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AP[®]

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AP[®] United States Government and Politics

Free-Response Questions Set 1

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

SECTION II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

4 Questions

Directions: You have 1 hour and 40 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. It is suggested that you spend approximately 20 minutes each on Questions 1, 2, and 3 and 40 minutes on Question 4. Unless directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four questions. In your response, use substantive examples where appropriate. It is recommended that you take a few minutes to plan each answer. You may plan your answers in this orange booklet, but no credit will be given for anything written in this booklet. **You will only earn credit for what you write in the separate Free Response booklet.**

1. In the 2000 election, Ralph Nader won the Green Party nomination for president of the United States. While he trailed the Democratic and Republican candidates in the polls by a wide margin, Nader attracted large audiences in campaign appearances across the country.

In an interview from 2016, Nader discussed the challenges he faced in his campaign for president. “But there are only two that get on the presidential debate—Republican and Democrat—because they control the gate. . . . Had I got on the debates in my presidential run, I would—in one debate, I would have reached more people, by 50-fold, than I reached by filling all the major arenas. . . .”

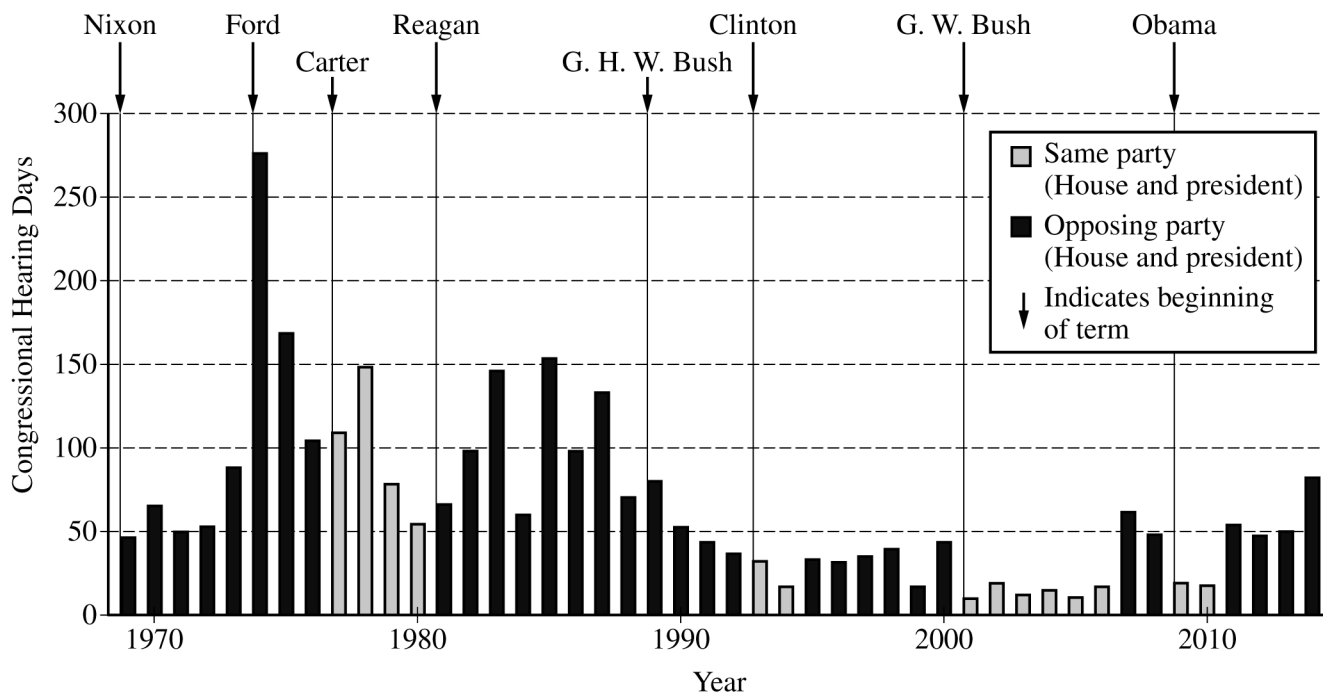
“Never mind that you represent majoritarian positions, like full Medicare for all, like loosening up the electoral process so more people can get in and run and vote. It doesn’t matter that you represent majoritarian positions that are taken off the table by the Republican and Democratic Party.”

After reading the scenario, please respond to A, B, and C below.

- A. Describe a structural barrier in the scenario that makes it less likely that a third-party candidate will be able to secure enough popular support to justify including the candidate in a debate.
- B. In the context of the scenario, explain how a third-party candidate could still have an influence on public policy despite the barrier described in part A.
- C. Explain how including the third-party candidate in the scenario could have had a positive impact on participatory democracy.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING DAYS IN THE HOUSE THAT INVESTIGATED THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, 1969–2014



Source: Data from Kriner and Schickler, 2016

2. Use the bar graph to answer the following questions.
- Using the bar graph, identify the president who faced the fewest number of investigative hearing days in a single year when the House was controlled by the opposing party.
 - Describe the relationship between investigative hearing days and party control of the House and the presidency as shown in the bar graph.
 - Draw a conclusion about how the difference in congressional hearing days between 1970–1980 and 1990–2000 may have affected presidential power during those periods.
 - Explain whether the data in the bar graph for the years in which the president’s party controlled the House reflect Madison’s ideas in *The Federalist* 51.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

This question requires you to compare a Supreme Court case you studied in class with one you have not studied in class. A summary of the Supreme Court case you did not study in class is presented below and provides all of the information you need to know about this case to answer the prompt.

United States v. Eichman (1990)

3. After the Supreme Court held that a state law in Texas that criminalized the desecration of the American flag was unconstitutional, Congress passed a national law, the Flag Protection Act of 1989, which criminalized the conduct of anyone who “knowingly mutilates, defaces, physically defiles, burns, maintains on the floor or ground, or tramples upon” a flag of the United States.

In response to this law, protest demonstrations took place in several locations across the country. Several people, including Shawn Eichman, burned flags on the steps of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C., before a crowd of reporters and photographers. Eichman and others were arrested for violating the Flag Protection Act.

In the ensuing cases, Eichman and others defended their actions as legitimate forms of political protest. Federal district judges dismissed the charges, but United States attorneys appealed the decisions directly to the Supreme Court. These cases were consolidated in *United States v. Eichman* (1990).

In *United States v. Eichman* (1990), the Supreme Court’s 5–4 decision held that the federal government cannot prosecute a person for desecration of the American flag because doing so would violate the First Amendment.

- A. Identify the civil liberty that is common to both *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010) and *United States v. Eichman* (1990).
- B. Explain how the reasoning in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and *United States v. Eichman* led to a similar holding in both cases.
- C. Explain how those unhappy with the precedent established in *Eichman* can use a constitutional process to have it overturned.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

4. In the United States, groups use different methods in order to achieve their policy goals. Take a position on whether legal challenges or social movements are the most effective means for changing federal policy in the area of civil rights.

Use at least one piece of evidence from one of the following foundational documents:

- *The Federalist* 78
- The First Amendment
- “Letter from Birmingham Jail”

In your response you should do the following:

- ✓ Respond to the prompt with a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning.
- ✓ Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of specific and relevant evidence.
 - One piece of evidence must come from one of the foundational documents listed above.
 - A second piece of evidence can come from any other foundational document not used as your first piece of evidence, or it may be from your knowledge of course concepts.
- ✓ Use reasoning to explain why your evidence supports your claim or thesis.
- ✓ Respond to an opposing or alternate perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

STOP

END OF EXAM