



AP[®] United States Government and Politics 2013 Free-Response Questions

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2013 AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

SECTION II

Time—1 hour and 40 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.

1. There are several different approaches to representation within a democratic political system.
 - (a) Define direct democracy.
 - (b) Define republican form of government.
 - (c) Describe one reason the framers of the United States 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 (representational view)
 - (e) Explain why a member of Congress might sometimes act as a trustee (attitudinal view) rather than a delegate (representational view).

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.

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| 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% |

Source: Alliance for Justice, August 2011
Percentages do not add up to 100.

3. Presidents consider many factors when nominating candidates to the federal courts, and getting their nominees confirmed is often difficult.
- (a) Using the chart above, 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.
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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

STOP

END OF EXAM