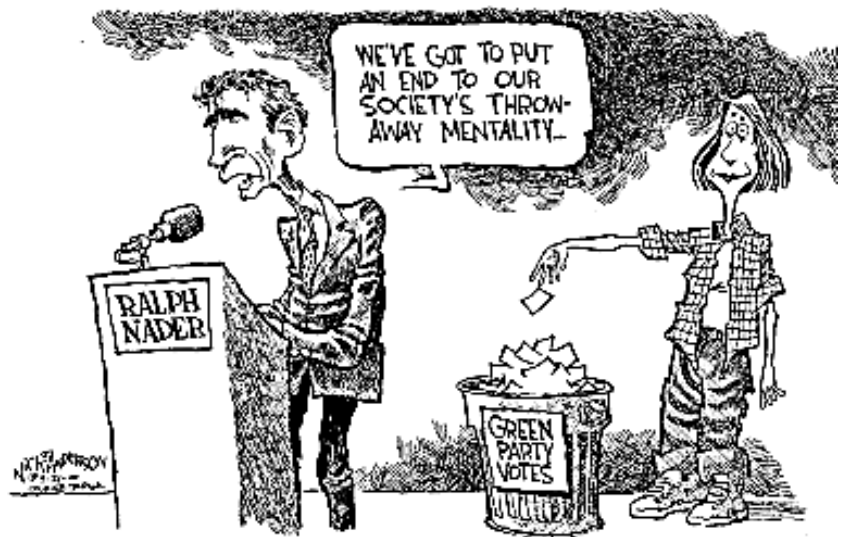
- Nr.1 Presidents are generally thought to have advantages over Congress in conducting foreign policy because of the formal and informal powers of the presidency.
- Identify two formal constitutional powers of the President in making foreign policy
 - Identify two formal constitutional powers of Congress in making foreign policy.
 - Identify two informal powers of the President that contribute to the President's advantage over Congress in conducting foreign policy.
 - Explain how each of the informal powers identified in (c) contributes to the President's advantage over Congress in conducting foreign policy.

- Nr.2 Different interest groups will chose different techniques to achieve their objectives based on their resources, characteristics and goals.

- Describe each of the following techniques and explain why an independent group would choose each technique
 - Litigation
 - Campaign contributions
 - Grassroots lobbying/mass mobilization
- Select one of the following groups and identify the primary technique it uses from the list in part (a). Explain why the group you selected would employ that technique over the other two techniques.
 - American Medical Association (AMA)
 - Sierra Club
 - National Rifle Association (NRA)
 - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

- Nr.3 Minor parties (third parties) have been a common feature of United States politics.

- Describe the point of view expressed about minor parties in the political cartoon above
- Identify and explain how two rules of the United States electoral system act as obstacles to minor party candidates winning elections.
- Minor parties make important contributions to the United States political system in spite of the institutional obstacles to their candidates' success. Describe two of these contributions.



- Nr.4 Trust and confidence in government have declined in recent decades

- Explain how divided government has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government. Be sure to include a definition of divided government in your response.
- Explain how the increased cost of election campaigns has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government.
- Explain two specific consequences of the decline in trust and confidence in government for individual political behavior.

Nr.1 Presidential approval ratings fluctuate over the course of each presidential administration

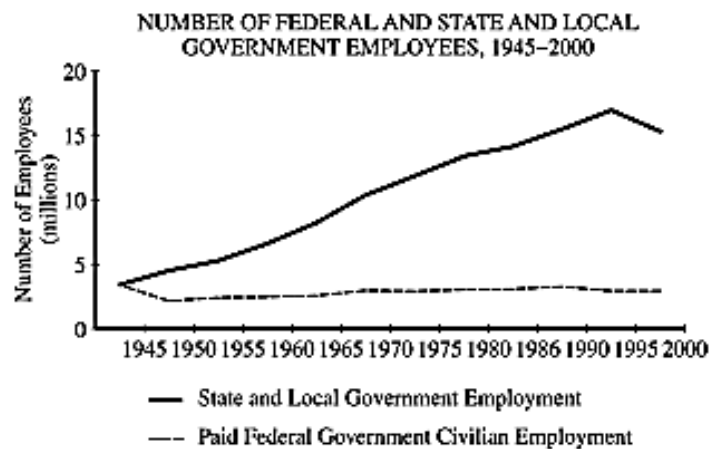
- (a) Identify two factors that decrease presidential approval ratings, and explain why each factor has that effect
- (b) Identify two factors that increase presidential approval ratings, and explain why each factor has that effect.

