

AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for identifying the House of Representatives or Congress. One point is earned for an explanation of how the House or Congress is most closely tied to citizens.

Acceptable explanations are:

- Members of the House are more directly elected than the president and were originally more directly elected than members of the Senate.
- The shorter term length (or frequent elections) ties them to the people.
- Members must live in the state they represent.
- House members represent relatively small districts.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two explanations. Each explanation must show how a constitutional provision or principle limits majority rule.

Any of the following can be used as a reference point in the explanation of how majority rule is limited (this is not an exhaustive list):

Provisions that limit how the majority can have an impact on government	Provisions that limit the power of government
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electoral college• U.S. senators originally selected by state legislatures• Longer terms of senators• Independent judiciary• Life tenure for U.S. Supreme Court justices• Appointment process• Representative form of government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bill of Rights• Expressed powers• Specific prohibitions (e.g., <i>ex post facto</i> laws, bills of attainder)• Separation of powers• Checks and balances• Federalism• Bicameralism

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Question 1 (continued)

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two explanations. Each explanation must state how the development cited moved the process from a less democratic system to a more democratic system in the twentieth century.

Acceptable explanations must indicate how the United States became more democratic through:

- Primary elections—voters gained more control over the nomination process/control taken away from political parties.
- Seventeenth Amendment—mandated direct election of U.S. senators.
- Expansion of suffrage—led to a more representative set of voters/more eligible voters.

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is attempted but that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is assigned to a blank or off-task answer.

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

1A
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1. A.) The part of the National govt. that was mostly closely tied to citizens was the House of Representatives. It was elected by the people unlike the Senate ~~who~~ ^{who} ~~which~~ ~~was~~ were elected by state legislators.

B.) One way that the Constitution limited majority rule was by the Separation of Power. ~~Madison says~~ The Federal govt is broken up into 3 branches, the legislative, executive, and the judicial branch. For example, if even if Congress and the President both passes a law, the Supreme court can override it by declaring it unconstitutional. So even though 2 of the 3 branches feel like it, there is still a third branch to check them and stop the majority. Also, if Congress disapproves something that the President has done and even though the Supreme Court said it was okay, Congress could always try to pass an amendment to stop them.

Another way that the Constitution limits majority rule is by the way our voting system works. Now most of our elections, ~~also~~ ^{a candidate} don't need to have a majority of the ~~population~~ ^{population} votes. They just need to have more votes than the other guy. We use a plurality system for our elections. ~~This is also shown in the Bush and Gore election. Despite the fact that~~

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~~Gore had more popular votes, Bush~~
We also use an electoral system which limits the majority rule just like what happened in the Bush v. Gore election.

Despite the fact that Gore had the popular vote, Bush had more electoral votes so Bush won the race. In this election the majority of the population choose Gore but the electoral college doesn't work that way.

c.) Primary Elections allow people to have more of a voice in who ~~is~~ becomes our Pres. This way we get to choose and approve who we want running for the Presidency in that party. Before, if someone we didn't want was running the people had not much say in that but now we get to choose who giving the people more power which is the point of Democracy.

Expansion of Suffrage: It ~~now~~ allowed more people to share their voice. Before only property-owning white male could vote but not women and minorities can, too. This allows them to also have a voice in what the govt does for its citizens. It's giving more voice to the people ~~in~~ which is what Democracy about. For example, after women gained suffrage

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more issues like equal rights and violence against women became more known, and the same thing happened for African Americans. There was more done about segregation and cruelty against them like lynching. Expanding suffrage provided the people with more power in their govt, so the govt can do more of common good for them.

- c) • The system of primaries has ~~allowed~~ ^{granted} the citizens of the U.S. much more power over presidential elections. Not only do they vote between the final candidates, but they now have the power to choose the candidates which will be running. In closed primaries, it is only possible to choose the candidate for one's own party, but ~~in~~ in open primaries, citizens can ~~not~~ choose all of the candidates.
- In the beginning eras of the United States, voting was basically limited to white, male land holders. Since the turn of the twentieth-century, this has largely expanded, with amendments and laws being passed to bar discrimination in voting based on race, gender, and age. (At least, for 18-21 year olds.) This more open voting represents a truer form of Democracy. The entire population is now represented, not just a select group within the population.
- b) • The Constitution, in its original form (excluding the Amendments, that is)

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included several provisions to prevent majority rule. One of these is Article I, the description of the legislative branch. By making it bicameral they prevented either small or large states from receiving an unfair advantage, thus lessening the chance of a majority. There are also many ways for the minority to still have a chance, such as the filibustering ability. Article I set Congress up to be a fair system. The next part of the Constitution which set up provisions against majority rule is Article III, describing the Judicial branch. This branch, largely due to its life terms as set forth in Article III, has complete independence from the other two branches. Judges make their own decision, and no majority can ever sway the Judicial branch. A member of the majority may earn a spot in the Judicial, but this is not guaranteed that they will even ~~vote~~ make rulings which favor the majority. They are uninfluenced.

a) Originally, the states were most

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1B 3d3

closely tied to citizens. Despite the Supremacy clause, in the beginning of the U.S. government, states held slightly more power than the federal government. The states could place taxes on citizens, and make laws impacting citizens. The ability of the judicial to rule against these laws (such as to increase incorporation) had not yet been established. Originally, state governments were most closely tied to citizens, and the federal government didn't quite have the power to change this. ~~The~~ Supreme Court rulings and Amendments soon changed this, though.

