



AP[®] United States Government & Politics 2002 Free-Response Questions

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2002 AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

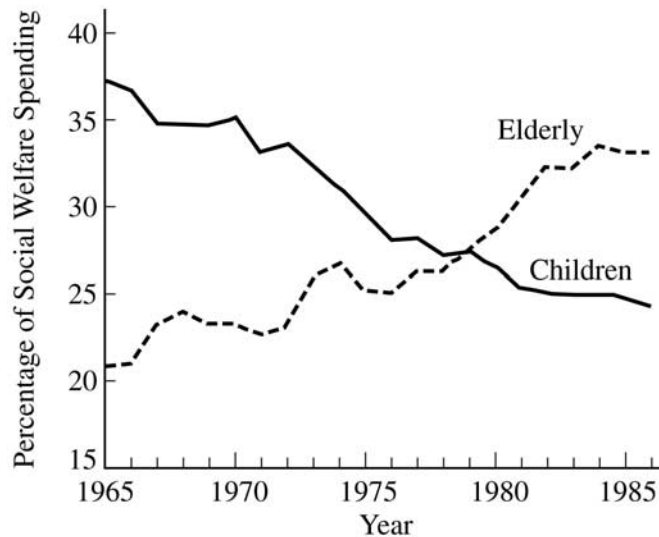
SECTION II

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. Illustrate your essay with substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

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

DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT BENEFITS
FOR CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY, 1965–1986



Source: *Washington Post National Weekly Edition*

2. Using the information in the figure above and your knowledge of United States politics, complete the following tasks.
 - (a) Describe what the figure above demonstrates about the distribution of government benefits over time.
 - (b) Identify two politically relevant factors that have affected the changing distribution of government benefits between children and the elderly.
 - (c) Explain how each of the two factors identified in (b) has affected the changing distribution of government benefits.

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3. Political institutions can present both obstacles and opportunities to racial minority groups in their efforts to gain political influence.
- (a) 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
- (b) 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
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.
- (a) 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.
- (b) Identify and explain two reasons why voter turnout has been higher in presidential elections than in midterm elections.

END OF EXAMINATION