

AP[®] United States Government and Politics 2004 Free-Response Questions

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**2004 AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

SECTION II

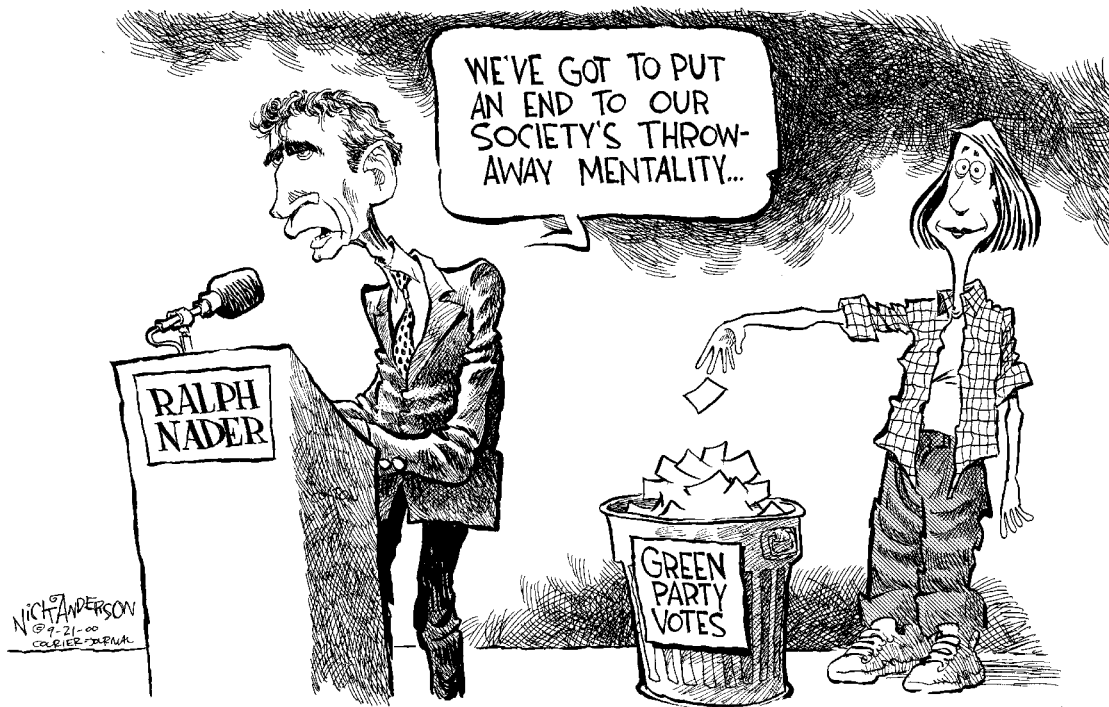
Time—100 minutes

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. In your response, use substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

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

2. Different interest groups will choose different techniques to achieve their objectives based on their resources, characteristics, and goals.
 - (a) Describe each of the following techniques and explain why an interest group would choose each technique.
 - Litigation
 - Campaign contributions
 - Grassroots lobbying/ mass mobilization
 - (b) 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)

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3. Minor parties (third parties) have been a common feature of United States politics.
- (a) Describe the point of view expressed about minor parties in the political cartoon above.
 - (b) Identify and explain how two rules of the United States electoral system act as obstacles to minor-party candidates winning elections.
 - (c) 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.

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4. Trust and confidence in government have declined in recent decades.
- (a) 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.
 - (b) Explain how the increased cost of election campaigns has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government.
 - (c) Explain two specific consequences of the decline in trust and confidence in government for individual political behavior.

END OF EXAMINATION

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