



## **AP<sup>®</sup> United States Government and Politics 2010 Scoring Guidelines**

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# AP<sup>®</sup> UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## 2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 1

#### 6 points

#### Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two provisions of the Bill of Rights identified. Each provision must be identified and include a discussion of what the provision protects.

Answers may include, but are not limited to:

- Speech — allows citizens to say almost anything they want
- Press — allows citizens access to information, each other and policymakers; printed advocacy
- Assembly — allows citizens to come together
- Petition — allows citizens to address government
- Various due process/criminal justice provisions (e.g., grand jury indictment, jury of peers, search and seizure) — protects citizens from retribution/harassment from government

#### Part (b): 3 points

One point is earned for each of three explanations. The explanations must include a description of the interest group activity and how that activity may influence the action of a governmental body, official or policy.

- Grassroots mobilization — interest groups organize citizens, who act to influence policymakers
- Lobbying — direct contact with policymakers for the purpose of persuasion through the provision of information, political benefits, etc.
- Litigation — the use of courts to gain policy preferences through cases or amicus curiae

#### Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for describing a regulation. The regulation does not need to be identified by its formal title.

- Disclosure of contributions, funding or activities
- Registration of lobbyists, PACs
- Campaign finance laws
- Limits on gifts
- Limits on revolving-door appointments
- Limits on honoraria
- Prohibition of bribery
- Any named law or regulation with a description of what it does to regulate interest groups

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

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

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## Question 2

### 6 points

#### Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a description of a characteristic of the merit system. Answers may include:

- Hiring or promotion based on merit/experience/qualifications
- Hiring based on testing

#### Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of factors contributing to bureaucratic independence. Answers may include:

- Structure of the bureaucracy
  - Large
  - Specialized units/expertise
  - Tenure protections/hard to fire
  - Based on merit
  - Independent agencies/independent regulatory commissions
- Complexity of public policy problems
  - Specialized units/expertise
  - Delegated authority — because Congress and the president cannot handle everything, they delegate authority to the bureaucracy
  - Discretionary authority — because legislation lacks details, the bureaucracy can fill in the gaps

#### Part (c): 3 points

One point is earned for each of three explanations of a constitutional provision that can check the bureaucracy. Answers may include:

- Congress
  - Appropriations — can reward or punish agency
  - Legislation — can pass legislation affecting the bureaucracy
  - Rejection of presidential appointments to the bureaucracy
  - Impeachment of executive officials
- Courts
  - Court rulings that limit bureaucratic practices
  - Judicial review — can declare **bureaucratic actions** unconstitutional
  - Injunctions against federal agencies

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**Question 2 (continued)**

- Interest groups
  - Use of the First Amendment
    - Lobbying
    - Protests
    - Media usage
    - Speech
  - Litigation

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

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

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**Question 3**

**6 points**

**Part (a): 1 point**

One point is earned for identifying one specific trend evident in the figure:

- Percentage of House seats for Democrats has trended down.
- Percentage of presidential electoral votes for Democrats has trended down.

**Part (b): 2 points**

One point is earned for each explanation of why, from 1948 to 2000, Southern voters elected Democratic candidates to Congress more frequently than they elected Democratic candidates to the presidency:

- Incumbency advantage — Even though Southern voters were voting for Republican presidential candidates, they continued to vote for incumbent Democratic congressional candidates because of the incumbency advantage.
- Gerrymandering — District lines created safe seats/majority–minority districts, which protected Democratic seats even though there were more Republican voters in statewide presidential elections.
- State versus national parties — Because national and state parties were largely independent of each other, to get votes Democratic congressional candidates responded to local interests, whereas Democratic presidential candidates responded to a national constituency.

**Part (c): 3 points**

One point is earned for each explanation of how, over the past few decades, party composition has changed with respect to three of the four groups:

- Catholics — They have become less reliable Democratic voters.
- Labor union members — They have become less reliable Democratic voters; have decreased in number and thus there are fewer Democratic supporters; have become a smaller percentage of the Democratic voting bloc.
- Women — They have become more reliable Democratic voters; have increased in number and thus there are more Democratic supporters; have become a larger percentage of the Democratic voting bloc.
- Social conservatives — They were previously nonexistent and have now crystallized to become more reliable Republican voters; previously found in the Democratic party and have moved to the Republican party.

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

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

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**Question 4**

**5 points**

**Part (a): 2 points**

One point is earned for each explanation of how each of the following limits the powers of the **national executive**.

- Federalism — divides power between national and state governments, which limits the authority of the national executive.
- Checks and balances — the response must explain how other branches of government can check (limit, restrict) what the executive can do. A correct example of a check or balance on the national executive is acceptable to earn this point.

**Part (b): 2 points**

One point is earned for each explanation of how each of the following limits the powers of the **national government**.

- Establishment Clause — prevents the national government from establishing a national religion or taking any action that would show preferential treatment for one religion over another.
- Guarantee of a public trial — requiring trials to be open to the public limits the government's ability to violate the rights of citizens.

**Part (c): 1 point**

One point is earned for an explanation of how one of the following limits the power of **state governments**.

- Citizenship Clause — provides a national definition of citizenship that states cannot violate; requires states to provide citizenship guarantees to all who meet the definition of citizen.
- Selective incorporation — prohibits states from denying Bill of Rights provisions regarding freedom of expression, rights of the accused or privacy.

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

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