

AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2016 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

5 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for identifying a correct trend. Answers may include:

- Decreasing percentage of non-Hispanic whites/white population
- Increasing percentage of Hispanic population
- Increasing percentage of Asian American population
- Stable percentage of African American population

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for an explanation of how the trend correctly identified in part (a) is likely to affect the electoral success of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. Explanations may include:

- Democratic Party may experience greater electoral success due to the increasing percentage of minority voters.
- Republican Party may experience a decrease in electoral success due to the decreasing non-Hispanic white population.
- Republican Party could gain Hispanic voters based on socially conservative issues.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how demographic changes are likely to affect the way in which parties operate in Congress. Explanations may include that parties can:

- Introduce/sponsor legislation that is more focused on minority interests;
- Appoint minorities to leadership positions (committees, etc.);
- Be more responsive to lobbyists who represent minority interests;
- Influence committee priorities that are more focused on minority interests.

Part (d): 2 points

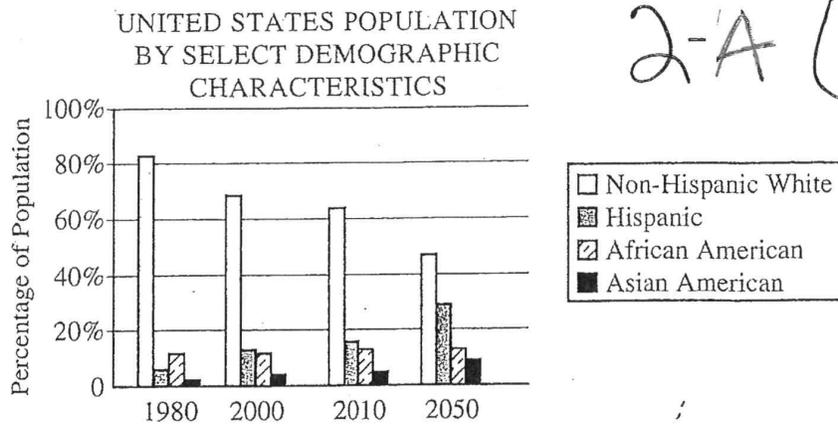
One point is earned for each of two descriptions of specific actions that presidents can take to respond to demographic changes. Descriptions may include that presidents can:

- Issue executive orders/agreements to respond to minority policy views/interests;
- Appoint diverse individuals to federal government positions;
- Set the agenda to support/oppose minority interests (e.g., State of the Union);
- Go public/advocate for/against minority interests (bully pulpit);
- Sign or veto legislation regarding minority interests;
- Select VP nominee to reflect demographic changes.

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

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

2-A (1 of 2)



*Note: 2050 projections are based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau

2. The United States is experiencing a dramatic change in the makeup of its population. These changes have political consequences for political institutions.
- Identify a trend depicted in the chart.
 - Assuming that recent voting patterns continue, explain how the trend identified in (a) is likely to affect the electoral success of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party.
 - Explain how the demographic changes shown in the chart above are likely to affect the way in which parties operate in Congress.
 - Describe two specific actions that presidents can take to respond to the demographic changes in the chart above.

According to the chart, diversity is increasing as minority groups such as Hispanics and Asian Americans make up a marginally larger percentage than they did in the 80's, 90's and 2000's, and by 2050, Caucasians are expected to make up around 50% of the total population, a 12% drop from the 2010's, and 32% drop from the 80's.

As voting trends stand minorities often vote Democratic as they best embody those political stances. This insinuates that the DP would outscale the Rep. Party (RP) very quickly and in a dominating way.

