

**AP<sup>®</sup> UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
2009 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 2**

**7 points**

**Part (a): 2 points**

One point is earned for describing any aspect of the relationship between age and the likelihood of voting. Acceptable descriptions for *age* include:

- Older people are more likely to vote.
- Turnout is lowest for young people.
- The likelihood of voting declines in the oldest populations.

One point is earned for describing the relationship between education and the likelihood of voting. The only acceptable descriptions for *education* are:

- People with more education are more likely to vote.
- People with less education are less likely to vote.

**Part (b): 2 points**

One point is earned for identifying an electoral requirement that decreases voter turnout. Acceptable examples are:

- Citizenship
- Age
- Disfranchisement of certain groups (felons, the mentally incompetent)
- Residency
- Registration
- Limited opportunities to vote (midweek, limited hours, single day)
- Need to show identification
- Generally have to vote in person
- Closed primaries
- Process of obtaining absentee ballots

One point is earned for explaining how or why the requirement cited decreases the likelihood of voting. Acceptable explanations include:

- The requirement makes a person ineligible to vote.
- The requirement puts up obstacles or makes it harder to vote.

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## Question 2 (continued)

### Part (c): 3 points

One point is earned for identifying one of the following linkage institutions:

- Media
- Interest groups (PACs)
- Political parties

One point is earned for each of two explanations. The student must explain how the media, interest groups, or political parties connect citizens to the government. (Note: the student must earn the point for identifying an institution in order to receive a point for explaining how that institution connects citizens to the government.)

	<b>Media</b>	<b>Interest Groups/ PACs</b>	<b>Parties</b>
“Ways” that connect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convey the views of the people to government</li> <li>• Convey information about the government to the people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Express group members’ preferences to policymakers</li> <li>• Convey policy information to group members</li> <li>• Raise and spend money to advocate for the interests of the group with policymakers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather information about voters for use by candidates and policymakers</li> <li>• Provide information to voters about candidates running for office</li> <li>• Connect voters to elected officials/candidates through campaign activities</li> </ul>
“Ways” in which connections are made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviewing citizens</li> <li>• Reporting on government activities</li> <li>• Presenting poll results</li> <li>• Interviewing public officials</li> <li>• Covering protests and/or opposition</li> <li>• Providing an outlet for citizen opinion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter-writing campaigns</li> <li>• Campaign activities</li> <li>• Lobbying</li> <li>• Grassroots movement</li> <li>• Litigation</li> <li>• Media campaigns</li> <li>• Disseminating information about government affairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaigns</li> <li>• Mailings</li> <li>• Voter mobilization</li> <li>• Recruiting candidates</li> <li>• Recruiting activists</li> <li>• Endorsing party platforms</li> <li>• Funding candidates</li> <li>• Aggregating interests</li> <li>• Articulating interests</li> <li>• Mobilizing interests</li> </ul>

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**Question 2 (continued)**

Simply identifying and/or describing items in the second row of the table is not sufficient to earn a point.

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.

2

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

2A, d2

a) In regards to voting there are different turnout rates involving age and education. The age group of 18-24 is usually the lowest voting turnout while older groups have much more political efficacy. ←  
The older the age group, the more likely a high voter turnout. Education is also a determining factor. People who are more educated tend to be more informed of politics and are more likely to vote. People who are uneducated tend to not be very involved in politics and therefore less likely to vote. Middle-aged and older people are more likely to vote because politics directly affect them more than 18-24 year olds. 18-24 has always been a difficult voting group.

b.) Registration is an electoral requirement that, while necessary, decreases voter turnout because it is time consuming and most people don't have the time to sit around and wait to register. Often, young people don't know where to register. Some people don't even have the motivation or political efficacy.

c.) Interest groups are also an example of a linkage institution. Interest groups help people become more politically educated about an issue they're passionate about and also

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

2/2/12

encourage their local/State or maybe ~~state~~ federal governments to take action for their cause. People in Interest groups will also help select their preferred candidates for state/local/federal elections based on ~~the~~ ~~stand~~ ~~on~~ ~~their~~ ~~interest~~ the candidates stand on their issue

A. In the likelihood of voting Age relates closely. During Elections younger voters and older voters come out more often.

Young voters have a great sense of political efficacy, like their vote will count. Older voters vote because most of the issues like Medicare and welfare relate to them and their day to day lives. Education is another big relation. More Educated people come to vote because they know what's going on in government and how the system works, making them have a greater sense of political efficacy. Less educated people don't understand the issues and don't believe their vote will count.

B. One electoral requirement that decreases voter turnout is the Registration process.

The motor voter act helped but many people don't need to renew their drivers license and have never gone through the registration process before. More people just don't care enough to register.

C. The Media acts as a linkage institution because people who watch the news or read the paper can identify with the candidates either on a downhome level or on a political level. Also, citizens learn about the issues in government, and what the candidate is trying to change. Keeping the citizen informed enough to make a well thought out decision.