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The legislative branch was tied to the citizens of the US, as the general public is represented most through this congressional branch. With the addition of the Constitution to the United States, the legislative branch was established for representing the citizens where they come from. The Senate is made up of 2 congressmen from each state, that aid their constituents in accomplishing what they want and need. The New Jersey Compromise was directed to give the states, ~~and the~~ which include the citizens within it, as much supremacy in the newly forming government. The Great Compromise thus incorporated the New Jersey Compromise theories into effect somewhat, as Senators, and Representatives of the House were established. As discussed earlier, the Jerseys amount spots in the senate equally amongst each state. The House however is designated by the population of each state. These peoples greatly aid their districts where they come from, as each district in each state has a member of the House. Both the Senators and members of the House aid their constituents. The constitution has limited majority rule as they have imposed the checks and balances system through the form of establishing 3 branches.

1C
2d2

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of governments. These three branches ~~limit~~ the power of the other each other, by not allotting one more power over the other. Judicial review is yet another way to prevent ~~more~~ one, as they may declare an act, law, or action unconstitutional. The primary elections have been set in a way to give more democracy to the people. Now, caucuses are not as great a factor in choosing the electorate choice. Also, citizens may now choose individual persons for places, and can do so without the fear of government expansion or sabotage has also given more democracy. The Fourteenth Amendment does not allow discrimination among voters or persons in the U.S. This thus led to many more developments, as in the Civil Rights Act that allows blacks and younger people to vote in elections.

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Question 1

Overview

The intent of this question was to examine students' knowledge of how the framers sought to deal with the power of factions—both majority and minority—in government and of how two of three specific twentieth-century developments have made the United States a more democratic system. The question asked students (1) to identify the part of the national government that was originally most closely tied to citizens and explain how that tie was accomplished; (2) to explain two ways the U.S. Constitution limited majority rule; and (3) to explain how democratization in the United States has been promoted by two of three developments—primary elections, the Seventeenth Amendment, or the expansion of suffrage. This question required students to understand how philosophies of government are implemented through institutional arrangements (mechanisms of popular control of government), how these arrangements can be manipulated to make government more or less responsive to the people, and how the United States has become more democratic across its history.

Sample: 1A

Score: 6

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for identifying the House of Representatives as the part of the national government that was originally most closely tied to citizens and 1 point for explaining that this was so because “[i]t was elected by the people unlike the Senate who were elected by state legislators.”

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for explaining that the Constitution limited majority rule by separation of powers and checks and balances so that “even though 2 of the 3 branches like it [a law that has been passed], there is still a third branch to check them and stop the majority.” The response also earned a point for noting that the Electoral College can thwart the will of “the majority of the population,” citing the election of 2000 as an example.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for explaining that “[p]rimary [e]lections allow people to have more of a voice in who . . . we want running” for office (in this case, using the presidency as an example). The response also earned a point for explaining how expansion of suffrage “allowed more people to share their voice. . . . This allows them to also have a voice in what the gov’t does for its citizens. Its [*sic*] giving more voice to the people which is what democracy about [*sic*].”

Sample: 1B

Score: 4

In part (a) the response does not correctly identify a part of the national government that was originally most closely tied to citizens and thus earned no point. Without a correct identification, the response could not earn a point for the explanation.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for explaining that by setting up a bicameral legislative branch, the framers “prevented either small or large states from receiving an unfair advantage, thus lessening the chance of a majority.” The response also earned a point for noting that the judicial branch “has complete independence from the other two branches. Judges make their own decision, and no majority can ever sway the Judicial branch.”

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Question 1 (continued)

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for explaining that “primaries has granted [*sic*] the citizens of the U.S. . . . the power to choose the candidates which will be running.” The response also earned 1 point for explaining how “[s]ince the turn of the twentieth-century, [voting] has largely expanded, with amendments and laws being passed to bar discrimination in voting based on race, gender, and age. (At least, for 18–21 year olds.) This more open voting represents a truer form of Democracy. The entire population is now represented, not just a select group within the population.”

Sample: 1C

Score: 2

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the “legislative branch” as part of the national government that was originally most closely tied to citizens. The subsequent discussion, however, fails to explain how this is so and thus earned no point.

In part (b) the response earned no points. The response introduces and briefly describes the concept of checks and balances. Judicial review, not a provision of the Constitution, is also briefly introduced. In neither case, however, is an explanation of how these provisions limit the power of the majority offered.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for explaining that “primary elections have have [*sic*] acted in a way to give more democracy to the people. Now, caucases [*sic*] are not as great a factor in choosing the electorate choice.” The remainder of the response is a series of statements that are somewhat related to the theme of the question but offer no explanation of how the United States has moved to becoming a more democratic system.