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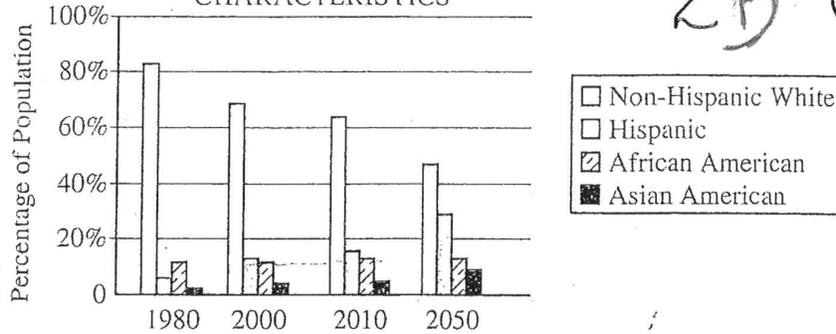
2-A (2 of 2)

Because of this, in order to keep the Rep Party alive, it will have to become more liberal in its immigration policy, and perhaps in its welfare policies. If they do not, then ~~to~~ come 2050, they might hold ~~no~~ seats in Congress, or a limited few.

In order to respond correctly, the POTUS would have to work with Congress to take steps and measures in ensuring more equal treatment among minorities. This can be done by executive action on the bully-pulpit, requesting Congress to look at the various problems which must be solved, like unemployment rates and wage inconsistencies.

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UNITED STATES POPULATION
BY SELECT DEMOGRAPHIC
CHARACTERISTICS



*Note: 2050 projections are based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau

2. The United States is experiencing a dramatic change in the makeup of its population. These changes have political consequences for political institutions.
- Identify a trend depicted in the chart.
 - Assuming that recent voting patterns continue, explain how the trend identified in (a) is likely to affect the electoral success of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party.
 - Explain how the demographic changes shown in the chart above are likely to affect the way in which parties operate in Congress.
 - Describe two specific actions that presidents can take to respond to the demographic changes in the chart above. IDK !!

a) As the years increase, the percentage of population of non-hispanic white is decreasing while the other groups are steadily increasing.

b) Since ~~the~~ non-hispanic whites are decreasing, the republican party will slowly decrease in number whereas the democratic party will gain more members as the population of hispanic and african american steadily increase. Therefore, increasing the electoral success of the democratic party and decreasing the electoral success of the republican party.

c) Parties might try to target the audiences of hispanic, african

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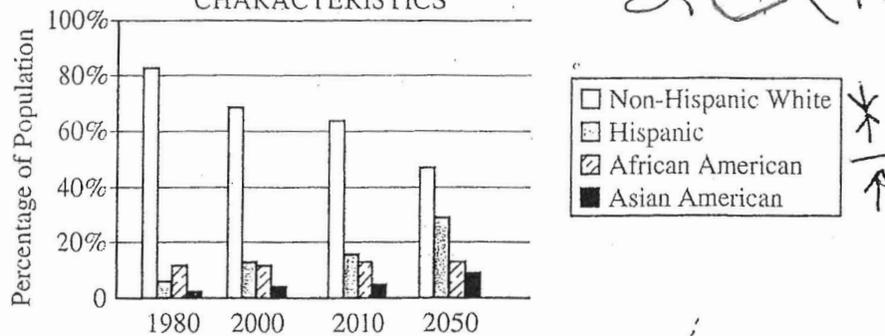
2B-(20F2)

American, and Asian Americans because they are increasing in numbers, and thus ^{they} would ~~most~~ most likely emphasize on these constituents and try to persuade them ~~to~~ to join their parties by focusing ~~on~~ their agenda on ^{issues} ~~things~~ of importance to them.

d)

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UNITED STATES POPULATION
BY SELECT DEMOGRAPHIC
CHARACTERISTICS



*Note: 2050 projections are based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau

2. The United States is experiencing a dramatic change in the makeup of its population. These changes have political consequences for political institutions.

- ✓(a) Identify a trend depicted in the chart.
- ✓(b) Assuming that recent voting patterns continue, explain how the trend identified in (a) is likely to affect the electoral success of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party.
- ✓(c) Explain how the demographic changes shown in the chart above are likely to affect the way in which parties operate in Congress.
- ✓(d) Describe two specific actions that presidents can take to respond to the demographic changes in the chart above.

a) AS time advances, the population of non-Hispanic white is living in the United States is decreasing.

b) Non-Hispanic whites tend to vote Republican, therefore a decrease in this spectrum of the population will consequently increase the success of the rival party: Democratic Party.

c) The increase in ~~demographic~~ demographics that support the Democratic Party and a decrease in the demographic that supports the Republican Party will cause the ~~demographic~~ republican majority in

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2C-(2 of 2)

Congress to decrease, making the legislative branch either ~~democratic~~ a democratic majority or extremely polarized at an almost 50-50 division. The parties will have to compromise in their session in order to get legislation approved.