Nr.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)

Nr.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



Nr.4 Both party leadership and committees in Congress play key roles in the legislative process.

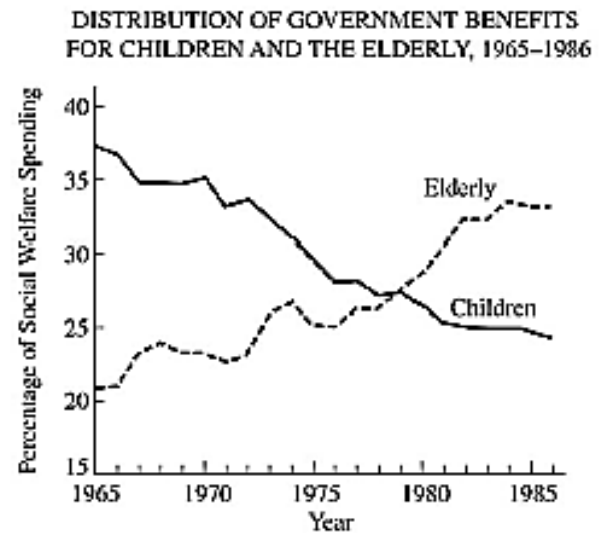
- (a) Define two of the following elements of the congressional committee system and explain how each influences the legislative process.
 - Specialization
 - Reciprocity/logrolling
 - Party representation on committees
- (b) Identify two ways party leadership in Congress can influence the legislative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

Nr.1 The concept of “divided government” in the United States means that one political party can control the executive branch while another controls the legislative branch. This poses problems for the President in making appointments to federal offices.

- Describe two problems that divided government poses for the President in making federal appointments
- Identify and explain two ways Presidents try to overcome the problems described in (a)

Nr.2 Using the information in the figure and your knowledge of United States politics, complete the following tasks.

- Describe what the figure above demonstrates about the distribution of government benefits over time.
- Identify two politically relevant factors that have affected the changing distribution of government benefits between children and the elderly.
- Explain how each of the two factors identified in (b) has affected the changing distribution of government benefits.



Nr.3 Political institutions can present both obstacles and opportunities to racial minority groups in their efforts to gain political influence.

- Identify one feature of one of the following and explain how that feature has presented obstacles to racial minority groups in their efforts to achieve political goals.
 - Federalism
 - The United States political party system
 - The United States electoral system
- Identify one feature of one of the following and explain how that feature might present opportunities to racial minority groups in their efforts to achieve political goals.
 - Federalism
 - The United States political party system
 - The United States electoral system

Nr.4 In the last half of the twentieth century, voter turnout in federal elections has declined. During the same period, voter turnout has been higher in presidential elections than in midterm elections.

