



AP United States Government and Politics 2001 Free-Response Questions

The materials included in these files are intended for use by AP teachers for course and exam preparation in the classroom; permission for any other use must be sought from the Advanced Placement Program. Teachers may reproduce them, in whole or in part, in limited quantities, for face-to-face teaching purposes but may not mass distribute the materials, electronically or otherwise. These materials and any copies made of them may not be resold, and the copyright notices must be retained as they appear here. This permission does not apply to any third-party copyrights contained herein.

These materials were produced by Educational Testing Service (ETS), which develops and administers the examinations of the Advanced Placement Program for the College Board. The College Board and Educational Testing Service (ETS) are dedicated to the principle of equal opportunity, and their programs, services, and employment policies are guided by that principle.

The College Board is a national nonprofit membership association dedicated to preparing, inspiring, and connecting students to college and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 3,900 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves over three million students and their parents, 22,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges, through major programs and services in college admission, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT[®], the PSAT/NMSQT[™], the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®]), and Pacesetter[®]. The College Board is committed to the principles of equity and excellence, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns.

Copyright © 2001 by College Entrance Examination Board. All rights reserved. College Board, Advanced Placement Program, AP, and the acorn logo are registered trademarks of the College Entrance Examination Board.

**2001 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

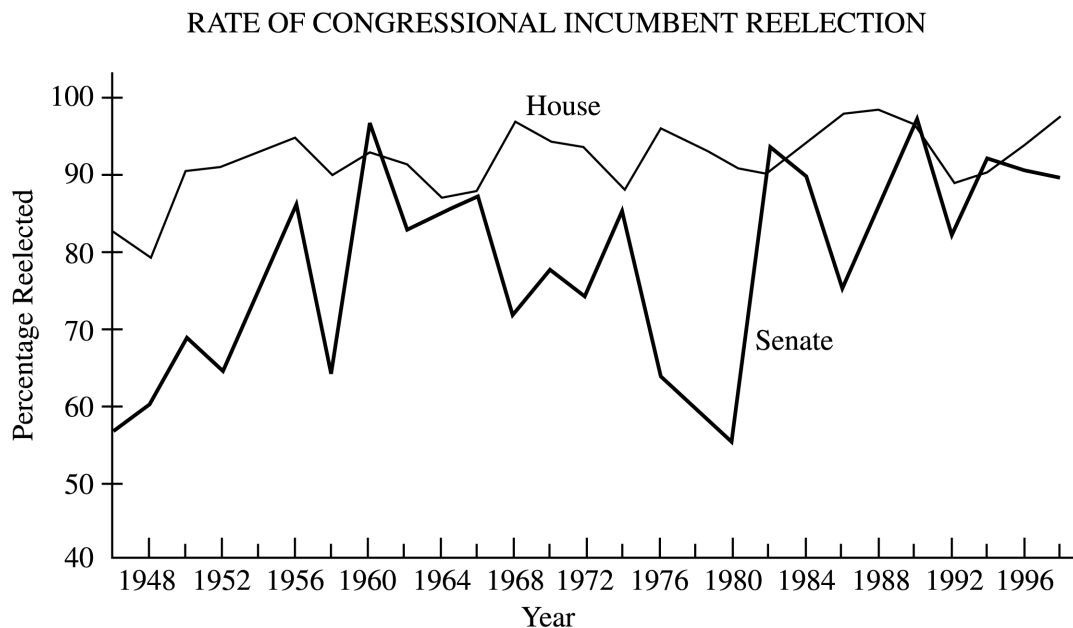
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

SECTION II

Time—100 minutes

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. Spend approximately one-fourth of your time (25 minutes) on each question. Illustrate your essay with substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

1. The United States Constitution has endured for more than two centuries as the framework of government. However, the meaning of the Constitution has been changed both by formal and informal methods.
 - a. Identify two formal methods for adding amendments to the Constitution.
 - b. Describe two informal methods that have been used to change the meaning of the Constitution. Provide one specific example for each informal method you described.
 - c. Explain why informal methods are used more often than the formal amendment process.
-



2. The graph above shows reelection rates for incumbents in the House and Senate. From this information and your knowledge of United States politics, perform the following tasks.
 - a. Identify two patterns displayed in the graph.
 - b. Identify two factors that contribute to incumbency advantage. Explain how each factor contributes to incumbency advantage.
 - c. Discuss one consequence of incumbency advantage for the United States political process.

Copyright © 2001 by College Entrance Examination Board. All rights reserved.
Advanced Placement Program and AP are registered trademarks of the College Entrance Examination Board.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

**2001 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

3. Many scholars and observers have argued that the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution has become the single most important act in all of United States politics.
- a. Identify which provision of the Fourteenth Amendment was applied in one of the following Supreme Court cases. For the case you select, explain the significance of the decision in United States politics.
- *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* (1954)
 - *Baker v. Carr* (1962)
 - *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke* (1978)
- b. Identify which provision of the Fourteenth Amendment was applied in one of the following Supreme Court cases. For the case you select, explain the significance of the decision in United States politics.
- *Mapp v. Ohio* (1961)
 - *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963)
 - *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966)
4. Explain how each of the political factors listed below makes it difficult for the federal government to enact public policy. Provide one example for each explanation.
- Divided government
 - Weak party discipline
 - Growth in the number of interest groups and political action committees (PAC's)

END OF EXAMINATION