- d) i.) First action a president can take is to appeal to the needs of hispanics as they ~~will~~ ^{have} become a significant portion of the population (also voters base).
- ii.) Second action a president can take is decrease public policy/appeal to the non-hispanic white portion of the population as they are no longer the most prominent group in the United States population.

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AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2016 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2

Overview

This question examined the student’s knowledge of demographic changes in the U.S. population and what political consequences have resulted for the political institutions in the nation. Part (a) asked students to identify a trend depicted in the chart provided. In Part (b) students were asked to explain how the trend identified in part (a) is likely to affect the electoral success of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. Part (c) asked students to explain how the demographic changes shown in the chart provided are likely to affect the way in which parties operate in Congress. Part (d) asked students to describe two specific actions the presidents can take to respond to the demographic changes depicted in the chart provided.

Sample: 2A

Score: 5

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for identifying a trend depicted in the chart by stating that “diversity is increasing as minority groups such as Hispanics and Asian Americans make up a marginally larger percentage than they did in 80’s, 90’s and 2000’s.”

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for explaining how the trend identified in part (a) is likely to affect the electoral success of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party by stating, “As voting trends stand minorities often vote DP) Democratic as they best embody those political stances. This insinuates that the DP would outscale the Rep. Party (RP) very quickly and in a dominating way.”

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for explaining how the demographic changes shown in the provided chart are likely to affect the way in which parties operate in Congress by stating, “Because of this, in order to keep the Rep Party alive, it will have to become more liberal in its immigration policy, and perhaps in its welfare policies.”

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for describing a specific action that presidents can take to respond to the demographic changes shown in the provided chart by stating, “In order to respond correctly, the POTUS would have to work with Congress to take steps and measures in ensuring more equal treatment among minorities.”

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for describing a second specific action that presidents can take to respond to the demographic changes shown in the provided chart by stating, “This can be done by executive action or the bullying-pulpit [*sic*], requiring Congress to look at the various problems which must be solved, like unemployment rates and wage inconsistencies.”

Sample: 2B

Score: 3

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for identifying a trend depicted in the chart by stating, “As the years increases [*sic*], the percentage of population of non-hispanic white is decreasing while the other groups are steadily increasing.”

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for explaining how the trend identified in part (a) is likely to affect the electoral success of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party by stating, “Since non-

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2016 SCORING COMMENTARY**

Question 2 (continued)

hispanic whites are decreasing, the Republican party will slowly decrease in number whereas the democratic party will gain more members as the population of Hispanic and African American steadily increase [*sic*]. Therefore, increasing the electoral success of the democratic party and decreasing the electoral success of the Republican party.”

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for explaining how the demographic changes shown in the provided chart are likely to affect the way in which parties operate in Congress by stating, “Parties might try to target the audiences of Hispanic, African American, and Asian Americans because they are increasing in numbers, and thus they would most likely emphasize on those constituents and try to persuade them to join their parties by focusing their agenda on issues of importance to them.”

In part (d) the student does not attempt to answer.

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

In part (a) the response did not earn a point for identifying a trend depicted in the chart. Rather, the response references absolute changes in demographic groups depicted in the chart.

In part (b) the response did not earn a point for explaining how a trend identified in part (a) is likely to affect the electoral success of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. The response repeats the incorrect trend identified in part (a).

In part (c) the response did not earn a point for explaining how the demographic changes shown in the provided chart are likely to affect the way in which parties operate in Congress. The response provides several membership changes that may occur in Congress without explaining how those changes affect the way in which parties operate in Congress.

In part (d) the response did not earn a point for describing a specific action that presidents can take to respond to the demographic changes depicted in the provided chart. The response does not specify a particular action the president can take to respond to the changes shown in the chart.

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for describing a specific action that presidents can take to respond to the demographic changes depicted in the chart by stating that the “second action a president can take is decrease public policy/appeal to the non-Hispanic white portion of the population as they are no longer the most prominent group.”