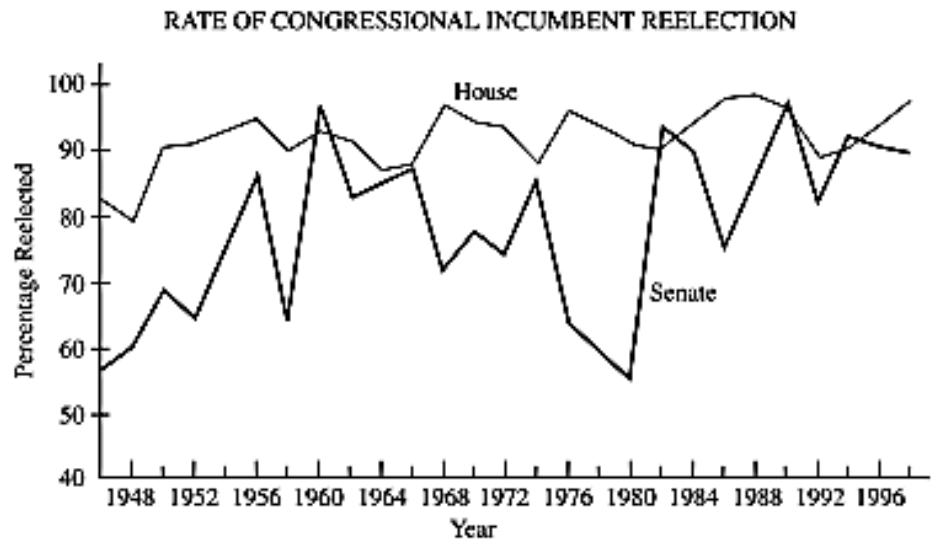
- Identify two factors that have contributed to the overall decline in turnout in federal elections and explain how each factor has contributed to the overall decline.
- Identify and explain two reasons why voter turnout has been higher in presidential elections than in midterm elections.

Nr.1 The United States Constitution has endured for more than two centuries as the framework of government. However, the meaning of the Constitution has been changed by both formal and informal methods.

- Identify two formal methods for adding amendments to the Constitution.
- Describe two informal methods that have been used to change the meaning of the Constitution. Provide one specific example for each informal method you described.
- Explain why informal methods are used more often than the formal amendment process.

Nr.2 The graph above shows reelection rates for incumbents in the house and Senate. From this information and your knowledge of United States politics, perform the following tasks.

- Identify two patterns displayed in the graph
- Identify two factors that contribute to incumbency advantage. Explain how each factor contributes to incumbency advantage.
- Discuss one consequence of incumbency advantage for the United States political process.



Nr.3 Many scholars and observers have argued that the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution has become the single most important act in all of United States politics.

- Identify which provision of the Fourteenth Amendment was applied in one of the following Supreme Court cases. For the case you select, explain the significance of the decision in United States politics
 - Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (1954)
 - Baker v. Carr (1962)
 - Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978)
- Identify which provision of the Fourteenth Amendment was applied in one of the following Supreme Court cases. For the case you select, explain the significance of the decision in United States politics
 - Mapp v. Ohio (1961)
 - Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)
 - Miranda v. Arizona (1966)

Nr.4 Explain how each of the political factors listed below makes it difficult for the federal government to enact public policy. Provide one example for each explanation.

- Divided government
- Weak party discipline
- Growth in the number of interest groups and political actions committees (PAC's)

Nr.1 The Constitution was an attempt to address problems of decentralization that were experienced under the Articles of Confederation.

