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While voting is the way that most people in the United States participate in the political process, there are ways to participate outside of voting. Even those who cannot vote can participate in peaceful protests, and even the simple act of writing letters to a politician or representatives are ways to be involved in the political process and can achieve great success.

Protesting is an activity that anyone can take part in, whether they can vote or not. The most important aspect of this form of participation is that it calls attention to an issue that otherwise unknown issue to many people. By bringing a subject into the spotlight, those most concerned with the issue have the advantage of bringing more people on their side to fight their fight or cause. Protesters also have the ability to generate media attention, which is also an advantage to the protesters. Many people rely on the media as their source of information, and the media often dictate what a person should be thinking about. If a story about protesters and the cause they are fighting for makes front-page news, a person is more likely to take that story and form their own opinions on it, and possibly join the cause of the protesters.

A quieter, but just as effective way of participating in politics is writing letters to elected representatives, whether it be local, state, or federal. Again, this form offers the advantage
Question 2

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

of making issues known. Letter writing campaigns, with many people writing to the same person about the same issue, allow the representative to see that a number of people are dealing with the same issues. At the local level especially, writing letters can be very advantageous. Local leaders depend on the happiness of their constituents, especially when it comes time for elections, and by responding to these letters, they are sending a message that they care.

The political process extends far beyond just voting to mean idly one can participate. You can be effective means of getting points across, and allow for participation at all times, rather than just voting times.
To get involved with your government is the best thing to do for yourself. Some people may choose to vote or not to vote, but voting is just one of many ways to participate. You can propose a bill to a congressman or run for an office, join a Political Action Committee (PAC) or start your own interest group. In today's politics, though, I would say the most influential options would be to run for an office (local, state, or Congress) or to join a PAC group (and lobby Congress). If an individual runs for a political office and wins, that individual will then become part of his government. He will then have a say in laws that affect the wider country, a whole state, or whole county, city, etc. Any one holding an office has the responsibility of running, participating, and adding to our government.

PAC groups have become extremely influential. A PAC group may help support a candidate with funds, or trash a candidate. PAC groups help determine the outcome of bills; therefore, they too play a key role in our government. A PAC group usually represents an idea
or a concept. Therefore, if a PAC group decided to say bad things about a particular citizen not supporting the group won't support the candidate. There are advantages to participating in both ways that I have stated. The advantage is the same in both cases, that an individual gets to have an influence on the government. By participating in any way the government isn't the government any more, it is social contract theory, the consent of the people to be governed. The people are running the government.

Any way that a person may choose to participate in their government is a good way. Participation improves our government because then the government will be designed to help all kinds of people. Our government affects everyone, so everyone should have fear say.
There are many other ways citizens can choose to participate in the political process. One way a citizen can participate is by joining a political action committee. A citizen can influence how many votes a candidate gets and to whom they may write for. PAC's often help raise money for the political party campaign. PAC's are an advantage because they cater to the desires of independent and undecided voters. Also PAC's contribute to the overall voter turnout in some areas and districts. Political organizational committees are another way citizens can choose to participate in the political process. Political organizational committee's help to provide substantial amount of volunteers to assist in the campaign. These committees tend to organize speeches, PAC's, and other political assisting programs.