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

2C  
1d2

a) In elections age is a factor in how people vote. Many voters between the ages of 18 and 24 and 60-64 chose to vote democratic. Young people chose to vote democratic because of the more "free government" that comes along with the Democrat parties platform. Older citizens tend to vote with the democratic party because of health care benefits and social security. The democratic party is a larger supporter of these entitlement programs and they encourage more support for the programs. Middle aged citizens tend to vote more with the republican party because of increased benefits of a career and family support.

• Education is also a factor in voting patterns. Those that only have a high school diploma or less tend to vote more for the democratic party. They are more likely to benefit from welfare and entitlement programs. If they can not get a job, welfare programs provide job training that will increase their chances of getting a job. Those who have a bachelors degree or more tend to vote for the republican party because it is proven that more education increase political involvement. More political involvement may mean you agree more with republican views because they are more traditional and do not change.



2

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

2C  
2012

B) One current electoral requirement that reduces voter turnout is the requirement that you must be 18 or older to vote. Since the young do not vote as much this reduces voter turnout. Since 25 and older are more likely to vote, they should increase the age, so it appears that many more Americans vote. By including 18-24 year olds and entire age gap is not voting.

c) One linkage to government is grassroots lobbying. Grassroots lobbying is a way of influencing government by public pressure.

- Grassroots lobbying connects citizens to government through petition, citizens are able to voice their opinion about a piece of legislation or the way the government operates.

- One other way grassroots lobbying connects citizens to government is writing an amicus curiae brief. An amicus curiae brief is a way of influencing the supreme court. This links citizens to government because they are able to put in their input on lawmaking.

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## 2009 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 2

#### Overview

The intent of this question was for students to discuss the linkage institutions that connect citizens to government, such as elections, interest groups, political parties, and media. Students were asked (1) to describe how both age and education are related to the likelihood of voting; (2) to identify a current government electoral requirement that has the effect of decreasing voter turnout and to explain how that requirement serves to decrease voter turnout; and (3) to identify a linkage institution other than elections and explain two ways that it connects citizens to government. The first two parts of the question required basically factual answers, but the explanation needed in the second part raised the expectations for students. The third part of the question required students to draw from a separate part of the United States Government and Politics curriculum.

#### Sample: 2A

##### Score: 7

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for describing how age is related to the likelihood of voting: “The older the age group, the more likely a high voter turnout.” The response also earned 1 point for describing how education is related to the likelihood of voting: “People who are more educated tend to be more informed of politics and are more likely to vote.”

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for identifying registration as one current government electoral requirement that decreases voter turnout. The response earned a second point for explaining that registration decreases voter turnout because “it is time consuming.”

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for identifying interest groups as one linkage institution. The response earned another point for explaining one way the linkage institution connects citizens to government: “Interest groups help people become more politically [*sic*] educated about an issue their [*sic*] passionate about and also encourage [*sic*] their local/state or maybe federal [*sic*] government(s) to take action for their cause.” The response also earned 1 point for explaining a second way the linkage institution connects citizens to government: “People in Interest groups will also help select their prefferd [*sic*] candidates [*sic*] for state/local fedreal [*sic*] elections based on the candidates [*sic*] stand on their issue.”

#### Sample: 2B

##### Score: 4

In part (a) the response discusses why younger voters vote (“Young voters have a great sense of political efficacy”) and why older voters vote (“because most of the issues like Medicare and welfare relate to them”), but it does not include an explanation of how age is related to the likelihood of voting, and therefore it earned no point. The response earned 1 point for describing how education is related to the likelihood of voting: “More Educated people come to vote because they know what’s going on in government and how the system works. . . . Less educated people don’t understand the issues and don’t believe their vote will count.”

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for identifying the “Registration process” as one current government electoral requirement that decreases voter turnout. The response does not include an explanation of how registration decreases voter turnout; rather, it blames people’s failure to register on the fact that “people just don’t care enough to register” and therefore earned no point.

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**Question 2 (continued)**

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for identifying the media as one linkage institution. The response earned 1 point for explaining one way the linkage institution connects citizens to government: “citizens learn about the issues in government.” The response does not include a second explanation of the way in which the media connects citizens to government. The discussion of how the media allows people to “identify with the candidates either on a downhome [*sic*] level or on a political level” does not show how citizens are connected to government and therefore earned no point.

**Sample: 2C**

**Score: 2**

In part (a) the response does not include a description of how age and education are related to the likelihood of voting but rather discusses how both age and education affect voting in a partisan manner. The response therefore earned no points.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for identifying one current government electoral requirement that decreases voter turnout: “you must be 18 or older to vote.” The response earned 1 point for explaining that registration decreases voter turnout: “Since the young do not vote as much this reduces voter turnout.”

In part (c) the response incorrectly identifies “grassroots lobbying” as a linkage institution and therefore earned no point. Without an identification, no points could be awarded for the explanation of two ways in which a linkage institution connects citizens to government.