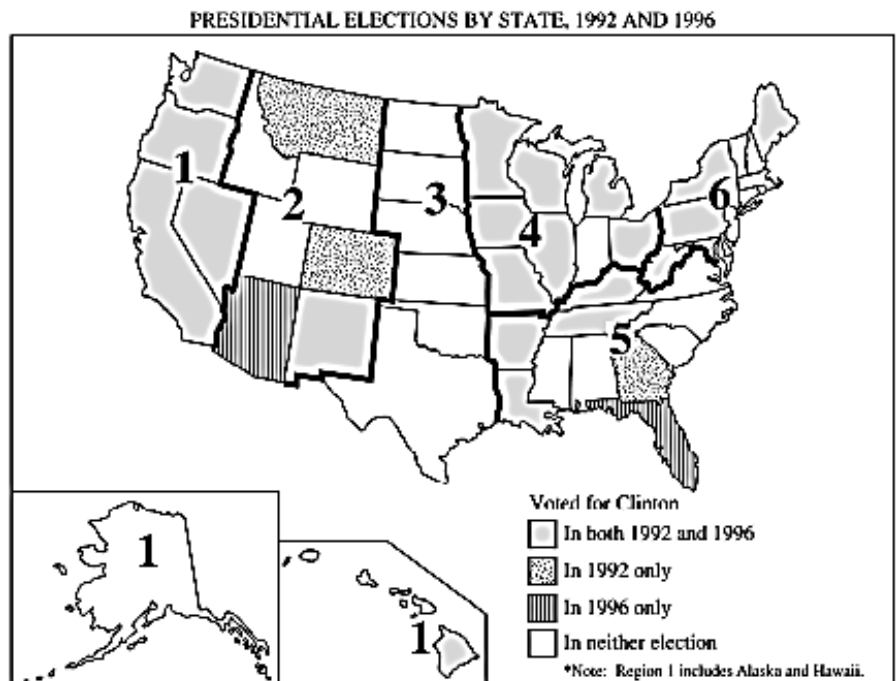
- List three problems of decentralized power that existed under the Articles of Confederation. For each problem you listed, identify one solution that the Constitution provided to address the problem.
- Some have argued that the tensions between decentralization and centralized power continue to exist. Support this argument by explaining how one of the following illustrates the continuing tension.
 - Environmental policy
 - Gun control
 - Disability access.

Nr.2 The Supreme Court is commonly thought to be “above politics”. However, one can argue that the appointment of Supreme Court justices is political

- Identify three characteristics of Supreme Court nominees and discuss how each characteristic has been politically relevant during the appointment process.
- Identify two methods that have been used by interest groups to influence the appointment process. Explain how each of these methods has been used to influence that process.

Nr.3 The figure (at right) displays voting patterns by state in the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections. Using the information in the figure and your knowledge of United States voting behavior, perform the following tasks.

- Using the map above, identify one of the numbered regions with strong support for the Democratic presidential candidate and identify and explain two factors that contribute to that support.
- Using the map above, identify one of the numbered regions with strong support for the Republican presidential candidate and identify and explain two factors that contribute to that support.



Nr.4 The three obstacles listed below have made it difficult for Congress to enact significant campaign finance reform.

- Buckley v. Calero (1976)
- Soft money
- Incumbency

Select two of the obstacles. For each obstacle, provide both of the following.

- A brief description of the obstacle
- An explanation of how the obstacle has made it difficult for Congress to enact significant campaign finance reform.

Nr.1 In the 1990s, presidential election campaigns have become more candidate centered and less focused on issues and party labels. This change has been attributed to both how the media cover presidential campaigns and to how candidates use the media. Identify and explain two ways in this the media have contributed to candidate centered presidential campaigns. Identify and explain two ways in which presidential candidates use of the media has contributed to candidate centered campaigns.

Your answer should NOT include a discussion of presidential primary elections

Nr.2 National interest groups often target national-level policymaking institutions to achieve their policy objectives. Select one of the following national interest groups:

- American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
- American Medical Association (AMA)
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)

For the group you selected, do each of the following:

- (a) Identify one major national-level policymaking institution that your group targets
- (b) Describe one resource or characteristic of the group you have chosen AND explain how it influences the choice of the target you have identified in (a)
- (c) Describe another recourse or characteristic of the group you have chosen AND explain how it influences the choice of the target you have identified in (a)

Nr.3 Is Congress effective in exercising legislative oversight of the federal bureaucracy? Support your answer by doing ONE of the following:

- Explain two specific methods Congress uses to exercise effective oversight of the federal bureaucracy.
- OR
- Give two specific explanations for the failure of Congress to exercise effective oversight of the federal bureaucracy

Nr.4 Using the information in the pie charts below, identify two budgetary barriers that hinder the creation of new policy initiatives. Explain why each of the barriers you identify persists. Using your knowledge of United States politics, identify one non-budgetary barrier AND explain how this barrier hinders the creation of new policy initiatives.

GROWTH OF MANDATORY SPENDING IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET

