Some third parties have had over the course of time an influence over politics. They show an alternative to the common majority powers that have always dominated our county. However, they have also served as "radical" or "radical" points for exam years.

The Green Party candidate Ralph Nader ran in the 2000 election and was able to garner some of the percentage of votes. In the eastern United states "Ed... throw away mentality" for secondly reasons that voted for him through away their votes. Essentially, Ralph Nader took votes away from both of the majority candidates running to win the election. As he is planning to do for the 2008 election in which he has no possibility of winning.

The electoral college is a set of winners takes all elections. No political electorates are drawn or based on proportion. If a candidate wins the state majority takes the candidate gets all of the electorates. Also, bigger states consist of larger electorates to win. Unless a candidate has a large financial backing, minor parties can't even compete in larger states.
Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

... as the Democratic or Republican parties can.

Third parties offer choices for individuals with different ideological beliefs. Also, third parties offer different types of voting that can be held by a majority that was not offered by other candidates. The Green party has offered many different voting issues that have been implicated into society, such as the clean rivers and lakes acts, and now convicted clean air act.

The role of minority groups has an influence on campaigns and democratic policy. Although the "one of the majority may control the playing field," issues for every people are expressed. Although a minor party may not win an election when it comes to the presidency, their views, opinions, and issues will be brought up for the country to hear.
In this political cartoon, minor parties are looked at as somewhat of a waste. The Green Party, a third party that is radically environmentalist, is represented by Ralph Nader, their presidential candidate. He begs society not to throw all their garbage away while those who vote in favor of the Green Party are depicted as “throwing away” or wasting their vote. This cartoon represents, on a broader scale, the dominance of our two major parties and how voting for a third party is irrational because that candidate will never beat out candidates of the major parties.

The United States electoral system often inhibits minor-party candidates from winning elections. One good example of this lies in presidential election and the system of an electoral college. In this system, candidates who win a majority of a state win all of that state's electoral votes and whoever wins a majority of the electoral college votes wins the election. However, third-party supporters tend to be diffused widely across the country, therefore making it difficult for a third-party candidate to win a majority of any one state and, in turn, not winning any electoral votes. Another example of the electoral system hurting minor-party candidates is campaign financing.
issues. In today's elections, candidates need vast supplies of monetary support in order to sufficiently campaign for themselves and win. Major parties who are heavily favored are far more readily endorsed and financially supported by PACs, interest groups, labor unions, and private donors. The insufficient funds of minor parties leave them unable to keep up with the vigorous campaigning of the major parties. Also, legislation which provides government aid to candidates such as a Federal campaign matching law will double smaller donations given to a candidate who wins a certain percent of the primary vote. Such plans don't apply or rarely apply to minor parties who seldom have primary elections and receive much less donations. Only when a minor-party candidate can find ways to support his or her own campaign will they win more portions of the vote. This was seen in the 1992 presidential election where the Independent Ross Perot used his own wealth and connections to adequately campaign and gained a fair amount of support. Contributions of minor parties, although they rarely are advocated by our institutions, can very easily occur if they gain enough influence. One possible scenario could be a candidate not getting
the nomination from his/her party and deciding to run with another party or independently against their former party. This could very possibly split the votes of that party allowing the opposing major-party to win the election. Thus, this third-party candidate has stole the election from his or her former party without actually winning the election. Another instance of minor party influence could be it siding with one of the two major parties. This would bring that major party most of the formerly third-party votes allowing it to win the election. This could be the case this year as John Kerry, the Democratic candidate, is pursuing talks with Ralph Nader to form a coalition in order to get Republicans out of the White House.
a) The political cartoon above expresses the opinion that a vote for a third party is no good as throwing your vote in the trash can.

b) Two rules in the United States electoral system that act as obstacles to third parties are: the concept of winnability (Plurality System) and Federal funding. Unlike Great Britain, the United States does not have a proportional representation or single member district. It has a Plurality System. This means that the winner of the plurality of votes receiving the highest percentage of the votes. The second place candidate receives a substantial amount, but only a small percentage of the votes. The second place candidate is finding it difficult to get a certain percentage of the votes to receive Federal funding. The problem is that the percentage is so high that it is rarely achieved by third parties. This gives a third party a disadvantage to the other two major parties who seem to have endless funds.

c) Despite the intrinsic obstacles of the third parties, they do contribute to the political system in many ways. Critics of the other two parties for their ill treatment of the environment, for example, or trying to charm voters on the American people. Also, third parties raise certain issues closer to the public's attention; perhaps the other two parties stay away from. For instance, in the 2000 campaign, Presidential hopeful Ralph Nader ran on an environmental platform and raised issues on global warming. He criticized the other parties on the lack policy on the environment.